**CONTACT:** Jenni Walker – Walker PR Group – 980-339-8041-office/704-649-6571-cell Emily Elliott – Heart Math Tutoring – 980-292-2297

> Heart Math Tutoring Launches Volunteer Drive for Upcoming School Year Heart needs approx. 700 tutors to help 600 students in 12 CMS schools



Attached and below are four images of Heart volunteer tutors and students.

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. – July 18, 2016 –** <u>Heart Math Tutoring</u> (Heart) – a nonprofit group dedicated to helping students in high-poverty elementary schools develop math skills and academic confidence – is recruiting volunteer tutors for the 2016/17 school year. Its goal is to recruit volunteers to be tutors for 600 students (~700 tutors) between now and Sept. 16.

"Our volunteer tutors do a great job delivering the curriculum and building relationships with students who need extra support," said Emily Elliott, executive director of Heart Math Tutoring. "We feel fortunate for and honored by each community member who chooses to spend one hour per week with Heart. We look forward to growing the team to impact even more students this coming school year."

Heart volunteers commit to weekly tutoring sessions that last either 30 minutes or one hour and can team up with friends, family and colleagues to be "partner tutors." Math does not have to be a strong subject for volunteers who all follow a structured elementary-level curriculum that features hands-on activities and math games. A Heart staff person is on site at all times to make sure tutors have what they need. Volunteer opportunities are available at the following schools and times:

- Billingsville Leadership Academy: Monday-Thursday, 8:00-9:00AM; 2:00-3:00PM
- Greenway Park Elementary: Monday-Thursday, 8:00-9:00AM; 11:45-12:45PM
- Highland Renaissance Academy: Monday-Thursday, 11:15AM-1:15PM
- Merry Oaks Elementary: Monday-Thursday, 7:45-8:45AM; 12:30-1:30PM
- Montclaire Elementary: Monday-Thursday, 7:45-8:45AM; 12:45-1:45PM
- Nathaniel Alexander Elementary: Monday-Thursday, 7:45-8:45AM; 12:00-1:00PM
- Pinewood Elementary School: Monday-Thursday, 7:45-8:45AM; 12:45-1:45PM
- Piney Grove Elementary: Monday-Thursday, 8:00-9:00AM; 11:00-12:00PM\*
- Sedgefield Elementary: Monday-Thursday, 7:45-8:45AM; 10:30–11:30AM\*
- University Meadows Elementary: 8:00-9:00AM; 12:30-1:30PM
- Westerly Hills Academy: Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 11:30AM\*
- Winterfield Elementary: Monday-Thursday, 7:45-8:45AM; 12:30-1:30PM

\*Times are being finalized. Check <u>www.hearttutoring.org/become-a-volunteer</u> for latest time.

For more information about becoming a Heart tutor, call 704-931-3209 or email <u>volunteer@hearttutoring.org</u>. To sign up online, visit <u>http://hearttutoring.org/volunteers/become-a-volunteer/</u>.

Heart Math Tutoring is a math intervention program that recruits, trains, and supports volunteers to work as tutors in high-poverty elementary schools in <u>Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools</u>. Hundreds of community members spend one hour each week delivering Heart's research-based, structured curriculum. About 60 percent of economically disadvantaged children in <u>Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools</u> perform below grade level in math, based on 2014-15 North Carolina End-of-Grade Tests.

In the 2015/16 school year, 99 percent of Heart students met program growth goals in math, growing in two or more building block concept areas. On average, students doubled the goal – growing in 4.6 concept areas. Heart students began the year with 28 percent of foundational skills needed, based on grade level standards. By the end of the year, they grew to now have 59 percent of the skills they need, cutting the gap in half.

Since 2013/14, Heart has grown from serving 105 students in two schools and plans to serve more than 600 students across <u>12 school sites</u> in 2016/17. Heart's 450 volunteers collectively gave 8,179 hours of targeted, one-on-one instruction to students in need during the 2015/16 school year. Much of the volunteer growth has been spurred by volunteer tutors, who have recruited friends and colleagues to join in Heart's efforts, helping to ensure that struggling elementary students build a strong foundation in math and enthusiasm for academics. In addition, 100 percent of surveyed Heart volunteers rated their experience as positive, and 99 percent would recommend Heart to friends and colleagues.

Adds Elliott, "Our volunteer tutors are fifty percent delivering the math curriculum and fifty percent being a positive influence. We are committed to providing a fun way to build relationships with students while delivering academic skills crucial to their success."

## Heart Math Tutoring

Heart Math Tutoring is a Charlotte-based nonprofit with a mission to ensure that all elementary students develop the strong foundation in math and enthusiasm for academics needed for long-term success, by helping schools use volunteers as tutors. Community members commit one hour per week to deliver an effective, hands-on curriculum through one-on-one tutoring sessions during the school day in Title I elementary schools. For more information, visit <u>http://hearttutoring.org</u>.

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Images of Heart volunteer tutors with students courtesy of Heart Math Tutoring:



