

Senior Corps Volunteer of the Year

Mabel Bass, Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program Foster Grandparents Program – Platteville, WI

At age 78, when many people are comfortably engaged in retirement, Mabel Bass, sought out an opportunity to help her community.

She had a lifetime of experience working with children in a daycare she owned for over forty years, so it seemed natural for her to want to continue to be involved with children.

In 2009, she answered the call to be part of the Foster Grandparent Program through Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program. For more than a decade and through over 5,000 hours of dedicated service, Mabel has made a difference for students in several schools. Currently she is helping first graders in the Platteville School District.

Mabel's primary focus in the classroom has been helping students who need extra assistance, striving to match her approach to each student's individual and unique learning style, with her students consistently improving their academic skills.

Additionally, Mabel provides guidance in social skills and is a positive role model for all of the students, as her continued presence, soft voice, and extreme patience have made her "Grandma" to everyone in the first-grade classroom.

Mabel understands that students in early elementary need a stable start on their academic journey and she loves being part of the team that provides this stable start for her students.