Judy Belding is entering her 6th year as a volunteer in District 11. She is currently volunteering in 1st grade at Rogers Elementary School with Mrs. Gibbs. Judy works one-on-one with students and with small groups. She enjoys spending time with young people, and also enjoys watching the talented staff making a difference in the lives of children. Judy feels that having another adult in the classroom can help students who are struggling get the extra help they need. Also, some children just need someone else to offer them a kind word and some extra attention. She would encourage others to become GrandFriend volunteers saying that “No experience is required except that of caring about children. Love is a precious commodity. When you give it, you get it back tenfold.” She says it is a blessing to feel relevant and useful.

Ruth Gibbs, 1st grade teacher at Rogers Elementary School, says that Judy comes “snow, rain, or shine” and supports the classroom. She works with individual students and small groups in reading and math and helps them access academic content. Judy shares her love of learning and life experiences. She also listens to the students, which shows them that their stories, their lives, and they, themselves, matter and are important. She goes on field trips, bakes pumpkin bread, and helps to read letters from Santa’s Elves. “Judy is there to help us. She is greatly appreciated and loved by all students.”

For more information about GrandFriends, contact Volunteer Services at 520-2311 or send an email to dawn.enger@d11.org.