Camdenton School District
"Volunteer of the Year"
Nominations
2010-2011

We’re so grateful for every heartfelt deed.
You make a difference to those in need!
Nina Bergthold
We would like to recommend our volunteer for volunteer of the year! She has worked with us for years! She began as the first teacher’s volunteer eight years ago! She added a second teacher six years ago and another this year! We couldn’t do our job without her! She is here every Tuesday and if she can’t make it, she comes another day! No task is off limits with her! She will do anything for us! There are many tasks that she does automatically, even if we don’t ask. She knows what needs to be done, and she does it! (Even when we don’t remember it needs to be done!)

One of the best things about our volunteer is that she comes in several days during our workweek in August! She helps us unpack, organize, prepare bulletin boards, prepare papers for the kids plus much more! All we have to do is ask!

She is a wonderful person & friend! We are so lucky to have her volunteering for us at Dogwood!!!!

Submitted by Stefanie Wirths, Cheryl Hymes, & Cassie Dickerson
Dogwood Elementary Second Grade Teachers

Rose Curtis
Wow! Volunteer of the Year!!!
My volunteer has been a big blessing this year. Her smile and joyful personality always makes Wednesday and Friday better days. She is always eager to help with anything asked. She is trustworthy. I can ask her to do anything and know the project will be done right. I can trust her with any job.

My volunteer is helpful and I depend on her so much. She will come any day I ask. She is always coming up with new ways to help organize me. Her willingness to do anything makes her your perfect candidate for “Volunteer of the Year.” I am certainly glad she was assigned to my room. She has brought so many blessing. Thank you, volunteer, for the endless hours you spend helping me.

Submitted by Lisa Allen
Dogwood Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

Kelly Diehl
My volunteer has many qualities; she’s intelligent, generous, and is a caring individual. She is a person I can always count on. She starts her day at 7:30 and works until she has competed all of the tasks I ask her to do.

Teachers obviously have a lot of paper work, and my volunteer always helps my pile get smaller. My volunteer even has a smile on her face when I hand her a basket full of things that need to be copied, cut, or stapled into a booklet.

It takes a very dedicated individual to give up time each week for others when it doesn’t directly benefit that person. My volunteer gladly does this without complaining, but instead helps me and my students get more accomplished.

She deserves special recognition and appreciation. Thank you for considering her as your Volunteer of the Year for 2010-2011.

Submitted by Penny Rassler
Hawthorn Elementary Fourth Grade Teacher

Kelly Diehl
My Volunteer….Helper in all areas!

Although my volunteer isn’t “on the record books” as my volunteer she helps me any time I need her to. If I ever have a last minute thing to do, she takes it, with a smile, and does it for me!
Kelly Diehl continued:
She often stops by my room to “check on me” and see if I need help! Many times, she comes with a special treat for me!

My volunteer is a wonderful person to be around and to have in your classroom working with the kids! She makes them feel loved and praises their efforts. As you can see, she does much more than volunteers, she takes care of my students and me! She is the “happy spot” in most of our days!!

Submitted by Stefanie Wirths
Dogwood Elementary Second Grade Teacher

Jo Ann Gornet

“Is our volunteer here today?” “When is our volunteer coming this week?” These are frequently asked questions by the staff at Hurricane Deck Elementary. She has been volunteering at our school for the past seven years. How did we ever get along without her? She and her husband retired to the Lake from St. Louis where she was employed as a school secretary. Fortunately for us, she just couldn’t give up the need to be at school. She has wonderful ideas and lots of enthusiasm. She knows exactly how to do almost every project. With her experience and knowledge of schools, she willingly takes on any and all projects with great professionalism. She often takes big projects home to work on and then recruits her husband, John, to help. Thanks, John! Often, when our secretary needs to be out of the office, she comes in to help by answering phones and keeping the office functioning.

The “Hurricane”, as she is known, does much of the copy work. She does the monthly menu and calendar and puts together packets for kindergarten, preschool, and new student registration. She also helps out on the main campus. She cuts and posts all of the “perfect attendance” on a monthly basis and cheerfully does anything else that is asked of her.

Our volunteer has lifted our spirits with her sinfully wonderful Carrot Apple Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting and great cookies. What else could we ask for? The staff of Hurricane Deck is so very fortunate to have such a wonderful, caring volunteer. We feel that she would make a wonderful and worthy “Volunteer of the Year”.

Submitted by Cindy Campbell and Annette Petersen
Hurricane Deck Elementary Secretary and Nurse

KATHY KEITH

100 Ways a Volunteer Helps!

Our volunteer, well lets just say she’s got it all wrong! When I first met her she told me that she began volunteering because she needed something to do to get her out of the house. Now she is an educated, kind woman, whom has never met a stranger, I highly doubt she needed to come to school to help out and be around people. If the truth be known, she was sent to us by some great amount of fate and faith, because we needed her!

Oh the many things we need her for- it is Kindergarten so lets count the 100 Ways a Volunteer Helps!

1. Getting our classroom and school year started on the right foot.
Our classroom had been undergoing a transition this year into co-teaching, which means there were students with greater needs, and a teacher whom had not taken on this kind of project yet. At the beginning of the year, getting all of those met was a challenge, and the co-teacher assigned to you spends part of the day with you, but not all. Our volunteer spent all of the day with us, helping every time an extra hand was needed or an extra set of eyes, to get everyone down the hall, to the lunch room, to the right special, or even just to their seat in the classroom. She helped so much on those first few days and our whole year started off better because of it.

2. Helping our students meet all their academic kindergarten goals.
She is here at least two days every week with us. She makes sure that she spends the majority of her time with the students working on power standards and expectations for the grade level. Now the average volunteer would come in and say what do I need to work on. Ours gets a list of our current goals, and her
Kathy Keith continued:
basket of supplies and takes off to work. She keeps
detailed check sheets and logs of the students she
has worked with and the progress they have made,
sometimes she knows just as well as I do the progress
they have made.

3. Making time to be with our students.
She does not just come to volunteer; she comes and
attends specials with the children, attends recess
with the children, and has even joined them in the
lunchroom on occasion. She works so hard, not just to
establish her own relationship with them, but to help
them in establishing a relationship with each other.
The social aspect she brings to our classroom is
amazing. The students know she cares about them,
and they genuinely care about her.

4. Helping this very busy teacher.
I won't lie to you, kindergarten is a very busy grade,
and she is there two times a week taking care of any
workroom chores I need done. She has sorted, filled,
cut, copied, glued - you name it she has done it! Even
just reminding the teacher which way she was going,
and helping her find whatever she has now set down
and lost!

5. Attending all our extra functions.
It does not matter what the function has been, she has
been there to be an extra set of hands. We have a large
class this year, and the parent involvement for this
class is wonderful, and we so much appreciate that.
However it does make the room very busy and many
extra people need guidance when we hold a function
in the room and invite family in. Never to worry, our
volunteer keeps track of the calendar and always
makes sure to be there for all those extra activities.
Everything from gingerbread houses to Valentine’s
party, and the 100th day, she has been here and been
amazing!

Now I realize this is kindergarten and we are supposed
to count to 100 (another thing our volunteer helps us
with). And believe me, when describing the things she
does we could make it there. However to keep you
from getting board with this submission, we can make
it short #6-#100 would read –help-help-help and –
care-care-care. And from our perspective our
volunteer is #1, she came just when we needed her!

Prepared by: Jonna Kenniston
Dogwood Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

Jonna Kenniston
Where to begin…..my volunteer is
absolutely the best! She is such
a lifesaver! I couldn’t survive
without her help. Day in and day
out she is here helping me out, in
some way or another. I can
always count on her to get all of
my projects done and in a timely
manner. She always seems to
know what I need before I even ask her. What a mind
reader! You will never find a harder worker either.
She puts in many long hours here at school and does
so much more work than just mine. She is very
helpful to so many. She goes above and beyond what
is expected of her. I never hear a complaint of any
kind and she is always here with a positive attitude
and a willingness to help. Each time she comes into
my classroom, my kids always run to her and give her
hugs. She loves to work with them and they love her
too. She truly cares for each of them and it shows by
the way she interacts with them on a daily basis. My
volunteer is kind and caring to all! I not only have this
great person to help me but I have a true friend in her.
I am blessed to have had her as my volunteer for
many years now and wouldn’t want any other. She
is a godsend and has touched my life in so many ways!
I would love for her to win this year, as she is so de-
serving of the recognition for all she does!

Submitted by Katy Cunningham
Dogwood Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

Jonna Kenniston
I have had the privilege of working
with the same volunteer since
2003. I never even have to turn in
the request form for her each year,
she just says “I’ll be your volunteer
next year” when the current year is
over! I am so lucky to have her.

My volunteer is more of a “behind
the scenes” volunteer. She does
not help in my classroom, but she
does jobs that make my classroom run more smoothly.
She shows up every Wednesday, without fail, ready to
do whatever task needs to be done. Most weeks it is
running off papers – lots of time spent standing in
front of the copy machine! She has gladly sharpened
My volunteer has been with me for nine years and knows exactly how I like things done. She takes pride in every job I ask her to do and makes my job a little less hectic. She is always friendly, is quick with a smile, and very professional. I couldn’t do my job as effectively without her help. She definitely deserves the title “Volunteer of the Year!”

Submitted by Barbara Anderson
Hawthorn Elementary Third Grade Teacher

My volunteer is very helpful and special to me. She comes in before each school year begins to help me get the classroom ready for the students. She is here every week, like clockwork; ready to do whatever I have for her to do. She even comes in extra times for special projects if I need her to. She is friendly and easy to talk to. She comes up with a better way to do something than I had for her to do to start. She has even taken work home to finish and then brings it back promptly (I didn’t ask her to take anything home). She is dependable, capable, wonderful, and helpful. She is supportive and cooperative! She is special to me!”

Submitted by Kelly Mooney
Dogwood Elementary Second Grade Teacher

My volunteer has been such a wonderful help in my classroom this school year. This is my first year of teaching, and I am learning new things each and every day. Being in the district a bit longer than myself, she has helped with the adjustment of becoming a member in a new school district.

My volunteer is extremely helpful and hardworking. She is only scheduled to come and help once a week; however, she is in and out of my classroom multiple times throughout the week, whether it is to ask if I need anything to be worked on or just to see how my day is going. She has even brought work home with that can’t afford them. I also have something called “The Giving Tree” which are items that I ask parents to donate that are related to special projects through the year (for example, candy to decorate gingerbread houses, cereal to graph, etc.) The items that parents don’t pick off of “The Giving Tree” are always picked up by my volunteer.

My volunteer started out working with my students every other week for two hours and for the last three years she comes every week and works with my students for almost four hours. She greets each student by name with a smile and a helping hand. She helps my students get ready for the day and talks to them about their morning. Each morning that she comes to our classroom she comes down the hall and enters our room with a big smile and a blue bag filled with her “supplies.” If we are working with coins, she brings her own coins to work with the students; she brings her own notepad to take notes on each child’s progress, so that I know how they did.

When she goes on vacations she always sends the class postcards and bring them back a special treat. If she is unable to attend (which is very rare) she always lets me know ahead of time and she makes that time up by coming in on a different day.

As you can see, patient, kind, reliable, and special are all words that describe my AMAZING Friend.

Submitted by Kim Palomo
Dogwood Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

At the beginning of each year she brings in school supplies that she has purchased in case I have students who can’t afford them. I also have something called “The Giving Tree” which are items that I ask parents to donate that are related to special projects through the year (for example, candy to decorate gingerbread houses, cereal to graph, etc.) The items that parents don’t pick off of “The Giving Tree” are always picked up by my volunteer.

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Jori LeMay continued: her to help me out. That shows true dedication!

Another quality about my volunteer is that she is reliable. She is there every week to help me out. If for some reason she is unable to come in that day, she will let me know in advance. That way, I am able to get what I need before the day even starts. If she is not in that day, she is in the next morning to see what still needs to be worked on. Having a volunteer that is reliable is an important quality for me, so I am very glad that she is!

Something that is very important to me is how much of a friend my volunteer has been throughout the year. I came into this school district not knowing many people at all, and she has been nothing but a good friend. She is always there to listen to my stories, to answer my questions, and to give me advice when needed. I hope to have my volunteer throughout the years because I believe we will continue to stay good friends!

Lastly, my volunteer is great with every single one of my students. Every time she walks in the classroom, my students light up and have smiles on their faces. They all love her and really enjoy when she spends time in our classroom. For example, when she has recess duty in our classroom, they surround themselves by her the whole time! She picks this time not to watch my students at the door but instead to read books to them, listen to them read, or just sits down with them and sees how their day is going. My students think she is just great!

You should pick my volunteer for Volunteer of the Year because of all these great qualities! She truly dedicates all her time as a volunteer, and I know she loves each and every moment helping. I hope that she continues to volunteer throughout the years so I can build my relationship with her and continue to have such a wonderful volunteer!

Submitted by Laura Stewart
Dogwood Elementary First Grade Teacher

Carol Lynch

My lovely lady is truly a volunteer that deserves recognition. Here are just a “wordful” of reasons why.

Volunteers with a smile.

Opportunities are afforded to me to dedicate my time and energy to student instruction because I never have to run papers, laminate, or do the tedious tasks of teaching.

Love her consistency! You can count on her to be there when she says. Even when duty calls (for being a grandma) she always lets us know and comes in another day to help out.

Ultimate Cardinals fan. You can’t be a volunteer in Missouri and not love Fredbird! Our school was expecting Fredbird to visit…and my dedicated volunteer and life-long cardinal fan came to join us in this fun event.

Never say NEVER! Her attitude is at your disposal. She works for three teachers here at Dogwood and she never complains about the workload in her basket.

Totally dedicated! She has been a volunteer since 1995! And she keeps on giving of her time, talents, and positive attitude!

Efficient! You can count on her to complete your tasks on time and correctly.

Exceptional! She can even read “Vicki”. In all my “business,” my volunteer is able to read my chicken scratch on the post its and know pretty much what I want her to do. We joke that she is lucky that her other two teachers are more particular…but she has learned to read “Vicki” well and it works for us!!

Ready to undertake any task! Even my filing folders that topple over with papers that never fully got filed! She’s amazing.

I love my volunteer cause she works with me to complete me!

Submitted by Vicki Luber
Dogwood Elementary First Grade Teacher
Terry McDonald  
We feel very fortunate to have our volunteer. This is her second year to volunteer in our classroom on a full-time basis. That’s right…FULL-TIME! She comes every day, leaves for lunch and returns for our afternoon classes, day after day, month after month…all year long. Our volunteer is willing to do just about anything we ask. We have become dependent on her smile to brighten our days and her kind words to pick up when we are down. She laughs and provides our classroom with a great sense of humor.

During her off hours, she is the mother of seven children, a wife, and a servant in her church. The dedication she has given to our school district is highly commendable. It is amazing that one person can be so unselfish and giving with her time and abilities to help students and teachers.

Our volunteer is available to help us whether it is a math problem, guiding us as we read, explaining directions, helping us study for a test, or just lending a listening ear when we need one. Our volunteer is a vital part of our school family. It is obvious with having seven children of her own that she has extended her love and affection to another fifty children here at school. When our volunteer has to be absent, we wonder where she is and miss her presence. She provides us with paper, pencils, sharpeners, and erasers as if we were her own children. She has had a positive impact on us both individually and as a group. She is what you would dream of as the “perfect” volunteer!

Submitted by Mindy Rosenbach  
Oak Ridge Intermediate Sixth Grade Teacher

Lisa McKoon  
Osage Beach Elementary School has been wonderfully blessed to have a building-wide volunteer this year. A friend of one of our staff, this volunteer has been present in the building to lend a helping hand almost every school day. Our volunteer graciously accepts any task presented to her by any staff member. She takes care of copies for all teachers, she provides in-class assistance to any teacher who seeks a helping hand, and she even helps out the lunch service.

This volunteer has become a part of Osage Beach Elementary and also a part of my individual classroom. During guided reading, this volunteer is present in my room to provide me with an extra set of eyes and hands. This allows me to continue teaching and reading with the group I am working with, instead of having to interrupt my instruction time to handle each and every hiccup. While being the “eyes in the back of my head” during guided reading time, she also spends part of her time assisting students in my room who are struggling with reading. She holds her own group of students to provide them with a second “dose” of reading time. She reviews letter identification and sounds with them as well as having them read a leveled reader to her. The students enjoy getting to work her but I think she enjoys working with the students more. Her face lights up when she begins to hand setting up, serving, and cleaning up. Following that, it is back upstairs to meet sensory needs for kids and then back to the workroom to get back to her stack of “to do’s” for teachers. I am amazed at how much she can do and how flexible she is, always completing everything with a smile and fantastic attitude. There is no task she is not willing to conquer. I teach preschool and she has helped me transform my pretend play area into a Doctor’s Office, Construction Zone, Vet Office, House, and “Spooky Zone”. I am so blessed to have her help and access to her many creative ideas! She has also provided me with her help making copies, making books, die-cutting, laminating, and cutting, cutting, and more cutting! I cannot even imagine how many hours she has dedicated to this school and the district and she is truly worthy of Volunteer of the Year!

Submitted by Sarah Schwantes  
Osage Beach Elementary Preschool Teacher
Lisa McKoon continued:
see that progress is being made and realizes that she was a part of that success.
Her love for each and every student and her big heart make her a joy to work with.

Another part of this time she reads one on one with the English Language Learners in my class. She reads with each student for ten minutes. This idea was thought up of her own accord after I voiced to her my concern and sadness that they were not filling out any reading logs. This provides these students with a way to receive reading minutes on their reading logs. My volunteer understands that the parents of my ELL students may have difficulty reading with their sons or daughters, she didn’t want these students missing out on the reading reward prizes because of this situation that is out of their control.

Recently my class was fitted with a new smart board. My students were ecstatic, as was I. However, I had no time during the day to begin finding and creating applications for the students to use on the smart board. My volunteer willingly volunteered herself to help me out with this task. She has created a whole morning calendar routine for me that works on the smart board, each month she updates it with the new month and décor that pertains to the new month, she has created lessons and games for students to use as a station during guided reading. I am so grateful that she offered to assist me with this task, without her my students would have spent a long time waiting on me to get to use the smart board.

I know that my volunteer has made an impact on my students because their faces light up when they see her arrive in our room each day. They enjoy telling her stories about their weekends or what they did after school each night. When my volunteer spends time in our room beyond guided reading, students treat her as another teacher in our room. My students go to her for help when I may be unavailable, she is even willing to do the little things for them: tie shoes, un-stick a feisty zipper, open a glue stick, re-do their ponytails, and even help them wipe their faces after a messy treat.

Writing this submission form was very hard for me to do because I could not quite figure out how to put into words all of the amazing things this volunteer does, not only for me, but for everyone else in my building. Another challenge that came along with this submission was how to express in words my gratitude and appreciation for all she does. I know all the staff members here at Osage Beach Elementary appreciate her and all the things she does to save them time, the ladies in our cafeteria enjoy the extra set of hands during serving times, and even our Principal has called on her assistance from time to time -- especially with things that pop up at the last minute. Her willingness to do anything attitude makes her easy to work with and her ability to hear a request and create something to fit the need are unbelievable. To my volunteer I give a very heartfelt thank you and I hope this submission helps her to understand how much her helping hands, joyful spirit, and kind heart are appreciated.

Submitted by Jonelle Yannotta
Osage Beach Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

Like the volunteer, Jackie Moore

Jackie Moore

Make copies, file reading rubrics, put together books, assemble games, hang bulletin boards, cut pictures, laminate, shred papers….all these are jobs that our volunteer does during the school year. And she does all these jobs without the blink of an eye. Our volunteer spends countless hours at school volunteering in our classrooms and for the school. Believe it or not, she has even been known to take her “work” home with her as well. If we could describe her in several words, we would use dedicated, caring, and dependable.

Our volunteer faithfully arrives every Wednesday morning with a smile on her face, ready and eager to do whatever we have carefully crafted for her to do. Some projects are easy, simple, mindless tasks that help to save us time in our classrooms. Other tasks are more detailed and time consuming. Whatever the task, she is dedicated to helping us, helping our school, and most importantly helping the students.
Jackie Moore continued:
While at school to volunteer in our classrooms, it is not uncommon to find her assisting with buddy packs, supervising lunch/recess duty, and running up to Dogwood to volunteer when needed as well. Students are the top of the list when she comes to school. She not only cares about ways to help teachers and students, but most importantly she cares about students and what she can do to make each child feel important.

Our volunteer knows how important her work is for us in our classroom and so she even takes work home to complete. It doesn’t matter how big or how small the job, we are able to depend on her to get the task accomplished. Particularly this winter, it wasn’t uncommon for her to ask for more work (or work she could do at home) just in case we weren’t here the next week due to snow days. She takes her job as a volunteer very seriously and completes each and every task in an efficient manner.

In closing, we’d like to nominate our volunteer for Volunteer of the Year for the Camdenton School District for one simple reason - she is awesome - there is just no other way to say it!

Submitted by Lydia Briscoe and Lisa Vasquez
Hawthorn Elementary Fourth Grade Teachers

Patti Reed

Help Wanted:
Trustworthy, Dependable Mind Reader needed to help maintain teachers’ sanities. Must be willing to work long hours with no pay, lots of laughs is a necessity.

This ad was placed several years ago. There were many applicants, and our volunteer was the best-qualified volunteer candidate. Our volunteer came to us when Hawthorn was just beginning as a third/fourth grade building. We were still fresh in making ourselves a new beginning PLC and were tossing many ideas back and forth. With many decisions about what directions to take, the last things we wanted to focus on were copying curriculum materials for student learning, having time to make the games that went with our new math curriculum, creating word games for spelling and fluency, laminating, etc. She came as a breath of fresh air.

Our volunteer is a very trustworthy mind reader. We can ask her to do anything and we know that the project will be completed as requested, even if we forget to mention the minor details. She usually incorporates those minor details, and produces a much nicer project than expected. Whether we write f & b, f only, staple, 2 of 28, colored, sets A to Z, or rockets, she is able to decipher our teacher language. She is now to the point that we do not even need the codes. Our volunteer is able to read our minds from week to week even when we tend to forget what needs to be copied or made.

Our volunteer is a dependable asset to our classroom. She initially began the year coming on Tuesdays, but due to circumstances beyond her control, we have become flexible with her weekly schedule. She pops in as often as possible, and has even managed to use her “planning time” when she is subbing in the building to work on materials for us or evenings at home.

She not only volunteers in our classrooms, but she is actively involved in our school book fairs. Whatever the theme, our volunteer fits the role and wears the costume with lots of smiles, laughs, and cheers. She’s been a 50s girl, superhero, and princess, just to name a few. To us, she’s all of these and more…… She’s revved us up and raced those miles. She’s our Hawthorn Piston Cup Volunteer Winner of the year!

Submitted by Beverly Eichholz and Shelley Atkins
Hawthorn Elementary Fourth Grade Teachers

Tanya Robinson

A wonderful thing happened to me a few years ago when I met my new volunteer, Tanya. I just hope that in this paper I am able to express how her help is an essential part of creating meaningful experiences for our students.

Every Friday, Tanya comes into my math classroom with a smile on her face. She always makes me laugh.
Tanya Robinson continued:
She is definitely a bright spot on Friday morning. She is dependable and capable of doing anything I request. On many occasions she has taken projects home to finish.

Tanya has done a variety of jobs for me. She does all of the typical, yet necessary, volunteer things. Tanya will make copies and laminate, and she can do this with very sketchy instructions. She also does bookkeeping tasks, cuts up everything from triangles to astrolabes, creates signs and decorates the room. I can’t even begin to think of all of the things she’s helped me with over the years and how I possibly survived before we met.

Four years ago Tanya started helping my middle school teammates. She found the time to work with four of us. When it was time for the Reading Auction, Tanya rose to a new challenge for the Communication Arts department. She did much of the coordinating. She organized the set-up, put together hundreds of grab bags, made over 300 paddles for bidding, organized the parent volunteers and ended it all doing the tear-down and clean-up. She did a wonderful job with every facet of this project and the Reading Auction was a huge success for the entire seventh grade.

Last year I moved to the eighth grade. Again, Tanya came through. Not only has she continued to help all of us, but she also helps another eighth grade math teacher. Tanya met Mrs. Brown when she was doing her student teaching with me. Now Tanya is helping her student teaching with me. Now Tanya is helping her have a very successful first teaching year.

I find it interesting that after Tanya works with us on Friday morning she heads to the high school to help a group of teachers in that building. As you can imagine she has endless energy.

I hope this letter expresses how valuable Tanya is to me, and the other teachers she helps. Everyone sings her praises. I am so happy we crossed paths. As the workload for teachers increases exponentially, the need for a volunteer to help prepare meaningful experiences for students is essential.

The volunteer that walked into my room six years ago has become both an essential part of my teaching and a true friend.

Submitted by Karin Brambilla
Middle School Mathematics Teacher

Kathy Spaulding

Student’s eyes light up when she walks into the room. Her presence is not only accepted; students ask about her when she isn’t here. It is challenging enough to own your own business and also take time out to volunteer within the Camdenton R-III school system, but this lady does just that.

Recently, my sophomores completed a research paper. The class the volunteer assists with is my largest - twenty-five students. Students are also very diverse, varying in terms of skill level, self-discipline, and motivation. There was no way I could answer questions and help each student on a daily basis during the research process. A volunteer decreases the teacher-student ratio and allows more students to receive assistance. I am very fortunate that she is a highly educated person who is familiar with Modern Language Association (MLA) format.

My attitude and level of energy has dramatically improved as a result of having someone else to collaborate with, whether on academic or behavioral issues. It is amazing that I can e-mail the volunteer at the last moment about coming to help and she always does. She then stays after class so that we can discuss the day’s events.

There are really no words to adequately express the level of professionalism and knowledge this woman brings to the classroom. Recently, I was talking about her with the other Communication Arts teachers. They said they thought it would be helpful to have a volunteer in most, if not all, classes. Volunteers are one of the most valuable resources our district provides.

Submitted by Sharryl Norris
High School Language Arts Teacher

Volunteers
Touching Lives, Lifting Spirits
Volunteers
Build a Better World