SENIOR VOLUNTEER APPRECIATES OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK

West Palm Beach, FL, April 10, 2014

Rita Gluzband first started working with adult literacy when she read an advertisement in the newspaper by the Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition. Mrs. Gluzband then decided that she would like to help young students build a strong foundation. So in 1999 she started working with fourth and fifth graders at Palm Springs Elementary School. Mrs. Gluzband soon realized that assistance was needed by some children in the early stages before they experienced trouble. Now she reads with kindergartners and first grade students. It has been 15 years and Mrs. Gluzband is still at Palm Springs Elementary School.

Initially Mrs. Gluzband questioned whether she was capable of working with students. After all, she didn’t attend college and had no formal training. She had gotten married early at the onset of World War II. But one thing Mrs. Gluzband had was a love for children and the desire to help. So, after raising her family, (she has 3 granddaughters and 1 great granddaughter) Mrs. Gluzband realized she had lots of time on her hands and thought she might be useful as a volunteer in the schools. And she has certainly proven that she is! In addition to helping in the classrooms, she volunteers in the PTA Holiday Shop and helps the school’s Parent Liaison by typing business partner agreements, and data reports. She even helps decorate for the school’s Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast each May. In fact, all staff at the school feel they can call on Mrs. Gluzband to help out with anything.

Mrs. Gluzband believes that everyone has more free time than they think they do. She likes to tell her senior friends that she honestly believes that being around the children helps keep her young! It is a great remedy as a diversion to the retirement “blues”. So, at the end of her volunteer day, when a teacher says

“Thank you”, Mrs. Gluzband responds by saying, “No, thank you”. She feels that she always receives more rewards out of volunteering than what she gives. Palm Springs Elementary School disagrees and even nominated her as Outstanding Senior Volunteer this year.

For more information please contact the School District Volunteer Coordinator Debi Elfen at 561-434-8789 or deborah.elfen@palmbeachschools.org