

## Carol Brinker

Carol Brinker and her husband raised their children in Northwest Ohio, then moved to Ft. Wayne, Indiana. After seventeen years, they decided to move back to the Toledo area to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

Carol's grandchildren attended Sylvania Child Care, and her daughter suggested that she volunteer to read to the children at the Woodrow Preschool. Carol began by reading to the children and loved it so much that she filled out an application to become an employee. She began as a substitute in September 2014, filling in primarily at Woodrow as well as the before- and after-school program at Highland, although she goes wherever she is needed.

Carol says that she loves the program; the staff is warm and welcoming and she loves the relationships she forms with the children everywhere she goes. She loves working with the school-age kids on their homework

and making learning fun, whether it's drilling kids with flashcards or working with them on their reading. "The kids trust you and are glad to see you. There's a joy and warmth to being with them." Similarly, Carol enjoys



getting to know the parents, who are very supportive of the program and their children, commenting that "they wait patiently for their kids when they are in the middle of something, as they often are." More than anything, Carol says, "the thing that brings me the most joy and pleasure is working with the kids."