

Volunteers in Public Schools

K is for Karson

Karson just started First Grade.....again....and he is excited about reading and learning new words. Today he took a spelling test and did really well, and he read me some sentences about a cow and colored around the page, until we decided maybe a cow picture at the top of the page would be fun, so he made a purple cow with yellow spots and green ears! What fun to see the delight on his face at his accomplishments and creativity!

When my children were in elementary school, I spent a lot of time as a volunteer in their classrooms, however that was more than 15 years ago. This year I read in September for “Service Day” at an area school, and it was so much fun to be with a room of first graders who were full of wonder and excitement about learning new things. And when I left the school, I was full of vibrancy and joy and gratitude for having this opportunity to serve! And I remembered that there are so many children who need some extra attention from an individual who can go over their books and words and reinforce their skills, so I signed up with our Volunteers in Public Schools and am back at the same elementary school that my children attended.

We work in 30 minute segments once a week, and last week was the first time I met Karson and listened to him read. Today we were excited to see one another, and as with children, our relationship is based in the heart....you can see it in his eyes! He reads to me, and I read to him, however truly we are sharing sacred space together! “What is this other book you brought?” he asked me as we packed up to return to his room. I showed him some paintings in the Louvre in Paris so very briefly and told him that when I return Monday we will look at them again. And I will take an Atlas and show him that Paris is way across the ocean, and that he too can paint and also see these beautiful pieces of art someday.

Thirty minutes a day is a blip in my life and yours, and some of us have lots of extra time in our day. How about widening your world and that of a precious child and volunteer in your public school system?