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YouthFriends of Hutchinson Kansas Honors its 500th Volunteer!

YouthFriends surprises volunteer with honor

By The News staff

Diana O'Sullivan started volunteering with YouthFriends in February, spending an hour three times each week with Tara Morris, 8. The organization honored her Wednesday as its 500th active volunteer.

O'Sullivan said she started volunteering with the in-school mentoring program after she retired from oncology nursing as a way to continue helping others.

"It's wonderful," she said. "It gives people a way to make use of their talents in helping children. Certainly children need individualized attention and help, and that's what YouthFriends is all about."

O'Sullivan has a Master of Education degree in counseling and recently completed specialized dyslexia training to help in her volunteering.

YouthFriends communications coordinator Traci Hansen said the group usually has about 450 active volunteers at any given time, making the 500 mark notable.

Taken from <http://www.hutchnews.com/Localregional/extended-cutline-for-YouthFriends-story--1>



(Sandra J. Milburn/The Hutchinson News) YouthFriends volunteer Diana O'Sullivan works on a puzzle with Graber Elementary School second-grader Tara Morris, 8, Wednesday morning.

YouthFriends connects students, teachers and schools with inspiring mentors and real-world learning experiences to promote success, encourage healthy behaviors and build stronger communities. YouthFriends is a nationally and rapidly growing school-based mentoring network involving more than 70 school districts across Kansas and Missouri