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Tutors sought for kids with cancer

EDUCATION

FRED SCHUHLE fschuhle@messengerpostmedia.com

Boost, a tutoring program that works with CURE Childhood Cancer and Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, is now looking for more volunteers.

Linda Bolan of Clifton Springs, who has recruited more than a dozen retired teachers for the program, said children undergoing cancer treatment often miss as much as six months of school at a time. Even when they're doing better, many frequently have to miss school for doctor's appointments, checkups and blood work.

Bolan is now looking to add volunteer tutors in Monroe, Orleans and Wayne counties, plus the Southern Tier. Children being treated at Strong's Golisano Children's Hospital frequently live in the Finger Lakes or Southern Tier regions, she said.

Kathy Wissler, the education liaison at Strong's department of pediatric hematology and oncology, frequently tells parents about the Boost program.

Bolan, who retired from Midlakes High School two years ago, said this work is ideal for retired teachers, who frequently have more flexible schedules.

It can be reassuring to a child to know that there's "somebody waiting in the wings," Bolan said, even if the tutor doesn't get called right away. Although tutoring sometimes takes place in settings like the Ronald McDonald House, most sessions are in the child's home, and can continue after they've returned to school.

To learn more about Boost, contact Linda Bolan at (315) 462-9072.

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