

After retirement in 2002, I was looking for something to volunteer at and to do. Was it in health care, something I had done for many years? Was it something else? It took me about 1 ½ years to settle into retirement.

One day listening to the radio I heard an advertisement for tutors at the Literacy Council of Brown County. That sounded interesting to me so I thought. "I will look into this." After the fall session of training I started tutoring January 2004.

I was hooked after meeting my first student and working with her. She did very well with her English. She had studied English in Puerto Rico in school from kindergarten to 12th grade. Coming to this country she knew she needed more English Classes. Being submerged in an English speaking country helped her tremendously. After a couple of years she was able to work for the Green Bay School system as a para-professional being a Spanish interpreter. She then continued her education in child care with an associate's degree. It is rewarding to see her success.

My next student was a young married woman from Mexico. She was married with two small children. We worked together a short time but she needed to return to Mexico.

I did have another opportunity to work with a new student, also from Mexico. She is also married and has 3 daughters. She is a very hard working person and spends many hours a day cleaning offices, factories and homes helping her husband support their family. My special memory is the day she took her oath to become U.S.A. citizen and I was there to see approximately 30 persons of different nationalities become U.S.A. citizens. This learner and I worked together for that moment! As of now she is working toward her G.E.D. and she chose to take it in English. It is challenging, especially with family and work responsibilities, but she is motivated and will accomplish this goal.



What do I get out of this volunteering opportunity? I get so much more than money can provide. I get a new friend, a joy of seeing someone have a better life, and the excitement of seeing one accomplishment after another being completed. With each person, learning to speak, read and write the English language, our community becomes stronger, more productive and a better play to live.



Ginger Hale