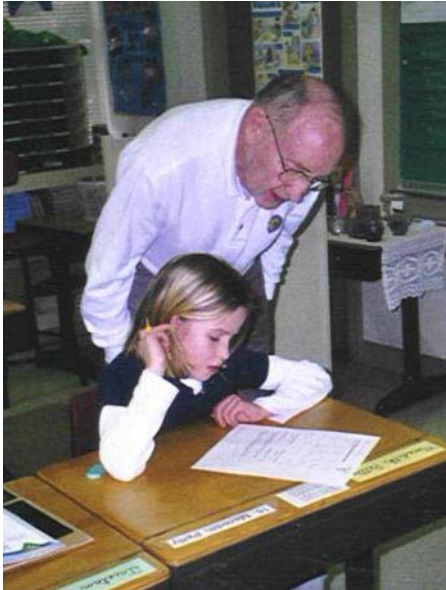


George Graver- AmeriCorps Fall 2002

St. Joseph the Worker Elementary School

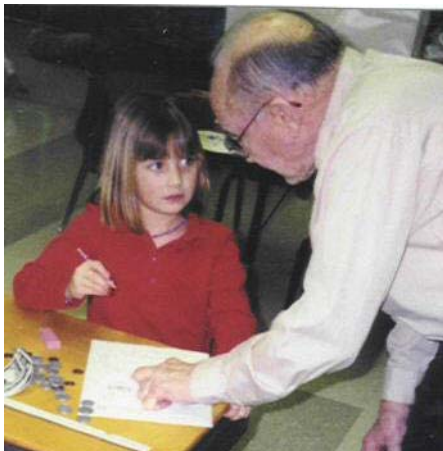
My experience with AmeriCorps was so rewarding that I cannot overstate the benefits of the program. The teachers at St. Joseph the Worker and I meshed well right from the beginning. The students seemed to relate to me in a “grandfatherly” way, and we began to bond. Rather than perceiving me as a teacher or paraprofessional, I believe they began to view me as a parental figure. My talents included patience, the ability to communicate with children at their level, and bringing an attitude to the classroom that facilitates learning.



By using a pencil in the sunlight I am able to answer the question, “What is a sundial?”



I learned that every student is unique. They not only possess different personalities, but have individual learning needs as well. Students experiencing trouble keeping up with academics require explicit methods of tutoring tuned to their personalities. The students really come alive with the anticipation of learning and achieving something new. This makes my service very satisfying. As a senior citizen, I believe that this group could make a powerful contribution in the education of the country’s future work force. Senior citizens have so much to offer. I’m not sure about it keeping us healthier, but I am sure it could keep many of us happier.



Positive interactions like these lead me to conclude that both students and AmeriCorps Members benefit from the myriad of interactions in the classroom, playground, and lunchroom.

