

## WHO IS A SCHOOL VOLUNTEER?

You are the most important part of THE BRIDGE: A SCHOOL/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP. You are the person who cares enough about the students in the Melrose Public Schools to give up some of your valuable time to help them.

Anyone who wishes to contribute his or her services to the school system can be of help. People of all ages and backgrounds have something valuable to offer.

A school volunteer does not need a special degree or particular educational training; the skills of each volunteer can be utilized with careful placement and follow-up. You may have a talent to share. Your work or hobby could enrich the school experience for many students.

Volunteers strengthen school-community relations by bringing diverse perspectives from the community into the schools. For students, the presence of volunteers demonstrates the importance of their education. Volunteers help improve instruction in the school by permitting more individual help to students under the direction of a teacher or by doing jobs that free the teacher, allowing more time directly with the students.

There are three types of volunteers, depending on time available.

**REGULAR VOLUNTEERS** are assigned a continuing task for the entire school year or a part of the school year. These volunteers might work weekly, twice a week, biweekly or every other day. They know what day or days they will be expected at the school. The staff really counts on the services of regular volunteers.

**SHORT TERM VOLUNTEERS** are assigned to special projects during the year. Volunteers know when these projects begin and end. This is an ideal situation for people who want to help but cannot commit themselves for a lengthy period of time.

**ONE TIME VOLUNTEERS** are people who may have very limited time to offer but want to help. They may help with a field trip, a class party or some other special event. Some one time volunteers have special knowledge or talent needed to enrich a unit being taught or who are asked to participate in a special class activity. One time volunteers who help by giving a presentation or demonstration are listed in The Bridge's Human Resource Directory.