

Senior Corps Volunteer of the Year Honoree

William Roundwind, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council Foster Grandparents Program – Odanah, WI

With a desire to improve the quality of life for youth and with inspiration from his family, William Roundwind has applied his experience and knowledge to enhance his tribal community as a GLITC Foster Grandparent.

He has built upon a legacy of his family's service as a second-generation Foster Grandparent. His mother served for several years and his sister also currently serving. He has also taken inspiration from his three special needs sons, applying the skills and knowledge he has gained to his service mentoring children in the afterschool program at Bad River Youth Development and with young children the Bad River Head Start, including those with special needs. He greatly enjoys the activities with these children, particularly reading with them, bringing in new books to supplement those already at the center.

Additionally, he has developed a passion for serving as a Foster Grandparent mentor to tribal youth incarcerated at the Lincoln Hills School in Irma, Wisconsin, driving two hours each way to volunteer his time. He participates in talking circles at Lincoln Hills, developing strong connections with the youth using traditional Anishinabe teachings. Through this service, he is striving to cultivate connections and provide mentorship that will promote better outcomes for these youth and enable them to make a more successful return to their community upon their release.

His spirit of volunteerism, desire to serve as a positive role model, and dedication to helping tribal youth who experience challenges has made a real difference for the young people he has served.