



Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Golden Apple Award | August 5, 2013

Elizabeth Wilson

Community Member

If attitude makes the difference between getting tasks done and making it fun, Elizabeth Wilson is the essence of great attitude. She inspires everyone around her with dedication and caring. The Volunteer Coordinator for Central Peninsula Hospital, she is well known throughout the hospital for her compassion and energy. She is always courteous and helpful to others, and highly respected and appreciated by volunteers and the staff of Central Peninsula Hospital, Serenity House, and Heritage Place. As Director of Volunteer Services, she is responsible for 250 volunteers from the age of fourteen to eighty-eight years of age.

In 2006, Fran Stetson, a Kenai Peninsula Borough School District teacher, met with Elizabeth and explained her need for high school aged students to volunteer and learn vocational job skills within a hospital setting. Without a second thought, Elizabeth agreed to help. Together they worked to find placements with Central Peninsula Hospital and Heritage Place that fit the needs and levels of the students. Elizabeth created a CPH orientation at the student's level of understanding, and held high expectations for each individual student. Her trainings created success for the students and the departments where they volunteered. Elizabeth Wilson is a "natural born teacher" and placed students in different departments matching their interests with job skills. The partnership with CPH Volunteer Services and KPBSD students lasted for six years. Over those years, Elizabeth gave encouragement and challenges to students, and applauded them for their success.

In 2012, Fran Stetson changed teaching assignments and became an instructor in the new Project SEARCH program, located at Central Peninsula Hospital. Project SEARCH is a collaborative partnership with KPBSD, CPH, Frontier Community Services, the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Project SEARCH Cincinnati Children's Hospital. CPH is a growing hospital, and space was hard to come by. Elizabeth demonstrated her care for students enrolled in the program, and she and her volunteers took it upon themselves to create a shelf in their office so that the KPBSD Project SEARCH interns had a safe place to keep their personal items. She offered her office space when they did not have a place to work; and provided guidance and solutions to develop the program in the different departments.

Elizabeth's involvement in the hospital, community, and schools are a testimony to her sense of compassion. She shows great concern for the welfare of students and is actively involved in finding solutions to the difficult challenges they may face. Elizabeth Wilson has consistently promoted leadership and citizenship for the students of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education is proud to recognize Ms. Elizabeth Wilson for her dedication to the students, parents, and staff in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.