

OPERATION
SHOESTRING



We All Rise Together.

This message is at the core of Operation Shoestring's mission and programs. What does it mean? Quite simply, when the children of central Jackson are safe, nurtured and empowered to take advantage of a bright future, all of Jackson rises. When the families in Shoestring's focus area are strong and thriving, all of Jackson rises. Our tagline – By Teaching Children and Inspiring Families, Operation Shoestring Ensures We All Rise Together – affirms our belief that every child in Jackson should have the same access to a promising future, and that all the families of our city should have the same opportunity and means to improve and succeed.

Operation Shoestring was founded in 1968 in the back of Wells United Methodist Church, as a response to the turbulence of the 1960s and the growing divisions in our city and state. As early director Nancy Gilbert put it, "It was a difficult time in our state, and especially here in Jackson. But many people of good will wanted to do something to reach across racial lines, and to show that their religious and spiritual lives impelled them to work towards racial harmony. That is how their religion manifested itself."

Since 1968, Operation Shoestring has been at the forefront of efforts to improve the lives of children and families in our service area. With a committed, diverse board and staff, we have developed relationships, partnerships and programming that is helping all of Jackson rise.

Through the leadership of certified and passionate teachers, Operation Shoestring provides tutoring, literacy development, and cultural arts instruction. We offer neighborhood children a safe harbor after school and during the summer, while helping parents to stay at work with the assurance that their children are receiving quality supervision and care.





Progress.

Because of our relationships with individuals and organizations throughout our community—including congregations, local schools and colleges, healthcare providers, private businesses, public funders, other nonprofits (like The United Way and ChildFund International) and foundations Operation Shoestring has been able to:

- 1.** Provide workshops for 450 families (representing 910 children) that included topics as wide-ranging as preventing lead poisoning of infants to financial planning and interviewing skills for adults
- 2.** Significantly expand the number of Project KIDS elementary students (from 75 to 125) we serve every day afterschool with arts instruction, academic enrichment and character development
- 3.** Expand our Youth Employment Program for students at Lanier High School
- 4.** Increase the number of children (from 75 to 350) who enjoy our summer programming – including horseback riding, cheerleading, dance, academic boosters, and much more
- 5.** Roll out a new summer program that brings rising 6th and 7th graders to Galloway Elementary to prepare these children for the changes and the rigors of middle school. We know that middle school is a “make or break” time in terms of a student’s prospects of making their way to high school graduation
- 6.** Introduce a summer program to train and inspire rising 9th graders entering Lanier High School. Research tells us that the typical Mississippi drop out is an African American male who is seventeen-years-old and in his second attempt at 9th grade. Our aim is to keep such kids in school
- 7.** Develop a functioning coalition of service providers addressing health, education, housing, safety and other related issues for the families we’re serving in the Lanier High School feeder pattern (this is part of the programming initially funded by the America’s Promise Alliance and the United Way)

We are very proud that we are able to expand our programming despite a challenging economy. The people we serve need us more than ever, so we think they deserve a neighborhood organization that is making ambitious plans on their behalf. Through our efforts, all of Jackson is rising.

Service Corps

The Operation Shoestring Service Corps was established to meet the needs of the community we serve. Too often, we missed wonderful service opportunities because we lacked the man (or woman!) power to make it a success. The OS Service Corps has this mission:

To recruit the volunteers necessary and to develop and execute service opportunities that benefit the children and families of Operation Shoestring.

The four main duties of the Service Corps are to:

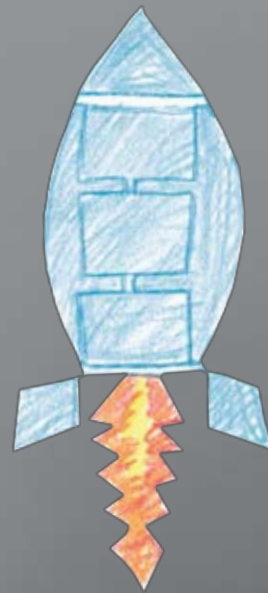
- 1. Provide program support**
- 2. Organize and execute events**
- 3. Provide support for the maintenance of the OS facility and property**
- 4. Assist in fundraising and public promotion**

On the following pages, we offer specific service opportunities. PLEASE NOTE that these are not comprehensive. Operation Shoestring is always open to ideas that enrich the lives of the people we serve. Please contact us if you have a particular talent or passion you'd like to share.

To volunteer, please visit www.operationshoestring.org and click *Make A Difference* or contact

Wade Overstreet
Development Director
601-353-6336
woverstreet@operationshoestring.org

Criminal background checks are required for certain activities. We will contact volunteers if they need to complete such a form.



Elementary Academic Tutoring

Purpose/Description

Every day, more than 100 elementary students come to Operation Shoestring. Some require one-on-one academic tutoring in their subjects. The subject matter will be of ease to adult tutors, and the effects of this one-on-one attention for the student are immediate and long-lasting. Tutors work with 1-2 students maximum per 30-minute session.

Where

*Operation Shoestring and Galloway Elementary, both on Bailey Avenue

Requirement

To be successful, a tutor simply needs to patiently work with a child on subjects that they often understand, but have not had the time or attention to master it.

Time Commitment

3:00 – 4:30 p.m. any school day

This equates to three 30-minute sessions with 1-2 children per session. ***For the sake of continuity, we recommend that volunteers commit to serving at least twice every month.***

When Needed

Tutoring services are needed throughout the school year, beginning on Tuesday, September 7, 2010.

*Second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Orientation

All tutors are required to attend an orientation/training. Check our website for a schedule of orientation dates and times throughout the year.

Middle School Academic Tutoring

Purpose/Description

Some of the junior high students (6-8th grades) require one-on-one academic tutoring in their subjects. The subject matter will be of ease to adult tutors, and the effects of this one-on-one attention for the student are immediate and long-lasting. Tutors work with 1-2 students maximum per 30-minute session.

Where

Rowan Middle School, 136 East Ash Street
*Saturdays at Operation Shoestring

Requirement

To be successful, a tutor simply needs to patiently work with a child on subjects that they often understand, but have not had the time or attention to master it.

Time Commitment

3:00 – 4:30 p.m. any school day

This equates to three 30-minute sessions with 1-2 children per session. ***For the sake of continuity, we recommend that volunteers commit to serving at least twice every month.***

When Needed

Tutoring services are needed throughout the school year, beginning on Tuesday, September 7, 2010.

3:00 – 4:30 p.m. any school day

* Second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Orientation

All tutors are required to attend an orientation/training. Check our website for a schedule of orientation dates and times throughout the year.

Senior High Academic Tutoring

Purpose/Description

Some of the senior high students (9-12th grades) we serve require one-on-one academic tutoring in their subjects. The subject matter will be of ease to adult tutors, and the effects of this one-on-one attention for the student are immediate and long-lasting. Tutors work with 1-2 students maximum per 30-minute session.

Where

Lanier High School, 833 W. Maple Street
*Saturdays at Operation Shoestring

Requirement

To be successful, a tutor simply needs to patiently work with a child on subjects that they often understand, but have not had the time or attention to master it.

Time Commitment

3:00 – 4:30 p.m. any school day

This equates to three 30-minute sessions with 1-2 children per session. ***For the sake of continuity, we recommend that volunteers commit to serving at least twice every month.***

When Needed

Tutoring services are needed throughout the school year, beginning on Tuesday, September 7, 2010.

*Second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Orientation

All tutors are required to attend an orientation/training on Monday, August 23, from 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Fall Festival

Purpose/Description

A Halloween/Fall Festival for the 125 elementary students who attend Operation Shoestring each day. This is a party to simply celebrate the season, to have games, booths, treats, etc.

Where

Operation Shoestring

Requirement

Volunteers will work with Operation Shoestring staff and board to plan and execute the event.

Time Commitment

One hour planning meeting and approximately six hours for the festival itself

When Needed

This year's Fall Festival will be held on Friday, October 20, 2010, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Set-up will begin at noon.

Orientation

All volunteers will meet at Operation Shoestring on Tuesday, September 21, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to plan the event with the Operation Shoestring board and staff.

Please Note

Entire families and their children are encouraged to attend.

Volunteer Opportunities (August 2010 - July 2011)

Spring Break Camp

Purpose/Description

In years past, Operation Shoestring has been closed to children during JPS Spring Break. Operation Shoestring is offering volunteers the opportunity to develop an academically-enriching and fun Spring Break experience for our elementary children.

Where

Operation Shoestring

Requirement

Volunteers will work with the Operation Shoestring staff at two planning sessions to develop the Spring Break experience.

Time Commitment

Volunteers may volunteer for as many days as they like from 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. during the Spring Break Camp.

When Needed

March 14-18, 2011

Orientation

All volunteers will meet at Operation Shoestring on Monday, January 10, 2011, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Thursday, February 24, 2011, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to plan the camp with the Operation Shoestring board and staff.

Adult and Family Education Classes

Purpose/Description

Volunteers with expertise in subjects of interest to young families are always needed. For example, bank representatives have come to Shoestring in the past to discuss the basics of financial planning. Physicians have given presentations on the dangers of lead poisoning and how to protect your family. Others have provided presentations on stress management, shopping for healthy food while on a budget, and job interviewing skills.

Where

Operation Shoestring

Requirement

Volunteers wishing to give a presentation will provide their service at no charge and will not promote any product or organization. Volunteer will meet with Operation Shoestring staff to discuss and schedule the type of presentation to be made.

Time Commitment

The time commitment largely depends on the length of the presentation, though we recommend that presentations last no more than one-hour.

When Needed

Third Thursday of each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Fourth Wednesday of the month from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Orientation

All presentations will be reviewed and approved in advance by the Operation Shoestring staff.

Summer Breakfast and Devotionals

Purpose/Description

During the summer, Operation Shoestring provides camp-like programming to nearly 300 children across Jackson. At the Operation Shoestring building, we provide breakfast and a 10-minute devotional to approximately 85 elementary students.

Where

Operation Shoestring

Requirement

Volunteers bring breakfast for 85 children. A typical breakfast might be a juice box and banana, doughnut, apple, pancakes, individual cereal boxes and milk, and/or sausage biscuits.

The cost generally runs between \$75-\$125. Following breakfast, volunteers engage children in a brief devotional of the volunteer's choosing.

Time Commitment

One hour. Volunteers arrive at Shoestring at 7:30 a.m. to help staff with breakfast set-up. Devotionals begin at 8 a.m. and are concluded by 8:30 a.m.

When Needed

A weekday during one of the following weeks:

June 6-10, 2011

June 20-24, 2011

July 5-8, 2011

June 13-17, 2011

June 27-July 1, 2011

Please Note

Entire families and their children are encouraged to attend.

School Year Visual Arts Instruction

Purpose/Description

Operation Shoestring recognizes the importance of arts in any child's education. Volunteers are needed to provide arts instructions (whether in clay, water colors, crayons, etc.) to our elementary students.

Where

Operation Shoestring

Requirement

Volunteers will provide arts instruction to no more than 15 elementary students at a time. Operation Shoestring asks that volunteers provide any materials needed for the class.

Time Commitment

40-60 minutes per class

When Needed

Fridays during the school year, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Volunteers may sign up to conduct:

- 1) a single, one-day art class
- 2) a weekly class for six weeks

Please Note

Volunteers may teach more than one class per Friday. For example, a volunteer could begin a one-hour class at 3:30 p.m. and then teach a second class beginning at 4:30 p.m. for another group of 15 students.

If providing materials is cost prohibitive for you, Operation Shoestring is willing to help raise funds to purchase any materials.

Summer Visual Arts Instruction

Purpose/Description

Operation Shoestring recognizes the importance of arts in any child's education. Volunteers are needed to provide arts instructions (whether in clay, water colors, crayons, etc.) to our elementary students.

Where

Operation Shoestring

Requirement

Volunteers will provide arts instruction to no more than 15 elementary students at a time. Operation Shoestring asks that volunteers provide any materials needed for the class.

Time Commitment

40-60 minutes per class

When Needed

Thursdays or Fridays during the summer, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Volunteers may sign up to conduct:

- 1) a single, one-day art class
- 2) a weekly class for four weeks

Available dates:

June 9 and 10, 2011	June 16 and 17, 2011
June 23 and 24, 2011	June 30 and July 1, 2011
July 7 and 8, 2011	

Please Note

Volunteers may teach more than one class per day. For example, a volunteer could begin a one-hour class at 3:30 p.m. and then teach a second class beginning at 4:30 p.m. for another group of 15 students.

If providing materials is cost prohibitive for you, Operation Shoestring is willing to help raise funds to purchase any materials.

School Year Dance Instruction

Purpose/Description

Operation Shoestring knows that dance and movement can increase a child's confidence and his/her academic success. For those with the proper qualifications, Operation Shoestring invites volunteers to provide dance lessons for our elementary students

Where

Operation Shoestring

Requirement

Volunteers will provide dance instruction to no more than 20 elementary students at a time. Operation Shoestring asks that volunteers provide any materials needed for the class, such as CDs.

Time Commitment

40-60 minutes per class

When Needed

Tuesdays during the school year, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Volunteers may sign up to conduct:

- 1) a single, one-day dance class
- 2) a weekly class for six weeks

Please Note

Volunteers may teach more than one class per Tuesday. For example, a volunteer could begin a one-hour class at 3:00 p.m. and then teach a second class beginning at 4:00 p.m. for another group of 15 students.

Children at Shoestring during the school year are dressed in school uniforms and tennis shoes. Dance classes would need to accommodate this attire.

Summer Dance Instruction

Purpose/Description

Operation Shoestring knows that dance and movement can increase a child's confidence and his/her academic success. For those with the proper qualifications, Operation Shoestring invites volunteers to provide dance lessons for our elementary students.

Where

Operation Shoestring

Requirement

Volunteers will provide dance instruction to no more than 20 elementary students at a time. Operation Shoestring asks that volunteers provide any materials needed for the class, such as CDs.

Time Commitment

40-60 minutes per class

When Needed

Tuesdays or Wednesdays during the summer, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Volunteers may sign up to conduct:

- 1) a single, one-day dance class
- 2) a weekly class for four weeks

Available dates:

June 7 and 8, 2011	June 14 and 15, 2011
June 21 and 22, 2011	June 28 and 29, 2011
July 6, 2011	

Please Note

Volunteers may teach more than one class per day. For example, a volunteer could begin a one-hour class at 2:00 p.m. and then teach a second class beginning at 3:00 p.m. for another group of students.

School Year Music Instruction

Purpose/Description

Few students who attend Operation Shoestring after-school each day have the time or the opportunity to learn a musical instrument or vocal technique. We welcome volunteers with expertise in this area to work with our students.

Where

Operation Shoestring

Requirement

Volunteers will provide music instruction to a manageable number of students. Operation Shoestring asks that volunteers provide any materials needed for the class.

Time Commitment

40-60 minutes per class

When Needed

Tuesdays during the school year, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Volunteers may sign up to conduct:

- 1) a single, one-day music class
- 2) a weekly class for six weeks

Please Note

Volunteers may teach more than one class per day. For example, a volunteer could begin a one-hour class at 3:00 p.m. and then teach a second class beginning at 4:00 p.m. for another group of students.

Volunteer Opportunities (August 2010 - July 2011)

Summer Music Instruction

Purpose/Description

Few students who attend Operation Shoestring after-school each day have the time or the opportunity to learn a musical instrument or vocal technique. We welcome volunteers with expertise in this area to work with our students.

Where

Operation Shoestring

Requirement

Volunteers will provide music instruction to a manageable number of students. Operation Shoestring asks that volunteers provide any materials needed for the class.

Time Commitment

40-60 minutes per class

When Needed

Tuesdays or Wednesdays during the summer, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Volunteers may sign up to conduct:

- 1) a single, one-day music class
- 2) a weekly class for four weeks

Available dates:

June 7 and 8, 2011	June 14 and 15, 2011
June 21 and 22, 2011	June 28 and 29, 2011
July 6, 2011	

Please Note

Volunteers may teach more than one class per day. For example, a volunteer could begin a one-hour class at 2:00 p.m. and then teach a second class beginning at 3:00 p.m. for another group of students.

Physical Education for Elementary Students

Purpose/Description

Like most children in public schools (as well as private), children in the Operation Shoestring service area do not have the benefit of a PE instructor at school. Operation Shoestring would like to work with qualified volunteers to provide physical education and exercise to our students.

Where

Operation Shoestring

Requirement

Volunteers will provide PE and exercise instruction to 15-20 students. Operation Shoestring asks that volunteers provide any materials needed for the class, though jump ropes are on hand at Shoestring.

Time Commitment

30 minutes per class

When Needed

Each day of the school year, beginning at 4 p.m. We request that a volunteer commit to conducting at least one class per week for four weeks.

Orientation

All PE classes must be approved by the Operation Shoestring staff.

Physical Education for Adults

Purpose/Description

The parents of our children have requested that Operation Shoestring provide physical activity for them. This is an outstanding stress reliever and provides a great model for children. Volunteers may teach aerobic exercise classes and the like for Shoestring parents.

Where

Operation Shoestring

Requirement

Volunteers will provide PE and exercise instruction to 5-10 parents at Operation Shoestring.

Aerobics certification from IFTA or a comparable certifying organization is required.

Time Commitment

30 minutes per class

When Needed

Weekdays during the school year beginning at 5:00 p.m. We request that a volunteer commit to conducting at least one class per week for four weeks.

Please Note

All PE classes must be approved by the Operation Shoestring executive director and deputy director.

Facilities Improvement and Beautification

Purpose/Description

Operation Shoestring has a bright and inviting facility in which it educates and serves its families and children. Twice per year, Shoestring takes time to complete minor – and sometimes major – capital projects. Volunteers are needed to assist with projects such as painting, minor repairs, moving of old equipment, etc.

Where

Operation Shoestring

Requirement

Volunteers are required to sign a release form.

Time Commitment

Four-hour “work day” at Operation Shoestring.

When Needed

Sunday, October 17, 2010, from 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 17, 2011, from 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 7, 2011, from 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Orientation

No orientation is required; however, you will be contacted by the Shoestring staff with a description of what you’ll do during the work day and with a request for what sort of tools to bring.

Administrative Support

Purpose/Description

Operation Shoestring works with hundreds of families and has great need for clerical and administrative help. Volunteers are needed to answer phones, greet visitors, organize materials, maintain the Parent Resource Room, stuff envelopes, etc. Volunteers will assist with areas of greatest need for the Operation Shoestring staff.

Where

Operation Shoestring

Time Commitment

3 hour shifts.

When Needed

Weekdays throughout the year.

These shifts are available:

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Orientation

No orientation is required; however, volunteers will receive very specific instructions on duties. Volunteers will be comfortable with their role before beginning their work.

Please Note

For the most efficient use of time, Operation Shoestring recommends that volunteers sign up for a one-week block or for several days at a time. Volunteers may also sign up for the same shift weekly for a month.

Career Days

Purpose/Description

To give our children an idea of the vast potential opportunities available to them if they excel in school and graduate, we need volunteers willing to share details about their careers.

Where

At Operation Shoestring for our elementary students and at Lanier High School for high school students.

Requirement

We ask that volunteers take up to 20 minutes to discuss their career, bring tools of their trade, explain what's required to do their career and then answer questions. We'll host two volunteers each month.

Time Commitment

20 minutes

When Needed

Third Thursday of every month at 4 p.m. throughout the year.

Orientation

No orientation is required.

Weekend Meals

Purpose/Description

Unfortunately, some of the children in our service area cannot always rely on healthy meals - or sometimes any meals - over the weekends. Volunteers are needed to prepare bag lunches that will ensure meals for children on Saturdays and Sundays.

Where

Operation Shoestring

Requirement

Please pack lunches that will not perish overnight. Children who need lunches over the weekend will be sent home with the sacks on Friday evening. We request that each volunteer bring 40 sack lunches.

Time Commitment

Time to prepare lunches.

When Needed

Volunteers should bring lunches to Operation Shoestring between 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. on any Friday during the school year.

Operation Shoestring Service Corps Advisory Council:

Sally Molpus,

Chair

Jill Buckley

John Chesney

Ellen Gabardi

Stephanie Hopkins

Jonathan Lee

Vickie Mason

Ginny Parham

Mary Largent Purvis

Darby Ray

Julie Skipper

LaQuitta Sims

Micajah Sturdivant

Tosha Taylor

Dorian Turner

Trey Waterloo

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President

Dorian Turner,

Vice President

Trey Porter,

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Mary Largent Purvis

Chris Ray

Melinda Ray

Keith Tonkel

Trey Waterloo

Primus Wheeler

Robert Langford,

Executive Director



To learn more about Operation Shoestring,
to donate to our efforts or to volunteer,
please visit www.operationshoestring.org

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