

HURRAH Times



July 2004

A publication
about Happy
Upbeat Retirees
(& other) Residents
Actively Helping
in Naperville
Community Unit
School District 203

HURRAH Volunteers Make an Impact at All School Levels

"Study Buddies" Boost Students at Beebe Elementary

"You have such an impact on a child's life," said Beebe Elementary first grade teacher Jennifer Gerard to honorees at the annual HURRAH Appreciation Luncheon at Kingsley Elementary. With a theme of "Just Call—You've Got a Friend," the May 6 luncheon was the ideal backdrop for the introduction of Gerard's new "Study Buddy" program. The initiative pairs HURRAH volunteers one-on-one with Beebe students to give them extra help in math and occupational therapy (fine motor skills).

"The pieces fit together so easily," said Gerard, of the support she received from Beebe staff, District administrators, parents and HURRAH members, in her mission to help these youngsters. Funded by a grant from the Naperville Education Foundation, the "Study Buddy" program currently has one HURRAH member, featured volunteer Helen Brassington, who is tutoring a first grader in math. In the fall, former teacher and veteran school volunteer Bettie Hill (Jennifer Gerard's mother and HURRAH executive council member Ray Hill's wife), will also join the effort. The "end vision" for the program, said Gerard, is for it to expand to a total of ten volunteers, assisting elementary students through the fifth grade at Beebe and other schools in the District.

Greatly instrumental in getting the "Study Buddy" effort off the ground are Angela Andrews, a former teacher now heading the District's Title I math programs, and Terry Giese, a private

occupational therapist working part-time with District 203. Andrews and Giese have assisted in choosing appropriate activities and materials for the program and will provide training to "Study Buddy" volunteers. Although previous teaching or tutoring experi-



Beebe Elementary first grade teacher and "Study Buddy" coordinator Jennifer Gerard addresses honorees at the May 6 HURRAH Appreciation Luncheon.

ence is helpful for those mentoring students in math, no prior training is necessary to assist with occupational therapy. In a fall training session, Terry Giese will offer occupational therapy instruction.

Of the presence of HURRAH volunteers in our schools, Gerard noted, "It's so important for children to get extra attention from someone who doesn't have to be there. Kids pick up on that."

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203 West Hillside Road
Naperville, IL
60540-6589
630-420-6475
Fax 630-420-1066
www.ncusd203.org

For more information,
contact Russ Marineau at
630-420-1029 or Nina
Menis at 630-420-6475



Volunteers Impact Schools

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New HURRAH volunteer Claudia Stenger

New HURRAH Volunteer Dives In at Junior Highs

Wedge between the words “Retirees” and “Residents” in the HURRAH acronym is the parenthetical phrase “& other.” Fortysomething Claudia Stenger is one such “other” who joined HURRAH long before retirement age. A former compensation manager at Nalco Company, Stenger left the chemical firm three years ago after a change in ownership. With time on her hands and a desire to get involved, she leaped at the opportunity to become a HURRAH member after reading about our thriving organization in *Midwest Living* magazine.

“I missed working and was looking for things to do,” said the new volunteer. “When I called about HURRAH, [District 203 Administrative Assistant] Maureen Dvorak was so positive—she made it seem like something you’d really want to do.” Indeed, Stenger is “doing” with gusto. Beginning last February, the former chemist jumped in mid-term to tutor a boy in math once a week at

Madison Junior High. In April, Stenger answered the call for help at Jefferson Junior High as well, tutoring a seventh grade girl every Tuesday and Thursday.

“I really enjoy helping the students,” Stenger asserted. “They realize that things that seemed so difficult aren’t so bad with a little time and explanation.” The mother of a third grade boy at Wheaton Christian Grammar School, Claudia enjoys her contact with junior high kids and reports that she would like to continue working with students in this age group. “It’s good to see what’s coming,” she noted. Stenger also appreciates the chance to re-familiarize herself with math and science. “My degree goes farther back than I realized!” she joked. In addition to Stenger’s efforts as a HURRAH volunteer three days a week, the 20-year Naperville resident also offers her time to various projects at the Naper Settlement.

Ray Hill Offers Students a World of Experience

Ray Hill may be retired, but it’s back to business for this HURRAH executive council member and active volunteer at Naperville North High School. A former international business executive with Ball Corporation, Ray has been sharing his acumen with 9-12th graders in NNHS teacher Marty Frattinger’s

international business class for the past three years.

“Ray has been phenomenal,” said Frattinger, of the man who serves her students a slice of the real world as often as three times a week. “He brings validity and experience to my class, and he can answer questions that I may not be able to.” Students agree wholeheartedly. Said senior Talia Staten, who praised Hill’s efforts in a speech at the HURRAH Appreciation Luncheon, “Mr. Hill’s experience is incredible, especially with ethical issues.”

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Marty Frattinger

“He points us in the right direction,” added sophomore John Hochstetter. Like Staten, Hochstetter came to the luncheon armed with the portfolio he had produced, as part of a project in which students had to market a product in a foreign country and present it in trade show fashion. Building on the elements of the course textbook, Hill and Frattinger actively engage students in all of the processes of international business, from hiring and train-

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Naperville North business teacher Marty Frattinger (left) and HURRAH executive council member Ray Hill with NNHS international business students Talia Staten and John Hochstetter.

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ing, to manufacturing, packaging and pricing. Ethics, noted Hill, is a particularly important issue in today's world of international commerce.

"We give students some tough ethical problems to solve. We play a lot of 'what if?' games," said Hill of the in-depth dialog Mrs. Frattinger is more than happy to allow. "Marty herself is interested in these discussions and is wide open to my suggestions and the input of the students," said Ray. Likewise, Frattinger appreciates Ray's openness to her ideas, as well as his willingness to work with high school students.

"Every one of my students is excited to have Ray in the classroom," Frattinger avowed before HURRAH luncheon guests. "I cannot think of a program that has been more successful." Acknowledging that his experiences in unfamiliar countries (as well as his performance last spring in Naperville North's production of "West Side Story") readied him well for the charting of high school ground, Hill assured that he is welcomed and accepted inside the walls of Naperville North.

"These are happy, friendly, outgoing kids, just like you would hope young people would be," he said. "If older people can become part of young people's lives on a routine basis, then [youngsters] will have the chance to practice the skills they need to communicate with people of all ages when they get out into the world." *

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Ray Hill



Endowment donor Helen Brassington (left) and daughter, Mary Brock, at the May 12 Naperville Education Foundation Annual Breakfast.

Helen Brassington Shares Special Gift

For most people, endowing \$10,000 to local Special Olympians would be charity enough. Not for Helen Brassington, however, a former school teacher whose husband Dick's company, Interpolymer Corp., donated an endowment fund in his memory upon his death two years ago. Wishing to help our schools, Helen met with District administrators, who suggested that the funds be used to support the first District-sponsored Special Olympics team. In the process, Brassington became aware of the HURRAH organization and decided that, in addition to financial resources, she also wanted to give of her time as a volunteer in the "Study Buddy" program at Beebe Elementary.

The weekly math tutor of a first grade girl, Brassington is part of what Beebe first grade teacher and "Study Buddy" coordinator Jennifer Gerard hopes will become a larger force of HURRAH volunteers, offering elementary students one-on-one help in math and occupational therapy. Helen is also interested in reading final exam test questions to high school students with special needs.

"I miss the kids; I wanted to go back and volunteer," said Brassington, who taught elementary students in the Woodridge school system for over 25 years.

"It's good to see Mom with kids again," remarked Helen's daughter, Mary Brock, a preschool teacher and parent of two District 203 students. While Brock and her mother enjoy sharing heartwarming tales of young children, what's most gratifying to Helen is the enthusiasm of the little girl she tutors. "She seems very happy to see me—her smile makes it all worthwhile."

It was in that same spirit of generating smiles that Helen offered the generous endowment in her husband's name to "Team 203," District 203's qualifying Special Olympians from Naperville North and Naperville Central high schools. Smiles were certainly in great supply when nearly all of the athletes brought back medals (seven of them gold) from their track meet on April 25. These winners went on to the Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games, where they earned three gold medals, two silvers, two fourth places and one fifth place. *

“Those Who Excel” Nominees

Russ Marineau (Chairman), **Bill Bien**, **Ray Hill**, **Gene Rados**, **HURRAH Executive Council Members**

Honored for their superior planning, design and implementation of the 2003-04 HURRAH initiatives.

Dennis Malchow, **Naperville Education Foundation Chairman and Trustee**

Recognized for his outstanding leadership in the drive to enhance curricula and enrich students through the Naperville Education Foundation.

Outstanding School Volunteers

Jon Harper (Mill Street Elementary), **Dottie Krejci** (Highlands Elementary), **Jim O'Donnell** (Scott Elementary)

Awarded for their faithful dedication to the tutoring and mentoring of District 203 elementary students.

“Proud to Be 203” Award Recipient

Ellen Burrows

Honored for her years of ongoing service on innumerable District 203 school committees and citizen study groups. Ellen also received the Naperville Jaycees Distinguished Service Award this year for outstanding service in our community.



District 203 award recipients (from left) Ray Hill, Dennis Malchow, Gene Rados, Dottie Krejci, Jim O'Donnell, Helen Brassington, Russ Marineau and Ellen Burrows.

District 203 Honors Nine HURRAH Volunteers

Every day, an extraordinary group of people make their mark in our schools. They're HURRAH volunteers, and each one brings a lifetime of wisdom and dedication to the mission of lifelong learning. At the April 27 District 203 Awards Reception, nine HURRAH members received special recognition for their exceptional contributions to excellence in education. While

the collective activities and accomplishments of these award recipients is impressive indeed, each would agree that the most important thing one can do is positively affect the life of a child. In the words of HURRAH “Outstanding School Volunteer” and Little Friends, Inc. founder Dottie Krejci, “Receiving an award is very sweet, but the real reward is in helping the children.” ✱

HURRAH Volunteers Read Tests, Allay Anxiety for Students with Special Needs

Final exams—the very words can loose butterflies in the stomach. For students with special needs, big tests can be even more nerve-racking. To ease anxiety and facilitate the test taking process, especially for those who are auditory learners, HURRAH volunteers are going into Naperville Central and Naperville North high schools to read comprehensive test questions to these students. Other HURRAH members have helped read standardized state tests to pupils at Washington Junior High. According to Naperville Central multi-needs teacher Breanne Fahey, who requested volunteer aid in all areas of special education, 12 HURRAH members offered to read tests to high school students during their year-end exams.

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Appreciation Luncheon Honors Those Who've Answered "The Call"

On a typical school day, Kingsley Elementary's Learning Resource Center is humming with busy students. But on May 6, the area normally reserved for school work was once again magically transformed to host the annual HURRAH Appreciation Luncheon. Complementing this year's theme of "Just Call," telephones of all shapes and sizes topped white-clothed tables. Huge, bright, hand-crafted flowers enchanted the eye. Kingsley third graders performed a "Thank You" medley, accompanied by recorders and percussion instruments. As guests enjoyed a tasty lunch served by Kingsley fifth graders, Naperville Central junior Jeff Rabinak sang Carole King's "You've Got a Friend."

The highlight of the afternoon, however, was the opportunity to honor the fine HURRAH volunteers. Staff members from schools across District 203 and District administrators, including guest speaker Superintendent Dr. Alan Leis, came to recognize those who've made such an impact on students. Said Kingsley Assistant Principal Mary Alice Lindvall, who has designed and decorated the luncheon for the past four years, "In HURRAH volunteers, children see people of high integrity, who value education." Added District 203 Board of Education Vice President Debbie Shipley, also a luncheon speaker, "You [HURRAH volunteers] are the people who are giving of your time and your lives to our students." Speaker Dr. Mary Ann Bobosky, former District 203 Director of Community Relations and a current HURRAH volunteer, reminded HURRAH members that they are all community leaders. "[Naperville] Mayor Pradel is out there talking

about you," Bobosky told the roomful of volunteers.

Mayor Pradel is not the only one talking about HURRAH. As a video of news clips shown at the luncheon clearly demonstrated, word of the organization has spread beyond Naperville borders. It has, in fact, gone as far as the pages of *Midwest Living* magazine, where HURRAH was recently touted for its long lasting success. HURRAH was also nominated by District administrators for *Midwest Living's* "Champions in Education" contest, in which schools with exemplary volunteers have a chance to win sizeable cash prizes.

HURRAH members specially recognized at the luncheon were those also honored at the District 203 Awards Reception on April 27. They include HURRAH Chairman Russ Marineau and executive council members Ray Hill, Bill Bien and Gene Rados, Naperville Education Foundation Chairman Dennis Malchow, Outstanding School Volunteers Dottie Krejci, Jon Harper and Jim O'Donnell and "Proud to be 203" Award Recipient Ellen Burrows. Also

recognized was HURRAH volunteer Helen Brassington, who donated a \$10,000 endowment fund established in her late husband's name to District 203 Special Olympians. For his efforts in a Naperville North international business class, retired business executive Ray Hill received glowing praise in speeches from both Naperville North business teacher Marty Frattinger and high school business student Talia Staten. Hill's daughter, Beebe Elementary first grade teacher Jennifer Gerard, also took the podium to encourage volunteers to get involved in her new "Study Buddy" tutoring program and to stress how important HURRAH members are to young children.

In her closing comments, District 203 Director of Community Relations Nina Menis expressed thanks to the HURRAH volunteers, Kingsley Home & School President Pat Wunderlich and Kingsley staff and students, who helped host the luncheon. Menis also thanked Sodexo Services for providing the luncheon meal and Community Relations Assistant Maureen Dvorak, who, along with student intern Lisa Wenzlaff, organized the event. ✨

HURRAH Volunteers Read Tests, Allay Anxiety *continued from page 4*

"It's very effective to have this kind of help," said Fahey, of volunteer assistance during busy exam times. "It takes the stress off of the teachers." Added HURRAH Chairman Russ Marineau, who reads tests at Naperville North, "Kids can get panicked about reading these tests." Marineau encourages more volunteerism at the high school level, particularly in the effort to assimilate those with special needs.

HURRAH volunteer Dorothy Riedl, a former nurse and regular test reader at Naperville Central, is delighted that our culture has begun to accept and accommodate people with disabilities. Said Riedl of youngsters with special needs, "Their full part in society is my goal for them." ✨

HURRAH Veterans Honor Memories by Offering Students Living History

Beyond helping children with their schoolwork, HURRAH volunteers bring a sense of living history to their interactions with young people. HURRAH members who are veterans awaken the past even more for youngsters. Eighth Air Force WWII veteran Frank Bernd, for example, and other fellow veterans have been telling their stories of war and remembrance to middle school students for the past 25 years.

"We're doing something for those who didn't come back," said Bernd, of this annual Memorial Day effort to honor the service people whose stories can no longer be heard. "War is hell; parents don't talk much about it with their kids," noted the former lead bombardier of the 457 Bomb Squadron. Though the number of WWII veterans, in particular, is rapidly dwindling (between 1,200 and 1,500 die every day in the

U.S.), Bernd and other area veterans strive hard to preserve the "Memorial" in Memorial Day. By sharing war mementos, photos and tales of their experiences, veterans give students a truer picture of the sacrifices made in the name of freedom.

"At their age, [junior high students] can absorb more of the depth of what we're saying and the magnitude of the dangers of war," said Bernd. "Young people need [to hear from] veterans so they don't lose the history."

At Naperville Central, HURRAH volunteer and Korean War veteran Chuck Geitner is putting history directly into the hands of high school students. With the cooperation of NCHS social science teacher Pat Dolan, Geitner (a former Central social studies teacher himself for 34 years) has students interviewing veterans and documenting their personal tales of war. Copies of these recorded accounts are stored in the high school library, as well as in the Library of Congress as part of its Veterans Oral History Project; originals are kept at Cantigny's First Division Museum in Wheaton. Veterans, some of whom have never spoken of their experiences at war, are also given copies of their tapes.

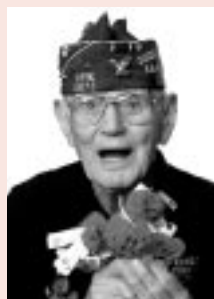
"You just don't get this kind of personal account from a textbook," said Geitner, of the project that serves as a practical, and often poignant, adjunct to Naperville Central's history curriculum. "It's always a battle to shake off history's reputation as a subject of dry facts and statistics. Veterans' stories bring history alive." ✱



WWII veteran and HURRAH volunteer Frank Bernd shares memories and tales of war with Lincoln Junior High students shortly before Memorial Day.

Remembering Frank Stromberg

HURRAH volunteer Frank Stromberg, who passed away January 27 at the age of 90, was known as a "walking, talking history book" and a master storyteller. Most of all, however, he is remembered as being a giving, faithful friend. A veteran of World War II, Frank served his country with valor, receiving a Purple Heart and the Combat Infantry Badge. Frank served his community with equal devotion. A resident of Naperville since 1934, he was an active member of Naperville's Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873 and the number one seller of Memorial Day poppies for many years. After the war, he worked at Kroehler Furniture Factory, then served District 203 schools as a building custodian for 26 years at Naperville Central High School and Beebe Elementary. As a member of HURRAH, Frank shared his stories and memories of war with local students. He also participated in Veterans Day flag-raising ceremonies at Beebe School. Frank's loyalty, heroism and exemplary citizenship will be long remembered and dearly missed.



Chuck Cass, staff photographer, The Naperville Sun

It is with
heartfelt gratitude that
we acknowledge the
2003-04 HURRAH
school coordinators.

Ray Hill Joins High School Cast of “West Side Story”

HURRAH council member Ray Hill’s involvement took a dramatic turn last spring when he stepped onto the stage in Naperville North High School’s production of “West Side Story.” Playing the role of “Doc,” the drugstore owner patronized by pugnacious gang members, Hill tried out for the part on the suggestion of his grandson, Joe Miller, who played “Indio” in the musical.

“Ray was thrilled to do it,” said Naperville North Choral Director Jim Yarbrough, in praise of Hill’s enthusiasm. “The kids thoroughly adopted him.” Hill’s part in the musical was not his first foray into high school territory in recent years. A former international business executive, Ray regularly volunteers in a Naperville North international business class.

According to Hill, the experience of performing in “West Side Story” was far more personal than his efforts in the classroom. Though Hill’s character represented the “voice of reason” in this modern-day “Romeo and Juliet,” he nevertheless felt a genuine connection with his high school castmates. “This time,” Ray said, “I was on their side of the table.” ✱

Thank You, HURRAH Coordinators!

As liaisons between the HURRAH organization and the 21 individual District 203 schools, HURRAH coordinators raise awareness of our organization, identify student needs, and facilitate the implementation of appropriate HURRAH initiatives to meet those needs. It is with heartfelt gratitude that we acknowledge the following 2003-04 HURRAH school coordinators:

Sarah Anderson and Cindy Husar, Elmwood Elementary—420-6341

Kaye Corrigan, Jefferson Junior High—420-6362

Helen Halkias, River Woods Elementary—420-6832

Sue Hannan, Ellsworth Elementary—420-6635

Tanya Hughes, Mill Street Elementary—420-6356

Matt Jeffrey, Madison Junior High—420-6416

Jan Kenyon, Lincoln Junior High—420-3257

Pat King, Ranchview Elementary—420-6578

Kathy Klees, Prairie Elementary—420-3892

Wally Loague, Kennedy Junior High—420-3224

Lynn Matyas and Pam Vaughan, Maplebrook Elementary—420-6588

Karen McKissick and Pat Gaskin, Scott Elementary—420-6477

Margie Nickels, Washington Junior High—420-6390

Lora Nowicki, Steeple Run Elementary—420-6385

Diane Pancoast, Naper Elementary—420-6345

Pete Pasteris, Naperville North High—420-6483

Jackie Pfeiffer, Naperville Central High—420-6440

Judy Rubenstein, Beebe Elementary—420-6332

Susan Stuckey, Highlands Elementary—420-6335

Dr. Linda Tusin, Meadow Glens Elementary—420-3201

Donna Yule, Kingsley Elementary—420-3216 ✱

HURRAH
Naperville Community
Unit School District 203
203 West Hillside Road
Naperville, IL 60540-6589

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HURRAH Times Contributors

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Are You a **HURRAH** Volunteer?

Nearly 15 years after the first HURRAH volunteers appeared in District 203 schools, our program numbers over 120 members strong and has gained national attention for its longevity and outstanding organization. Like any volunteer effort, however, HURRAH relies upon the continual influx of new members. What does it take to be a HURRAH volunteer? To answer this question, the HURRAH Executive Council has identified some defining characteristics of a HURRAH volunteer. Chances are, you need look no further than your own mirror to spot the “ideal” HURRAH candidate.

H**appy:** HURRAH volunteers are part of the largest, fastest growing, healthiest, best educated and most financially-secure segment of the population.

U**pbeat:** HURRAH volunteers are positive, high-energy people with a strong commitment to their community and a desire to support the educational system with their time and talents. They have great concern for the future of our children and want to share the wisdom and skills they have acquired throughout their rich and varied lives. In return, HURRAH offers members the structure, social interaction, status and sense of contribution that work, homemaking and/or parenting once provided.

R**etirees (& other)**

R**esidents:** HURRAH volunteers view retirement as a time to stay active, meet new people, learn new things and give back to their community. Because they also value their free time and flexibility, HURRAH members control their own schedules, spending as much or as little time volunteering as they wish. HURRAH volunteers need not be retired—they can join us at any stage of life!

A**ctively**

H**elping:** Helping students to achieve their educational goals and realize their individual potential is the driving force behind HURRAH. While most of our members no longer have children of their own left at home, they still enjoy interfacing with youngsters and establishing meaningful intergenerational ties with them. HURRAH volunteers know that they, too, gain so much by making a difference in a young person's life.

Join **HURRAH today! For more information, contact HURRAH Chairman Russ Marineau at 420-1029 or District 203 Director of Community Relations Nina M. Menis at 420-6475.**