



Each month, the PTA Executive Board recognizes one parent as the **PTA Volunteer of the Month**. This parent goes above and beyond to make our PTA programs and events a success. The PTA Volunteer of the Month may use the Volunteer of the Month Parking Spot at the front of the school during their awarded month.

PTA thanks all of our volunteers for their time and effort and encourages every parent, grandparent, and guardian to keep volunteering; visit the [Volunteer Corner](#) for the latest volunteer opportunities.

## **JANUARY – Jane Reid**

Congratulations to our JANUARY Volunteer of the Month, Jane Reid! Jane was selected for her role with the PTA Fun Run and Winter JAM.

1. Tell us about yourself (where you are from, college, work history, kids names & ages, etc).



*From Marietta, Ga. I bleed red and black as I played tennis for THE University of Georgia. I was an education major, but after college went to work for Pfizer and then Johnson and Johnson in their spine division. That last 11 years, I have been blessed with the opportunity to help grow our family business, Square 1 Art, into a nationwide leader helping advocate visual arts and fund vibrant art programs mostly in elementary schools.*

2. What brought your family to River Eves Elementary?

*To be closer to family. Plus, East Roswell and Horseshoe Bend offer an amazing neighborhood and school community to raise a family.*

3. How did you begin volunteering at River Eves?

*Being a mom of four boys, especially working full time, it's important for me to find as many ways to be present and visible to my boys while supporting the amazing teachers and administrators that are helping shape my boys' futures.*

4. Tell us about the various roles/committees you have volunteered for at the school?

*Coordinating the Square 1 Art fundraiser for Mrs. O'Hara's visual art program is where I'm focused most of my time over the last six years. I'm a huge advocate for arts in education*

*and helping River Eves put the A in STEM for a more STEAM focus too. We are so fortunate to have a PTA that believes in this as well and I look forward to advocating for Music and the performing arts in the future as well. I enjoyed co-coordinating the Boosterthon Fun Run with Melissa Crean and loved playing a part in the first annual Winter Jam family event which exceeded our expectations in family participation! I currently serve on the REEF Board as well. REEF is a wonderful organization that allows River Eves to offer our students above and beyond the typical technology and STEM education that would normally exist.*

5. Why do you volunteer your time and resources to the school?

*I volunteer my time and support as many fundraisers and events as possible because without volunteers and financial support from families, our children and teachers wouldn't have even close to the enriched educational experience that currently exists at River Eves. Volunteers and parent participation is CRITICAL to ensuring our students, families, teachers and staff are given every opportunity to experience the incredible events and programs that the PTA and administration bring to REES. The one thing I wish every REES parent would know is that there is no volunteer opportunity too small! Every little bit counts whether it's giving of your time in school or home, money or profession! Any level of giving in ANY capacity matters. Your children will see it and take pride in knowing their parents are active in supporting the school no matter what the level of giving.*

6. What do you like to do with your free time (hobbies, activities, travel, etc)?

*I love music, singing, family movie time, tennis and most of all spending as much family time with my boys as possible.*

## **DECEMBER – Edita Tracey**

**Congratulations to our DECEMBER Volunteer of the Month, Edita Tracey! Edita was selected for her role with the PTA Reflections Program.**



1. Tell us about yourself (where you are from, college, work history, kids names & ages, etc).

*I am originally from Croatia. I was 13 when my family left my home country and moved to Norway, then to Germany where I finished high school. In 1999 we moved to Georgia and have been living here since. I graduated from Georgia State University with degrees in Accounting, Finance and Risk Management & Insurance. I worked as an International Tax Accountant, mostly with multi-national corporations. I enjoyed it and was able to use all three languages that I am fluent in. My husband Ken and I met 13 years ago and have two daughters: Savannah, 5 (will be 6 in December) and Arabella, 3.*

2. What brought your family to River Eves Elementary?

*When my husband and I started planning family we decided to move from the city to the suburbs. We have been living in Horseshoe Bend neighborhood for a little over 5 years. We heard great things about River Eves Elementary from other parents, magazines, social media, etc. We learned about the big parent involvement, STEM lab and various activities. We attended the kindergarten meeting and enrolled Savannah at River Eves.*



3. How did you begin volunteering at River Eves?

*When Savannah was about to start Kindergarten, I heard that help was needed at Open House. I came to the school with both of my daughters and helped out. Since then, I have continued to help out with different activities.*

4. Tell us about the various roles/committees you have volunteered for at the school?

*I am a co-chair of River Eves PTA-sponsored Reflections program. I am a room-mom for Savannah's Kindergarten class. I am also a kindergarten grade-level mom. In addition, I enjoy helping with monthly STEM labs and any other volunteering activities.*

5. Why do you volunteer your time and resources to the school?

*I enjoy volunteering at school for various reasons. It makes me happy knowing that I can contribute to children's experience. I love seeing my daughter at school and it makes both of us happy. I get to meet other parents and teachers, as well, and learn more about education and activities. Many research studies show that when parents get involved, students do better in school and the schools they go to are better.*

6. What do you like to do with your free time (hobbies, activities, travel, etc)?

*I love to relax with a great book. I enjoy anything outdoors: walking the trails, going to the park, have lunch on the patio, outdoor concerts and picnics. I love to cook and travel with my family. I am fortunate to be able to go back to Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina with my family every summer and spend a couple of weeks enjoying the Mediterranean.*

## NOVEMBER – Michelle Wetherill

Congratulations to our NOVEMBER Volunteer of the Month, Michelle Wetherill! Michelle was selected for her role in launching the new REES Electronic Directory.



### 1. Tell us about yourself.

*I was born in Roanoke, VA but have lived in the area for most of my life as we moved here when I was in 2nd grade. I went to Dolvin, Barnwell, Holcomb Bridge MS and then the “old” Milton...before heading off to UGA. Go Dawgs! I work full time for a software company and I am also of course a full time mom...and boy do these kids keep me running! I have a 12 year old son in 6th grade, Ryan, and a 9 yr old daughter in 4th grade, Ella.*

### 2. What brought your family to River Eves Elementary?

*When we were starting our family we knew that we wanted to be in this area because a) it is where I grew up and b) we knew that the schools were good. We found the perfect starter home in Horseshoe Bend and moved in when I was 8 and a half months pregnant with Ryan! We loved having him go from Kindergarten all the way through 5th grade and having his*

*sister follow in his footsteps. It was been a great experience and the teachers and staff are all so supportive and caring!*

3. How did you begin volunteering at River Eves?

*I started volunteering just in the classroom when Ryan was in Kindergarten. I wanted to be involved and visible to my child as he started in a new school. I helped out with the different parties/events and found myself signing up for probably way too much. I then got pulled into helping with both REEF and PTA.*

4. Tell us about the various roles/committees you have volunteered for at the school?

*I feel like I have done a little bit of everything. I have been a room parent every year, I think...and many of those years for both children's classrooms. I was on the 5th grade party committee last year, I have help organized grade level parties, I have done field days and fall festivals and spring picnics. I have been a board member on REEF for I believe four years now, focusing on the silent auction. I have been helping out with the PTA on various committees as well, every year. I believe I started by helping with the Bruster's spirit nights. Then I co-chaired the Fun Run, tackled Spirit Wear and this year I got to move us into the 21st century with the electronic student and faculty directory.*

5. Why do you volunteer your time and resources to the school?

*I truly believe that in any situation you get out of it what you put into it. I also believe that every person CAN make a difference. I see the love and support that our teachers and faculty provide for our children every single day, and I want to be there to support them. If I can take things off of their plate or do something small to make their day better, then it allows them to focus on the education of my little one and give her the support and structure that she needs. I also see what we are able to provide for all of the students through our funds raised – both from PTA and REEF. The technology, the extra programs, the supplies and support for the teachers – all of that is done by volunteers – and I am just so proud to be a part of that. And bonus, I am setting a great example for my children!*

6. What do you like to do with your free time (hobbies, activities, travel, etc)?

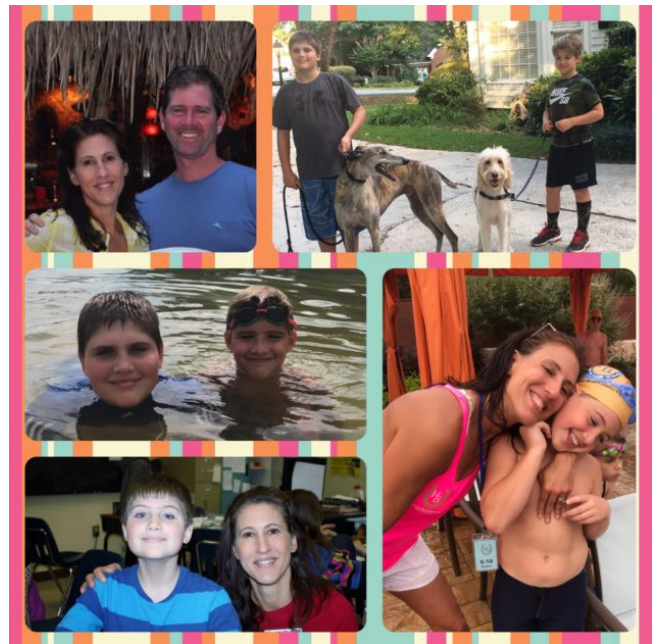
*Free time? Is there such a thing as free time when you have two active children? Honestly, I just try and get into CrossFit a few times a week and get a good workout at home on the other days. Yes, I am the crazy lady that gets out of the car with my daughter in carpool line (my husband drives) and runs home! I feel like staying active myself keeps me sane! Then I get to spend my "free" time being an unpaid Uber driver, as I shuttle my daughter to either gymnastics or cheer, or my son to soccer or tennis. Our weekends are filled with sports and friends and I wouldn't change any of that!*

7. Anything else you would like to tell us.

*I would say to anyone that has considered getting involved, please just go ahead and take the plunge. No amount of time donated is too small and every little bit really does help. I promise you will be greeted by smiling faces and welcoming arms – oh, and plenty of work to be done. ☐*

## **OCTOBER – Melissa Crean**

**Congratulations to our OCTOBER Volunteer of the Month, Melissa Crean! Melissa was selected for her role in the REES Fun Run.**



We asked Melissa to tell us a little about herself, and here's



what she said:

1. Tell us about yourself.

*I am an Atlanta native...grew up in Peachtree Corners and went to Norcross High School. I attended UGA and graduated with a Finance degree. Before becoming a stay-at-home mom, I spent 10 years at Turner Broadcasting working for the TNT and TBS networks. My husband and I have two boys, Alex (12) and Ryan (9).*

2. What brought your family to River Eves Elementary?

*My husband and I were living downtown and decided we wanted to move to the suburbs before we had kids. He's an avid golfer, so we looked at every neighborhood in close proximity to a golf course and fell in love with Horseshoe Bend. We moved here in 2003 and then moved into our 2nd home in Horseshoe Bend in 2013. We heard great things about River Eves from neighbors and they were right! Its been a wonderful experience.*

3. How did you begin volunteering at River Eves?

*Seven years ago, my oldest son started Kindergarten and my 1st volunteer job was as Room Parent for his class.*

4. Tell us about the various roles/committees you have volunteered for at the school?

*I've been room parent multiple years. Also, co-chaired the AR program for 3 years and was PTA Co-President for 2 years. Most recently, I co-chaired the Fun Run.*

5. Why do you volunteer your time and resources to the school?

*River Eves is a great school, but like every public school there are limited budgets and resources. I've seen first hand how an active PTA enhances the experience for EVERY child. The teachers and staff have an incredibly full plate of responsibilities, so I felt obligated to help out where I can. And being involved at school keeps me much more aware of how my children are being educated. Also, my kids LOVE seeing me at school. I know that won't be the case much longer. 😊*

6. What do you like to do with your free time (hobbies, activities, travel, etc)?

*Tennis is definitely my favorite thing to do when I have free time! I also love to paint and play with my dogs.*

## **SEPTEMBER – Manndi Iovino**



**Congratulations to our SEPTEMBER Volunteer of the Month, Manndi Iovino! Manndi was selected for her role with REES spirit wear.**

We asked Manndi to tell us a little about herself, and here's what she said:

1. Tell us about yourself.

*I am originally from upstate NY. I went to college at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Up until last year, I was the Assistant Director of a childcare center for a law firm in Midtown. I have two daughters, Avery is 7 and Emily is 1-1/2.*

2. What brought your family to River Eves Elementary?

*We were drawn to River Eves because everyone we spoke with always had nothing but good things to say! We feel fortunate to have our daughter attend River Eves.*

3. How did you begin volunteering at River Eves?

*I began volunteering on STEM days. Also, helped out within Avery's classroom, holiday parties, teacher appreciation, field trips and end of the year celebrations.*

4. Tell us about the various roles/committees you have volunteered for at the school?

*Most recently, I have been apart of the Spirit Wear committee and a 2nd grade room parent.*

5. Why do you volunteer your time and resources to the school?

*I enjoy volunteering my time at the school because it is a great way to support our community as well as and getting to know other families.*

6. What do you like to do with your free time (hobbies, activities, travel, etc)?

*In my spare time I enjoy traveling, reading and hanging out with my family.*