



The Church of the Covenant
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STATEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

Linda Wilson, Director, The Saturday Tutoring Program
The Church of the Covenant
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Good morning. I am so happy to be standing before you 19 years after I first said, "Good Morning Neighbor, I've come to borrow a cup of sugar." Nineteen years ago, I came to introduce you to your neighbor, 5 blocks away, John Hay High School. John Hay, like other Ohio high schools, needed help getting kids through the Ohio Proficiency Tests, their last hurdle before graduation. Not only did Covenant respond by sending tutors to John Hay on Thursday mornings, but also produced and distributed *The Little Book*, the study guide for passing the citizenship portion of the OPT. So many children from other schools wanted the benefit of Covenant tutors that Covenant opened its building to accommodate the Saturday Tutoring Program.

Also, during the past 11 years Covenant tutors have also come to the aid of Daniel E. Morgan Elementary School on Wednesday afternoons. In the bulletin, you see a blurb. Bob Ault asked me to ask you to picture yourself with 2 first graders in your own classroom. You would be paired with those 2 first graders from October 1, when the program starts this year through May. They would make such progress with you as their tutor. Please check your bulletin for Bob Ault's contact info.

During the past 19 years (I have to keep going back to that number.), Covenant has supported the Saturday Tutoring Program in numerous ways. You have tutored, served refreshments, donated supplies and magazines, hosted a volunteer fair, chaperoned field trips, hosted field trips, and were presenters at our in-house field trips. Please continue to do all that. In addition, please post the flyer that you have in your bulletin in places where you shop or attend programs. Encourage others who would make good tutors to do so. Suggest other field trip sites. Tutor when you can.

Why would Covenant want to do all this? Answer #1: One young man came to us as a 4th grader, stayed with us through 12th grade and graduated, even though he and his mother changed residences several times. Answer #2: One second grader was ready to drop out of school. Yes, second grader! Her mother only had to drag her here one time. From then on, she has been the one who makes sure her mother is up early enough to not only get her here, but also pick up her 3 cousins. She is now in 8th grade. Answer #3: Another one of our students was home-schooled via a computer, with no adult presence, afraid to go to public school. He came to us four years in a row. Last year, he returned to a Cleveland Public high school as an 11th grader and excelled.

Answer #4: One young lady was accepted into a NASA program, which met on 4 of our Saturdays. Her mother called to ask permission to miss tutoring. We're good, but how can we compare to NASA? Goodness, let the child go to NASA. What that family was really asking was, would she still have a place HERE. All of our families and all of our volunteers want to know whether they have a place here. Our most important request of you: please allow the tutoring programs of the Church of the Covenant to continue for at least another 19 years. Thank you Neighbor!