

AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer of the Year

Corrine Rolli

Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program – Foster Grandparents Program

Governor's
Service Awards



Corrine Rolli brings kindness, patience, and a dedication to helping students every day to her AmeriCorps Seniors service with Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program. Corrine first started serving with their Foster Grandparents Program in Fall 2013 and has volunteered over 8,000 hours while making a difference for students in two rural school districts listed on the Wisconsin DPI Sparsity List. Her service has been an invaluable resource to these students, providing an additional presence in the classroom and impacting the lives of numerous students.

Corrine began her volunteer service as a foster grandparent at Barneveld School District, whose roughly 450 students across all grades share one building. She volunteered in two third grade classrooms, which were located directly across the hall from each other, becoming adept at moving between the two rooms as needed to assist students. Corrine had a meaningful impact on her classrooms and even strove to increase her connections with the students by playing kickball with them.



After a few years, Corrine then began serving at Iowa-Grant Elementary/Middle School, where she currently volunteers multiple hours each day when school is in session. The students Corrine works directly with all have varying goals in different areas, such as increasing understanding of classroom work, increasing focus, understanding the classroom environment, and other skills they need in school. Not only do the vast majority of her assigned students make progress towards their goals, but all of the students in her classrooms have the benefit of an adult who cares deeply about the students and encourages them to do their best.

When explaining the impact that Corrine has for her students, First Grade Teacher Brenda Wasley describes that “Grandma Rolli is a vital part of our classroom. My students look forward to working with her each and every day. She works tirelessly to see that each student she mentors does their very best work. She pays attention to each detail to help our students fine tune any weaknesses or issues they may be having. She works with them on reading, writing, math, projects ... There is nothing she can't handle. My students are better students because of the time they spend with her. She is a gem, and we are so fortunate to have her as a classroom helper.”

This sentiment is felt across multiple classrooms, with Iowa-Grant special education teacher Sue Anderson detailing that over the several years the Corrine has helped in her classroom that “the kids adore her, and time with Grandma each day is something they look forward to!” In her classroom, the students' favorite day is Thursdays because Corrine has story time and reads stories to each student during their time with her. The students also count on other activities with Grandma Rolli each week, including sight words on Mondays, spelling words on Wednesdays, and playing educational games with them on Fridays.

Looking at the larger impact that Corrine has on students beyond the difference she makes for their educational achievement, Sue Anderson explains that “beyond working with students, Grandma gets to know the students. She talks to them, is interested in them, and invests in their lives. It is a blessing for these students to have another person in their life...cheering them on, spending time with them, encouraging them, and believing in them. My students and I are incredibly fortunate, and grateful to have Grandma with us each day!”

