**Our History**

In 2006, the Superintendent of Charleston County Schools, Nancy McGinley, requested that the Coastal Community Foundation (make active web url) study models for a volunteer tutoring effort. In response to her request, a committee formed to look into volunteer tutoring models and decided this initiative would be most successful if it was organized around a common theme, literacy. This committee became Charleston Volunteers for Literacy (CVL) and conducted a nationwide search for programs that leverage volunteers to improve literacy among elementary school students.

In November 2007, CVL launched a successful fundraising effort to pilot an intensive tutoring program in Charleston, modeled after the Charlottesville Book Buddies Program (make active web url). This highly successful program has used volunteers to tutor students for 18 years and is based on sound research, best practice, and measured results. It has been replicated across the country, including New York City, where it began in the Bronx and has spread to all five boroughs (insert url reference).

In January 2008, Charleston Book Buddies was piloted for three months with 44 first grade students and 70 volunteers at two Title One schools in Charleston County. Currently, we serve 96 second grade students with 200 volunteers at six schools.

CVL is applying for 501c(3) status to continue leveraging volunteers to provide important literacy services to students throughout their elementary education.