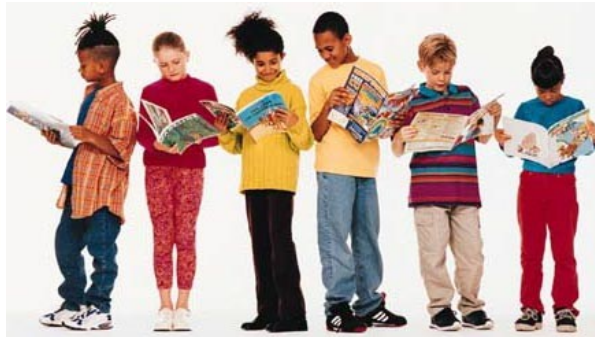


LAWYERS for literacy

Helping Children Read to Succeed



Fall
Newsletter
2011

LFL Advances into 2011 with its Best Year Ever



Lucas Fleming
Lawyers for Literacy
Founder & President

2011 is shaping up to be the best year ever for Lawyers for Literacy (LFL).

Fifty-three tutors have met with third graders weekly in eight Tampa Bay area

2011 Participating LFL Elementary Schools

- **St Petersburg**
Campbell Park
Jamerson
New Heights
Sanderlin
- **Clearwater**
High Point
Sandy Lane
- **Tampa**
Mitchell
West Tampa

We're online at LawyersForLiteracy.org
and Facebook

schools to help prepare them for the reading portion of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

School leaders and tutors see the impact that this program has on students to pass this test and be promoted to the fourth grade. As a result, requests have come from six additional elementary schools to bring LFL to their campuses for the 2011-2012 school year.

LFL has continuously consulted with school reading specialists and school administrators to enable the program to improve each year. We know this makes a difference in the quality of tutoring we are able to

provide and the quality of tutors we're able to attract.

I want to especially thank each and every one of our wonderful 2011 tutors for their time. It is evident they are making a big difference in the lives of the children we are able to serve. Their names are listed on page 2.

LFL could not exist without financial support. Contributions of \$12,800 this past year have enabled us to provide over 1000 books and instructional materials to tutors. Special thanks to our donors who are also listed on page 2.

Donations from supporters enable the program to pur-

chase books, instructional materials, and supplies.

Please contact me if you are interested in serving as a tutor for next year. We would love to work with you to benefit the youth in our community.

Lucas Fleming



Jeannine Williams and Campbell Park 3rd grade student Akeima read together.

2010 LFL Students Advance: Tutoring Made A Difference

90% of Students Tutored Promoted to 4th Grade

Statistics show that students who may not have advanced to 4th grade because of low reading skills benefited from LFL intervention statistics show.

90% of students tutored last school year improved and were promoted. Tutors and their third grade students focused on preparing for the reading portion of the required Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

Tutoring took place an hour a week each week over three months in advance of the FCAT which, for third graders, is the first time they are faced with a single test that largely determines whether they will advance to fourth grade.

Aimee Wyant
 Anthony Pensabene
 Ajay Pallegar
 Alesha Smith
 Allison Goodson
 Amy San Marco
 Beth Wetzel
 Bill Moore
 Bill Schneikart
 Bill Weller
 Brenda Alleman
 Chris Smith
 Dan Leeper
 Dana Greenbaum-Douglas
 Donna DeVivo
 Donna Remsnyder
 Drew Barsalou
 Eric Ochotorena
 Jackie Shannon
 Jeannine Williams
 Jennifer Kennedy
 Jennifer McCabe
 Julie Rice
 Karen Wendt
 Katherine Hynes
 Kathleen Hessinger
 Kathy Smiley
 Kayla Richmond
 Kim Kaszuba
 Ky Koch
 Laurie Remmel
 Lucas Fleming
 Mary Jane Dann
 Matt McCurdy
 Megan Schultz
 Michele DeSocio
 Pamela Kelly
 Pam Morefield
 Pedro Velez
 Peter Fleming
 Phil Kimmel
 Robyn Rusignuolo
 Ross Felscher
 Runelle Bowman
 Scott Wagman
 Shana Gavlas
 Silvia Leeper
 Steve Graves
 Summer Goldman
 Susan Hoffman
 Susan Johnson-Velez
 Valeria Obi
 Veronica Burianek

Donations Carry LFL Program Forward

Donations this past year launched LFL forward into 2011-12 allowing us to add more schools and students.

LFL tutored 53 students at eight elementary schools in 2011 and are looking to add more schools, students and tutors for 2012.

Books for children at Sanderlin Elementary were donated by **Bill Weller & Cynthia Smoot-Weller**.

Books at New Heights Elementary in St Petersburg were donated by **Dan & Silvia Leeper**.

Scott Wagman & Beth Houghton's donation provided books for Jamerson Elementary.

A donation from **Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market** in Tampa provided books for students at Mitchell Elementary.

A key contribution was made by the **St Petersburg Bar Foundation**.

Additional kind gifts also came from **Neil Flaxman and Amber Flaxman Young, Bruce Denson, Christine Derr and Harris & Hunt P.A., Peter & Marion Fleming, Amanda Clapp and Veronica Burianek**.

A sustaining contribution by **Lucas Fleming and The Fleming Law Group** provided the staffing of the LFL office once again.

LFL is a federal and state recognized charity.



Obi



Smith



Barsalou



Richmond

Stetson Students Bolster Tutor Numbers & Students Served

A group of students from Stetson University College of Law are tutoring with LFL this year.

Valeria Obi, Alesha Smith, Kayla Richmond, and Drew Barsalou joined us after last fall's Pro Bono Fair held on the school's St Petersburg campus.

Smith and Obi tutor third graders Kyle and Austin at Campbell Park Ele-

mentary. Obi shared that "the best part is the bonding and the random conversations I get to have with my partner child."

Smith commented "It's a great opportunity to ensure that kids pass the FCAT which is a major part of their educational progression."

Barsalou and Richmond help students Michael

and Anaiya at Sanderlin Elementary.

Barsalou stated "It is fun to go every week and learn more about my student and see him eager to read and improve his reading skills."

Richmond notes "My student is open to reading better and quickly showed improvement in vocabulary and reading speed."

Tutoring is also Team Building for Participating Law Firms

Lawyers tutoring with the LFL program do so primarily to make a positive change in a child's life.

The **Koch & Hoffman** firm of Clearwater has jumped in this year with nine tutors serving at Sandy Lane Elementary in Clearwater.



Koch & Hoffman—Clearwater

Ky Koch commented "As a lawyer, I have always known that reading

opens doors – doors to information about any subject, both practical and theoretical. It expands ones knowledge of different people, places and societies and can improve a person's understanding and concern 'for all of humanity.'

"Through stories children can give dry runs to new experiences and test new ideas without negative consequences. As a public citizen, a lawyer should promote and work to strengthen legal education and further the administration of jus-

tice. Education begins with the ability to read and justice begins with a learned background, both of which, I believe, should start with children."

The **Harris & Hunt** firm of Tampa has volunteered to tutor for the past three years.

Nancy Harris started with LFL since working with kids is relevant to her family law practice.

"Not only did the project increase the strength and cohesiveness of our staff, but gave each of us the opportunity to make a



Harris & Hunt—Tampa

tangible difference in the life of a child," said Harris.

"Working with this program has been a wonderful experience for our firm. I would recommend this highly for a small to medium sized firm and for the benefits for the team

Become Involved and Support the Lawyers for Literacy Program

Whether as a tutor or as a sponsor, you can help students read to succeed!

Tutoring

Do you have time over your lunch hour once a week? If so, become an LFL tutor!

- We will train you - (it is easy) and match you with a third-grade child who needs to read better.
- You will assist in increasing the student's self-esteem.

- You will also serve as a positive role model in the community.
- You will provide the encouragement and support the child needs to stay in school.
- You will make a large lifelong impact on a child's life.

As a LFL tutor you would:

- Meet with your student once a week at the school from early January through early April.

- Choose from 8 or more schools LFL works with in Pinellas and Hillsborough county.
- If you cannot make all sessions, we arrange for a substitute tutor.

Donations

A \$750 donation provides books, instructional materials, and supplies for a participating school.

A \$300 donation provides a 20-book library of high interest books and materials to two students.

A \$150 contribution provides for one child in the LFL program.

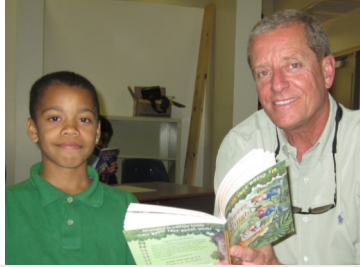
Significant portions of the LFL program are made possible by contributions from the following organizations:



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LAWYERS for literacy

Helping Children Read to Succeed
2701 Fifth Ave. North St. Petersburg, FL 33713



Student Arvauni reads with Clearwater Attorney Ky Koch

LAWYERS for literacy

Here's What Tutors & School Leaders Are Saying About LFL

Jackie Shannon

New Heights Elementary

Love my student! And the school officials (including the principal) really made the other volunteers and me feel that our efforts are appreciated!

Eric Ochotorena

Mitchell Elementary

As a new tutor I am thinking I will get more out of it than my student!

Phil Kimmel

New Heights Elementary

Positive reinforcement is very important so I ask if it is possible that we start a team called, "YES I CAN"?!

Principal Baumgartner

Mitchell Elementary

It all has gone very well!

Kelly Connelly

Reading Coach

New Heights Elementary

The tutors are so friendly and made the students feel special.

Mary Jane Dann

**Principal & Tutor
Jamerson Elementary**

It has gone perfectly!

Alesha Smith

Campbell Park Elementary

I really enjoy the tutoring. Getting to know my child went very well from the first day.

Allison Goodson

Campbell Park Elementary

It is wonderful! I really enjoy it. My student was a FAR better reader than I expected. I thought the preparation material was very helpful.

Dan Leeper

Sanderlin Elementary

My young man is very positive and seems to be excited about our time together. He is really a good reader.

Allison Goodson

Campbell Park Elementary

I am really enjoying working with my student partner. She is great!



TUTORS HONORED at the Fall Kick-off reception for five years of service tutoring children.

(l to r) Scott Wagman, Dana Greenbaum-Douglas, Lucas Fleming - LFL Founder and President with award for Mark Brody (absent), Summer Goldman, and Amy San Marco were presented with plaques in recognition of their Lawyers for Literacy service.