

HURRAH TIMES



HAPPY UPBEAT RETIREES & RESIDENTS ACTIVELY HELPING

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▶ LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

HURRAH in Transition!

We've come a long way! During the pandemic, when schools were closed, many HURRAH volunteers were left without opportunities to serve. Then, in the post-pandemic period, parents working from home often took on roles traditionally held by our volunteers.



Now, however, teachers are reaching out again, asking for help in their classrooms. We're thrilled to be back in demand! At the start of this school year, HURRAH had the honor of joining NEF in presenting the Trustee Award to several Naperville 203 schools. With the help of Barb Zigterman, we visited over 20 schools, sharing the wide range of ways HURRAH can support our educators.

We're also facing a bittersweet transition. Our wonderful 203 liaison, Betty Stevenson—who has been an invaluable friend and champion of HURRAH—has retired. We are so grateful for all she has done for us. Fortunately, we are in good hands with America Villalobos and Mary Quinlan, our new liaisons, under the guidance of Jacque Clermont. You may have already seen volunteer requests from America and Mary as they step into this role.

To help us plan for the future, we would love to know if you are still available, willing, and interested in continuing as a HURRAH volunteer. Are you currently helping at a school? If so, please share where and when.

Please reply to mquinlan@naperville203.org to confirm your volunteer status.

Thank you for the privilege of representing HURRAH.

Sincerely,

Sandy Benson

Executive Council President

BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

SCAN HERE TO APPLY



Naperville 203
Community Unit School District

203 W Hillside Rd
Naperville, IL 60540
630.420.6473
www.naperville203.org



WHAT MAKES HURRAH WORK.

At the heart of HURRAH are two essential pillars: **collaboration** and **communication**. As a community of volunteers, we believe that working together is crucial for creating a supportive environment for students, teachers, and staff. This year, we aim to deepen our relationships with educators and administrators by increasing our availability and adaptability to meet their needs.

Our volunteers take on many tasks that lighten the load for teachers —whether it's organizing classroom materials, assisting with student projects, or even providing specialized knowledge in areas like technology and the arts. These efforts give teachers more time to focus on what matters most: student learning.

Thanks to strong partnerships with organizations like the **Naperville Education Foundation (NEF)** and other community groups, HURRAH can amplify its impact. NEF not only strengthens our purpose but also highlights the various resources we offer to schools. This year, we've extended our collaboration by volunteering at NEF events, ensuring schools receive both physical and financial support through our combined efforts.

The key to our success continues to be our ability to communicate effectively with schools. The stronger these connections, the more we can achieve for Naperville 203 students.

Volunteers Make a Difference By:

- Mentoring students one-on-one
- Supporting classroom and club activities
- Assisting with lunchtime duties
- Sharing expertise through guest speaking
- Providing vocational guidance
- Offering technical and administrative support



SPOTLIGHT ON A LEGACY OF LEARNING: BARB ZIGTERMAN'S JOURNEY WITH HURRAH

For over two decades, **Barb Zigterman** has been a cornerstone of HURRAH, dedicating her time and energy to supporting students in Naperville schools. Her journey began when she answered an ad in the Naperville SUN, leading her to volunteer in Washington Junior High's reading program—despite her initial nervousness about working with sixth graders.

Barb quickly discovered her passion for helping students grow, becoming a trusted mentor who guided many struggling readers toward confidence and success. Even after her grandchildren moved on, Barb remained a steadfast presence in the classroom, forming lasting connections with students and teachers alike.

Her story embodies the heart of HURRAH: volunteers making meaningful impacts by fostering learning and connection. Barb's dedication reminds us how one person's efforts can transform lives.

Thank you, Barb, for your incredible service and for inspiring us all!

VOICES OF VOLUNTEERISM: MEMORIES AND INSIGHTS FROM HURRAH HEROES

Jitendra Desai

Creative Minds at Work

"During COVID, I guided a group of 3rd and 4th graders on an Internet research project over Zoom. One student, in particular, was difficult to keep focused on my instructions. Instead of getting frustrated, I listened to his reasons for being distracted. To my surprise, his mind was already working beyond the information he was searching for—he was imagining how he might use it in the future.

That experience taught me to let students wonder and explore a bit more freely. It's an important aspect of fostering critical thinking. Sometimes, their unique perspective is exactly what makes the learning process so rewarding."

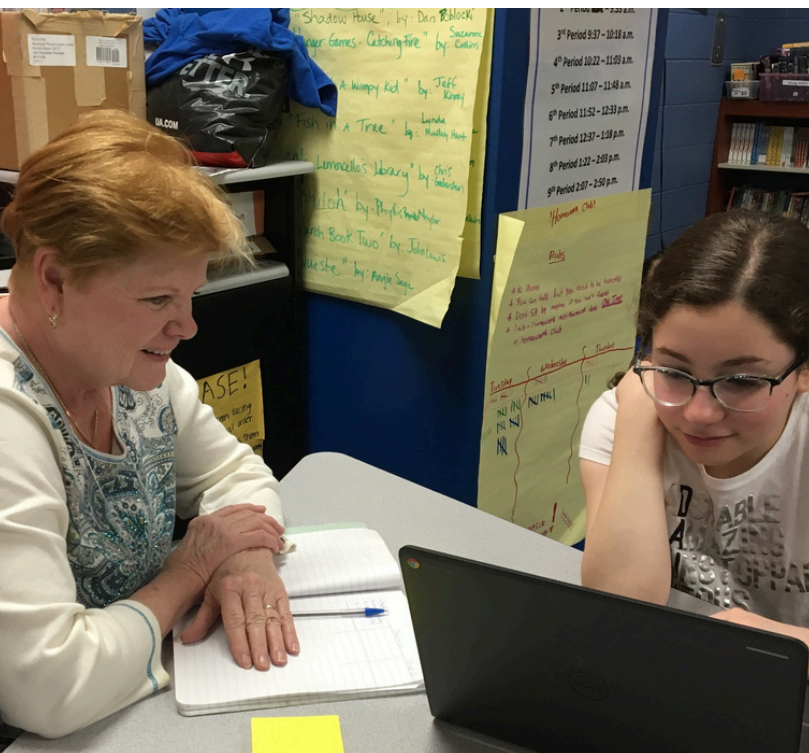
Osamuyi Omosun

Favorite Memories

"My initial goal in joining HURRAH was to volunteer at Beebe Elementary, where my son attended, and Jefferson Junior High, where my daughter was enrolled. But I soon discovered that HURRAH's scope extended far beyond just my children's schools. I began volunteering at other schools where help was needed, expanding my experiences and connections.

One of my favorite memories was serving as a jury member for the High School Crosstown Mock Trial. Having studied law as my first degree, it was thrilling to hear the students use legal terms and arguments—it was like watching my own passion come to life through their enthusiasm.

I've also enjoyed assisting with Naperville North's Senior Celebration and the NCHS student registration. These experiences showed me how impactful and far-reaching HURRAH's mission truly is."



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



Save the Date!

Get ready for our annual HURRAH Gathering!

Keep an eye on your inbox – details are coming soon!

Don't miss out on this special event celebrating our community.



“

To the world,
you may be
one person,
but to one
person, you
may be the
world.

”

-Dr. Seuss

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