Help children take flight.

By becoming a volunteer, your time will help a child reach greater heights!

Volunteer Information

Edna W. Runner Tutorial Center
West Jupiter Community Group, Inc.

We need you

Do you remember that someone special in your life who made a difference? Many successful people credit at least one individual who helped them succeed. You could be that person for a student! Whether you assist with homework, participate in special events, or share your talent, your time can make a big impact.

Here are just a few reasons why

• Student surveys report that they “feel loved and cared about” and “encouraged to do their best”!
• 100% of the students surveyed say the Center has been helpful to them.
• 78% of students in the elementary afterschool program improved their reading test scores in 2017.
• 90% of the students now 19 or older who attended the Center graduated from high school.

Our History

Twenty years ago, Edna Runner, along with concerned citizens from the community, formed a not-for-profit organization - West Jupiter Community Group. In 2011, it was renamed the Edna W. Runner Tutorial in her honor. We welcome all students grades K-8. We provide a safe and supportive place to play and learn after school and during the summer.
What does the Center do? We serve 107 students, grades K-8, who live in the Jupiter area. We welcome students who might not otherwise have a safe and supportive place to go after school or to play and learn during the summer. The Center is a Gold Seal Quality Care program and is licensed by the state of Florida.

Where do we get our funding?
15-20% - Family fees
40-50% - Grants and contributions
30-40% - Early Learning Coalition, which is a Federal program distributed by states based on need. Families apply with help from the Center.

When can I volunteer? Volunteers are needed most Monday – Thursday during the school year. Volunteers can commit to a regularly scheduled day or come for special events.

What types of volunteer roles are available? Tutors in the afterschool program, special enrichment projects or presentations, working in the donation closet, or special events. Got an idea? We encourage you to contact us to see how your skills can best help others!

How does a typical tutoring session go? Mentors arrive at 2:15 when the children arrive by bus from neighboring schools. The children sit by grade level and enjoy a snack. Usually there’s a short group activity around topics kids love – from celebrating Women’s History Month to sharing riddles for National Pickle Day! After the snack, the tutoring—usually in math and reading—begins.

Do I have to be an expert in all school subjects? No. There is a math tutor on staff as well as others who can help or lend a second pair of eyes.
Do you do anything other than tutor? Miss Edna calls this a program of “love, kindness, mentoring, values and discipline.” So, tutoring is just one part. We reinforce social skills such as manners. One child may be kindly asked to raise his hand before speaking. Miss Edna models plenty of “pleases” and “thank yous.” Much of what we instill in students isn’t taught in school and is often absent from the difficult family situations experienced by many of our students. While one goal for mentors is to make sure that homework is done correctly, so much more happens. Conversations start. Kids talk about whatever’s on their mind. We listen, encourage and boost confidence. Most mentors are with their students about an hour and a half to two hours each session.

I can only volunteer once a week. Could I still be a helpful mentor? Absolutely! Research published in Psychology Today shows that students who have an adult mentor for even an hour a week are more confident, have fewer behavioral problems, and are less likely to become bullies. We understand people have other commitments and some are only here seasonally- not to worry, any time you can volunteer helps create a better future for these students.

How do you measure the Center’s impact on kids’ lives? We do it two ways. We collect data: For example, Palm Beach County School District’s iReady Program results show that students who attend the Runner Center make significant improvements in math and English over peers who do not. In our annual parent surveys, 100% of respondents say that the Center helps their child succeed in school. There’s anecdotal data from alumni: they return from high school, college, and beyond to tell us how much the Center’s values shaped their lives and contributed to their success. And there’s day-to-day observation. For example, Lee Owen, has tutored the same two boys for three years and watched their progress. They are receiving not just critical academic support and growth but they’re learning valuable life lessons, too.

I don’t have time to volunteer. How else can I help? We love this question. As much as we want more mentors, we also need supporters. All donations received are shared free with our families in need. These include clothes, furniture, toys, books and household goods.
What are your interests?

Interested in volunteering in another capacity? We’re open! Share your great ideas with us!

□ Tutoring Program
  □ All homework
  □ Reading
  □ School projects
□ Afterschool Activities
  □ Read-a-loud
  □ Arts/crafts
  □ Music
  □ Health/ Nutrition
□ Planning for special projects/events
  □ Fall Festival
  □ Shop-A-Thon
□ Fundraising
  □ Bake sale/ yard sale/ car wash/ etc.
  □ Restaurant partnerships
  □ Outreach/ presentations
  □ Grant proposals
□ Fundraising
  □ Recruit volunteers
  □ Thank you letters and correspondence
□ Donations
  □ School supplies
  □ Craft supplies/ special project supplies
  □ Clothing/ furniture/ household items
□ Working in the donation closet

Mission and Vision

Mission Statement: To Provide a safe and nurturing environment for at risk students, so they may pursue academic and personal excellence.

Vision: To be recognized in our community as a leader in raising the expectations of our children to include educational and social goals.

Objectives: Provide educational support; Increase grade-point average and self esteem; Develop interests, skills and knowledge; Provide a safe, warm and nurturing environment.