

2021: Dubuque National Service Recognition Award Nomination Form

Category nominated for: National Service Impact Award

Name of nominee/member: Linda Sorensen

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:

For the last 4 years, Linda has chosen to support a child's quest to love reading and she has made immeasurable impact within those students' lives. Linda has continued to pledge her time and energy to help our community's youth feel good about reading and themselves. She is dedicated to this mission and takes great pride in all her service with AmeriCorps. Whether it is the daily tasks of data collection or the invaluable relationships with each and every youth that feels heard having known her, Linda shows up. Linda is always there to offer her help and continues to invest in her peers and the community at large. Linda has also been active in volunteering separate from her role as an AmeriCorps member- serving with political campaigns and with her church regularly. Linda Sorensen is truly getting things done and making a difference.

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:

Linda Sorensen has served 4 years with the City of Dubuque's AmeriCorps Partners In Learning Program. In partnership with the Dubuque Community Schools she has served as a literacy tutor since 2017. Linda served 1,650 hours during her 4 years with AmeriCorps. She has served over 240 children in that time, diligently!

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

Linda has a nice relationship with the students and staff members at Eisenhower. She is dependable and wants to help students in the area of literacy. She is flexible and personable which makes her easy to work with. She doesn't take the job lightly, but steps up to the plate to try and make a difference in their reading skills. She is a true "difference maker" and works humbly to help our students become better, more confident readers.

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

Linda feels that just one person can be part of the bigger picture. Part of the whole is how she sees making a difference on a daily level. She worked to help students become more confident in reading as well as helping them build their confidence and building friendships.

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

Linda has worked to improve herself as a tutor to the benefit of those around her most importantly to include the students she serves. She takes great care with high levels of responsibility to be there to promote honesty with kids and works to better the knowledge she can share with them. She has volunteered to go to additional learning opportunities and comes back and applies this knowledge. For example, Linda attended Race in the Heartland conference and came back with new information and books to share with her kids, helping them understand about races other than their own.

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

She consistently provided daily reading and social/emotional learning and support. Her role within the schools varies from an academic focus all the way to mentoring a child's well-being. Showing up each day for kids she is a good listener and friendly community face to all she meets with at her assigned school.