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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DeKalb Seeks Volunteers for Virtual Tutoring Program** **Experience Corps Program Brings Students and Seniors Together**

**DECATUR, Ga.** – The DeKalb County Human Services Department is recruiting volunteers to participate in The AARP Experience Corps, a tutoring program designed to help DeKalb students improve their reading skills. Volunteer tutors are needed now to begin tutoring September 2023

The AARP Experience Corps is an evidence-based literacy program that improves the reading skills of children in kindergarten through the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The Human Services Department is working in collaboration with the United Way of Greater Atlanta, the AARP Foundation, and the DeKalb County School District on this initiative.

Recent data shows that DeKalb students on average have a reading proficiency of 27 percent, which means that 73 percent of students are reading below grade level.

This tutoring program achieves reading proficiency results focusing on students who are 1-2 grades behind in reading grade level. The AARP Experience Corps program is designed to be implemented by volunteers who are 50 years old and older. Volunteers must have a high school diploma or G.E.D to participate. Experience Corps is a national program that has produced positive mental and physical health benefits for the older adult volunteers.

The tutoring program concluded with the end of the school year and is gearing up for the 2023/2024 school year and more volunteers are needed. Last year the program resulted in 70 percent of students moving up a grade in reading proficiency. The program follows the school district's calendar through May 2024. Tutoring sessions will be scheduled for in-person and hybrid settings. Participating DeKalb schools include: Stoneview Elementary, Pine Ridge Elementary, Murphy Candler Elementary, E.L. Miller Elementary, and Redan Elementary.

To learn more about the program, contact Ed Long, Human Services Program Coordinator by email at [elong@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:elong@dekalbcountyga.gov) or complete an online application at <https://www.unitedwayatlanta.org/aarp-volunteer-application/> or you may call Ed Long at 404-683-5308.