

# 2021: Dubuque National Service Recognition Award Nomination Form

Category nominated for: National Service Impact Award

Name of nominee/member: Mary Kay Patters

National Service Program and/or host organizations: City of Dubuque AmeriCorps Program: Partners in Learning

Nominator Name: Heather Satterly and Sarah Berna, Program Staff

**Please tell us a little about the background and personal circumstances relating to the individual or organization being nominated for the award:**

Mary Kay has raised a family, been a para professional, and has been a registered nurse. She has served her whole life! Mary Kay shows great pride in what she does and gives back to her community. Mary Kay thrives to create environments of respect where the people she serves are eager to do their best.

**Please tell us about the service effort relating to the Nominee. Please include what have they done and how long have they volunteered, how frequently, how many hours, etc:**

Mary Kay is serving her fourth term as a literacy tutor in the Dubuque Community Schools. In her 4 years of service she will have served 2,925 hours! During the school year, she serves 4 days a week, throughout the whole school year. She is very proud of the students that she serves and works very hard to support them to advance in their skills as a reader.

**How has the Nominee made a significant contribution to a population, organization, or community during their term of service:**

Mary Kay has shared that one of her most significant moments was the feedback from a 1st grade boy who was so impacted by her presence, he said Mary Kay was his very favorite teacher. This is a direct example of her relationship building skills as well as her care for each and every student! Mary Kay has served over 200 children in the Dubuque Community School District, her impact stretches wide!

**How has the Nominee demonstrated leadership abilities in their Service and/or among their peers?\***

Mary Kay is very willing to share her experiences with her fellow peers and is willing to help problem solve when necessary. Mary Kay has been extremely dependable, which is SO appreciated by the staff at Kennedy. She has high expectations for the kids, and they respond very well to that. Mary Kay has made connections with kids and teachers, really becoming a part of Kennedy!

**How has the Nominee demonstrated a spirit of cooperation among groups of people and organizations?\***

Mary Kay's supervisors have spoken highly of the work she does and she continues to be of great value at her site! She has worked with up to 50 kids at intervals during the day. It takes a great amount of organization and work outside of the school day to be prepared to run the schedule she has! Her communication with teachers, caring work with kids, and reliability have made a HUGE difference at Kennedy.

**How has the Nominee displayed exemplary work ethic and commitment to duties?\***

Mary Kay has maintained professionalism in the school environment and uses a positive attitude to handle any challenges! Mary Kay is also very prompt and proactive with communication which has helped those she is working with in a ever changing classroom setting over the past few years.