



Intergenerational  
S C H O O L S

May '24

# Lifelong Learners



★ Learning  
Partners  
Spotlight



150  
IG Visits!

## Learning Partner Spotlight Elizabeth Levert at Lakeshore

Twenty two years ago, Elizabeth Levert had recently retired from her position with the United States Postal service when she attended an exercise class at the Fairhill Center. Serendipitously, she came across a bulletin board posting for intergenerational partners needed at The Intergenerational School, which was only in its second year. Ms. Levert started as a Reading Mentor (now called Learning Partner) at the small school and never looked back!

Ms. Levert has been with the Intergenerational Schools every step of the way. She was there when The Intergenerational School moved to the newly renovated St. Luke's Hospital location and then later was asked to be the first learning partner at Lakeshore when it opened in Collinwood in 2014. She has been volunteering there ever since and it's closer to her home.

Once a week she comes to the school to share her time and attention with the children. She typically works with one student at a time and connects with them by asking about their families, weekend activities, and personal interests. She builds a caring relationship with each child and encourages them as readers to explore their own libraries and read at home.

Elizabeth Levert is an exemplary Learning Partner. When reading with Primary Stage (K-2) students, she allows reading to be imperfect and relationship driven. She invites students to write their own names before they start a session and asks them questions about the pictures on the pages.

Ms. Levert told us that being a Learning Partner, **"does my heart good"**. Her own children live in Oklahoma and she misses having time with her grandchildren.

"It is amazing the change in the students from the beginning of the year to the end of the year—how they have grown!" says Levert. "They just want to talk and need someone to listen to them." Even in small classes, this additional one-on-one attention helps boost their confidence. Elizabeth Levert is one of our longest serving Learning Partners and her kindness and love of reading has made an immeasurable positive impact on the lives of so many Intergenerational students over the last twenty two years. We love you Ms. Levert!



HERE CHILDREN THRIVE AND COMMUNITY GROWS



## Q&A with Learning Partner Julie Rae at Near West



IG Community Coordinator, Evan Wheeler sat down with Julie Rae to discover her thoughts on the IG Schools Learning Partner program. Julie has been with IG schools for many years. She is now retired and taught in Lakewood City Schools.

**Q:** Do you feel like the students you work with gain increased confidence as you work with them?

**A:** When students walk over to me shuffling their feet and looking down, I know there is a confidence problem and I talk explicitly about how learning can be challenging and mistakes are how we learn. In fact, our brains remember best when we make a mistake and then figure out what we did wrong. I keep trying different explanations and pictures and models until we find one that works for each student. Once the learning has happened, that is when the self-confidence increases. I say, "Look! You thought you couldn't do it, but you did do it. Well done!"

**Q:** Do you feel like the students you work with have benefitted from the extra one-on-one time that you provide?

**A:** I think the greatest gift of the Learning Partner program is the one-on-one time with the students. It gives each child much-needed individual attention, as well as opportunities for recognition for hard work and patience, and gentle, private reteaching and error correction. I have time to ask students to explain their thinking to me with every problem, to listen to that thinking, and to confirm or redirect their thinking. It is not possible for classroom teachers to provide that much individual attention to each student and most students really crave it.

**Q:** As a past educator would this have been a program you would have been interested in implementing in your own classroom?

**A:** Absolutely. The classroom setting has many positives. At its best, it is a community of learning, with opportunities for collaboration and teamwork with many different kinds of people. However, it can not always address the myriad individual needs of students as directly and immediately as required. Besides providing extra, individual learning, the Learning Partner program provides additional opportunities for supportive relationships. Children benefit immensely from these relationships where they feel seen and heard and cared for.

**Q:** Do you feel like students have grown socially and emotionally due to the time you spend with them?

**A:** I think that I can support the culture in the building which promotes social and emotional growth. I can be another adult who encourages students to believe in themselves, to try hard, and to persevere despite challenges. I can be another person who expects children to care for others and who models such caring. It is important that every adult in the building recognizes that their actions and attitudes contribute to the culture. It takes all of us working together with families and caregivers to help children grow socially and emotionally.



Together, let's celebrate the power of connection. Relationships between older and younger people are not just 'nice' but essential. Join us for Global Intergenerational Week from April 24th to 30th!

Use the hashtag **#GIW24!** and **#IGschools** to post your own intergenerational photos on social media. We want to hear about your experiences and ideas, whether it's a local project or a global initiative, that brings different age groups together in meaningful ways.

For more information please visit

<https://generationsworkingtogether.org/global-intergenerational-week>

## We need more Learning Partners for the 2024-2025 School Year

If you or someone you know want to know more about becoming a Learning Partner, email Evan Wheeler ([Volunteer@igschools.org](mailto:Volunteer@igschools.org)) or visit **THIS LINK**



## Mind Your Business

The IG Schools podcast is looking for parents and partners to share your business. That's right, we want you to share what you do for a living. Think about it as a Career Day series for our IG community. Grow your business by coming on the show!

We now have the ability to conduct remote podcast recordings to make things easier on you. Please visit the following link to schedule a 45 minute remote recording

<https://calendly.com/sohara-szg/the-ippy-dippy-interviews-clone>





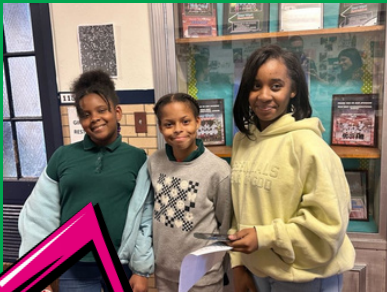
WHERE CHILDREN THRIVE AND COMMUNITY GROWS



## School Events: Check out what we have been up to

### NWIS

Celebration of Learning  
Family Dance  
Talent Show



### TIS

Eclipse Activities  
Peer to Peer Mentoring



### LIS

Bedtime Stories  
Staff vs. Students  
Basketball Game





## Over 150 Intergenerational Visits to Our Community Partners

This year our focus was to revive our community experiences and we did it! We developed new relationships across generations and we look forward to deepening those experiences for all. Thank you to all of our community partners!

