Phil Erlander volunteers with reading one-on-one to students in Mr. Shaw’s Kindergarten class at Midland International Elementary School. Phil has been a GrandFriend Volunteer for 17 years and has also volunteered at Henry and Columbia Elementary Schools. His favorite part of volunteering is getting to know the students and to observe their improvement in reading as the year progresses. The students benefit from one-on-one help. He has learned a lot about how different the students are from year to year. Phil remembers from his childhood how important it is to read, and he truly hopes by volunteering 2 days a week that he is helping to shape the future of these children!

Danny Shaw, Kindergarten teacher at Midland Elementary feels blessed to have Mr. Erlander in his classroom. The students love reading with him and Mr. Shaw enjoys knowing that he has another person to help read with the students. Phil connects with the kids and gets to know them personally. Mr. Shaw states that having a GrandFriend in the classroom is “an incredible service to our students. My experience with Mr. Erlander is wonderful and I’m so grateful to have him invested in the lives and learning of my students. He is a partner as we inspire every mind in our classroom.”

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