VOLUNTEER PROFILES

In her five years as a volunteer, Rosa has helped Houck in countless ways. Morning attendance, lunch supervision, community outreach events and even hip hop dance lessons during afterschool programs are just a few ways Rosa helps students and staff make progress toward success. A few hours of her time makes a big difference for the school.

“I started volunteering in high school because the Houck volunteer coordinator invited me to help out. I keep volunteering because I enjoy the experience. I can see the kids grow in connections to the school and each other. At one particular mother-daughter event I helped with it was so rewarding to watch the kids and moms strengthen their bond. I know I’m doing something productive with my spare time that’s good for the community.”

Rosa M.
Houck Volunteer
McKay Graduate
Chemeketa Community College Student

Tom started volunteering at Forest Ridge and the Optimum Learning Environments Charter School (OLE) in 2003, the first year the school opened. The principal invited the neighborhood church that Tom attends to be a community partner and asked for volunteers. Becoming a school volunteer was a big step outside of Tom’s comfort zone.

“After being asked several times I reluctantly agreed...school was not one of my favorite childhood memories.”

Tom volunteers weekly helping small groups of students with math. He also helps with special events like Family Fun Night and an annual service project at Willamette Mission State Park.

If you ask Tom why he volunteers, he’ll say it’s because he gains as much as he gives.

“I often go to school with the aches and pains of age, not to mention a touch of grouchiness, and between the great staff, teachers and kids I always leave in better spirits, without the aches and pains, and with a sense of contribution...I’m an old guy who grew up thinking ‘I’m sure going to be glad when school is out’. Now I kind of miss it in the summers.”

Tom M.
Forest Ridge/OLE Volunteer
Retired Law Enforcement Officer
Small Business Owner
North Salem High Graduate

Volunteers make a meaningful difference for students. Each day in every school, volunteers support and encourage staff and students, and have a powerful role in helping every student achieve.

Our vision is that all students graduate and are prepared for a successful life.

Salem-Keizer Public Schools’ Volunteer Program is managed through a partnership with the Salem-Keizer Education Foundation (SKEF). SKEF plays a large part in supporting volunteerism in Salem-Keizer, including providing support for each school’s volunteer program needs, recruitment and placement of volunteers, plus training and materials for both volunteers and district staff who work with volunteers. Contact any school or SKEF for more information on becoming a Salem-Keizer Public Schools volunteer.

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