

Mission

The mission of Omosaze, Inc. is to empower low-income early-elementary children to succeed by providing structured instruction in reading and comprehension in a supportive learning environment that reinforces positive attitudes about learning.

Year Founded

1999, by Leon and Verwray Scott

History

Omosaze was established to help with severe reading deficiencies volunteers encountered while working in a Marietta, Georgia public housing community. In the organization's first three years of operations, it partnered with Sylvan Learning Centers in Cobb County, which offered Omosaze a 50% discount off of standard rates. In 2001, Sylvan rescinded its discount. As a result, Omosaze created its independent literacy training curriculum, *Reading Saturday*.

Since the program's inception, it has grown from serving 10 students (2001-2002) in a single Marietta school to a current enrollment of 105 students (2006-2007) from four schools in Cobb County. In addition, the organization has reduced its average cost per student from \$2,300 to as little as \$800 (actual cost depends on the number of students participating in the program). The number of teachers involved in the program has increased to 18, and the number of volunteers spending one-to-one reading time with students has increased to 50.

Reading Saturday Program Description

The goals of *Reading Saturday* are to increase the number of low-income first-, second-, and third-grade students in the Cobb County and Marietta School Districts that are passing grade-level reading and vocabulary tests, passing the Georgia CRCT, participating confidently in school activities, and demonstrating a love of reading.

Reading Saturday consists of 22 sessions during the academic year (October-May) that each last for 3.5 hours and feature small-group instruction by qualified teaching professionals and mentoring by trained volunteers. Learning objectives are derived from the Georgia Department of Education Performance Standards and focus on letters, sounds, and words, as well as word recognition, phonics, comprehension, and other activities designed to improve a student's reading ability.

Omosaze uses published data to identify and partner with schools in Cobb County, Georgia that have a high number of low-income, underperforming students. Both male and female students, including a high ratio of Hispanics and Blacks, are prepared for success through *Reading Saturday*.

