

# Be a Hero... Volunteer

## VOLUNTEER SPECIALIST

Robin Fiorillo  
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### SPOKANE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS SO FORTUNATE

to have such a large, dedicated group of volunteers to rely on each year. For the 2007-08 school year, more than 15,000 people donated roughly 78,000 hours to helping our staff and students. Many of our volunteers give years and years of service to a school even though they don't have children attending there.

Without our volunteers, it would be difficult to continue doing what we do. Our volunteers take on all types of tasks, from organizing and cooking for fund-raising spaghetti feeds, to answering the phone and greeting visitors, to reading with students and teaching woodworking skills. They provide another set of very needed eyes, ears and hands, freeing up time so teachers and administrators can concentrate on what they do best. They add one more caring adult to the roster of those who work at the school.

Many students develop a strong relationship with those who volunteer with them or their class. Whether it's their lunch buddy or reading helper, students often feel close and connected to volunteers because they get the chance to have their undivided attention.

"You can't always see it directly, but every one of our volunteers makes a difference," said Robin Fiorillo, volunteer specialist for the district. "Volunteers show our students and staff that people really do care about them and what happens at their school."

Thinking about volunteering? Whatever your particular skill or talent is, we can likely find a way to make use of it at one of our schools. No matter how much time you have to offer – even just an hour a week to read with students at school, or an hour cutting out paper shapes for a kindergarten class at home – every minute helps.

To get started, stop by or call your neigh-



borhood school and speak with the volunteer coordinator. He or she will provide you with a simple application to fill out, and can talk with you about the volunteer opportunities available. Or, call Volunteer Specialist Robin Fiorillo (354-7277) who can connect you with the right people.

We are so appreciative of all the time each of our volunteers gives to our students, staff and schools. Our volunteers add an important stitch to the fabric of our school communities, making them richer and more vibrant.