Empowering students to be emotionally, socially, behaviorally and academically successful!

The Peer Helper program is the ultimate peer-to-peer prevention and support program which operates with a cloud-based, online support tool.
About the Peer Helper program

What Is Peer Helping?
Peer Helping is a Pre-K through 12 school-based program in which two adult coordinators lead a group of students who are chosen from an application process. Peer Helper students are taught core skills that equip them to assist fellow students with the emotional, societal, behavioral and educational challenges that we all face in day-to-day life. The program encompasses a variety of youth-supportive services in diverse settings. Teachers and counselors, who serve as program coordinators at their schools, are specially trained to teach the Peer Helper curriculum.

The Peer Helper program covers issues that affect our youth today, such as:
- bullying
- abuse
- drugs and alcohol
- suicide loss and grief
- parental divorce
- body image

Many of these issues are now required to be addressed, on campus, with all students, which is why numerous school administrators are passionate about the Peer Helper program.

Roles Of Peer Helpers
Peer Helpers serve as tutors, mentors, mediators, and advocates for their peers, and assist new students in transitioning between schools and communities. Leading campus-wide campaigns, school assemblies, small group informational sessions, or supporting an individual student, are some of the ways Peer Helpers work to help the prevention and support efforts on their campus.

The program provides role models and assistance to children who may have neither at home. Peer Helpers can help fill that void for students who may need just a little more time or attention, and help guide those kids through their school years.

Why Peer Helping?
When a young person is seeking help, validation or guidance, they turn to a peer first and reach out to their parents later, if at all. Peer Helping was created as a result of this fact, which remains true today. Peer Helping empowers our youth to support one another, because peers make the greatest positive impact on each other. If a Peer Helper learns of an issue they are trained to reach out to adult leadership for help in a timely manner versus, without the core skill training, not knowing what to do and possibly doing nothing at all.

Benefits of Peer Helping
The Peer Helper program helps students: avoid risky behaviors; improve attendance and grades; choose healthy coping methods; and the program makes administrators aware of student situations that require social services intervention. The Peer Helper program helps students: continue in school despite the fact that they are homeless; thrive after drug overdoses; overcome bullying; reduce stress associated with family dysfunction; independently resolve social conflicts, and; get connected to other students for the first time in their lives.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for ages 10-14 and the third leading cause of death for ages 15-24.

7% of all children have lived with a jailed parent.

9% of students in grades 6–12 experienced cyberbullying.

A report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds.

Before the age of 18, 1 out of every 4 girls is sexually abused and 1 out of every 6 boys is sexually abused.
How the program works

The Peer Helper program is rooted with integrity, standards, and is customizable and flexible for ease of implementation at all schools.

Who is the target for the Peer Helper program?
- It is geared to students Pre-K through 12th grade, and is designed to support the needs of today’s youth
- It focuses on primary and secondary curriculums

What does the program require?
- No additional school personnel
- No new equipment
- No special facilities
- Two days of training, for two Peer Helper coordinators, per school
- Minimal annual funding

What are the steps to implementation:

Step 1 – Consultation & Assistance:
Determining school needs and selection of program coordinators

Step 2 – Coordinators’ Training:
Program overview, program introduction to school and parents, Peer Helper selection, and training materials

Step 3 – Peer Helper Portal:
Software with all needed documents, current curriculum, and program activity collaboration

Step 4 – Program Enhancers:
Available items such as T-shirts, folders, lanyards, stress balls and more

“The Peer Helper program not only addresses the state requirements of prevention on our campus, but does so in the most efficient and impactful way – through our students!”
– Russ Moore, Principal
Foley High School, Foley, AL
(26 years of education administration)

Snapshot:
- Students are educated on how to fulfill their role with leadership, counseling skills, and referral procedures.
- Universal program standards, procedures and curriculum, which ensure program integrity.
- Live and secure program portal to assess youth’s daily challenges and needs, as well as program impact.

28% of children living with a divorced parent live in a household with an income below the poverty line.

Youth suicide in the United States has surged to the highest level in 30 years.

Every day, 44 people in the U.S. die from overdose of prescription painkillers.

62% of school staff witnessed bullying two or more times in the last month.

90% of those who are currently addicted began using alcohol and other drugs before the age of 18.
Positive Impact of Peer Helpers

“The Peer Helper program is one the best experiences that I’ve ever had in high school, and it inspired me to become a teacher. I learned first-hand the importance of leadership, empathy, communication, and kindness, through the training and service opportunities that the program continually offers.”

Carol Perez Turner - age 29, teacher and former Peer Helper student

“Being a Peer Helper has helped me to understand others and empathize with them. I use these skills to effectively solve disputes and help kids work through issues, and I take pride in the fact that I am now considered someone to go to in times of need.”

A. Crepeau - 8th grade Peer Helper

“Peer Helping is an unforgettable experience! I will forever cherish this program because of the opportunities I’ve had to be personable with my fellow students and encourage them to overcome obstacles in their lives. I have become a better individual, inside and out, through the Peer Helper program at my school.”

T. Cameron - 12th grade Peer Helper

“We are truly appreciative of the Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation and each Peer Helper and coordinator for making an effective difference in the lives of those who need a friend and a confidant from time to time. You truly make a remarkable, positive impact on young people, not only for the moment, but for a lifetime. Thank you for your dedication and devotion to the well-being of our youth and to our community.”

Norm Moore – 2012-2016 President of Baldwin County Board of Education

About the Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation

In 1998, Frances Holk Moore Jones and her late husband, Neal Moore, created the Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation after their 16-year-old daughter committed suicide. The Moore’s wanted their family’s loss to become something positive for others.

To that end, the Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation’s mission is to provide our youth with the knowledge, resources and confidence to successfully navigate the pressures of day-to-day life issues and excel into adulthood.

The Peer Helper program’s vision is to create a culture of supporting one another by extending a helping hand. Once a student is trained as a Peer Helper, they are always a Peer Helper. Peer Helper students are taught core skills that empower them to assist fellow students with the emotional, societal, behavioral and educational challenges we all face in day-to-day life. Peer Helpers serve as tutors, mentors, mediators and advocates for their peers. Teachers and counselors, who serve as Peer Program coordinators at their schools, are specially trained to teach the Peer Helper curriculum.