

AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer of the Year

Linda Longmore

Western Dairyland RSVP

Governor's
Service Awards



Linda Longmore has a passion for volunteerism and for serving others, which she has demonstrated for over a decade as an AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer with the Western Dairyland RSVP program, as well as for many years before she was old enough to formally join the program.

Linda joined the RSVP program in May 2012 and she has undertaken a variety of roles since then to make a difference, recognizing volunteer opportunities everywhere and stepping in to assist when she is able. While many volunteers often focus on one type of service, her service has impacted people in numerous ways, as she has supported efforts to improve student success, address food insecurity, provide medical transportation, conduct free vision screenings for students, keep the community clean, support her local library, and support numerous other events and efforts to bring the community together and assist those in need.

As a former 4K teacher, volunteer work supporting students is near and dear to her heart, having started volunteering in the classroom and on the playground at the school when she retired from teaching. As a result of her service, a significant number of students have been given regular, ongoing, consistent attention and assistance in the classroom over and above that which is available from the teacher. Last fall, when a new 4K teacher started at the school, Linda also spent time volunteering to help orient the teacher to the new position.

Outside of the classroom, Linda has supported several other programs to support children, such as assisting with vision screenings for students, volunteering at the Independence Public Library, and working with the Got Sneakers program, which focuses on providing shoes to children in need. Additionally, she has volunteered with the RSVP Birthday Bag Project since 2012, helping pack bags for approximately 40 children a month and regularly donating items for the bags.

In addition to her volunteer service helping children, Linda has taken on numerous roles supporting the community. She has volunteered to assist those seeking assistance through the local pop-up food pantry and provided medical transportation to help those in need, including taking eyes for transplants from one health care facility to another. She can also be found picking up trash at local parks and around the city welcome sign, as well as participating in the local City Spring Clean-Up event. Wanting to help bring the community together, Linda can even be seen volunteering in costume at their annual Easter and Halloween events, which the local kids have come to expect.

When describing the breadth of the service that Linda does, Tammy Klimek with the Western Dairyland RSVP program explained that “Linda sees volunteer opportunities everywhere and does not limit her service to the activities she engages in through formal groups. She says it is as simple as helping an elderly or disabled person to bag up their groceries, or to assist someone with crossing the street... Because of Linda's volunteer efforts, the community in which she lives is a stronger, more united, and healthier place to live...We are very fortunate to have Linda as an RSVP volunteer and as a member of our community.”

