

AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer of the Year

Sharon Ludlum

Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program – Foster Grandparent Program



Sharon Ludlum combines her knowledge, kindness, and creative nature to make a difference for students in the Belmont School District as an AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer. Prior to beginning her volunteer service with the Foster Grandparents Program through Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program, Sharon greatly enjoyed her work as a childcare provider. Upon retiring, she found her next calling was to be a Foster Grandparents volunteer, bringing a strong knowledge and enthusiasm for child development. Since joining the program in October 2009, Sharon has volunteered at least 15 hours per week, serving thousands of hours and impacting the lives of numerous students.



Sharon enjoys working with students 1-1 or in small groups reinforcing the material the classroom teacher has presented to students. The patience and passion Sharon brings to the classroom is evident in her approach with the students. When serving her assigned students, Sharon determines their range of abilities and fits her volunteer assistance to support their skills and needs. She has created items using her own materials and supplies to develop creative educational resources to enhance student learning, such as developing educational board games centered around the student's interests. Her service has yielded great results, as over the past decade, the students that Sharon assisted have over a 90% success rate in achieving the goals in their student plans.

Sharon is effective in helping students that are English Language Learners, particularly when they move into the school district during the school year. She not only provides them with academic assistance and helps them move toward being on pace with their peers, but she also helps the students feel comfortable and integrated into the school, helping make students “feel at home”.

Third grade teacher Troy Updike gave a wonderful summation of the impacts of Sharon’s service for students and for the district, describing that “her love of the students is viewed easily each and every day. She is well versed on the expectations of all students and is respected by staff and students alike. She is an excellent and invaluable resource for Belmont School District.”

