



AmeriCorps

Story

My name is Barb Maluchnik. I was born and raised here in Casper, Wyoming. I graduated from Kelly Walsh High School and graduated from University of Wyoming at Casper College. I am the proud mother of three children, Allison, Sarah, and Joe. I also am the proud grandmother of Merak and Hazel. After my husband left I decided to go back to school to become a teacher. After getting my bachelors degree in education, a friend came up to me and asked me if I wanted to join a new program called the AmeriCorps Vista. During my time with AmeriCorps Vista I headed a wonderful program called the Earn to Learn Reading Program. The Golden Kiwanis volunteers would come into the schools where I was working and would read with their assigned students. The students would read to the volunteer and the volunteer would record if the student's reading ability was improving. The program lasted 6 weeks and was a lot of fun! After the program ended we would have a party to celebrate the student's achievements and to recognize the volunteers. I was able to get a teaching position through the Earn to Learn Reading Program at Jefferson School. There I taught Title 1 Reading and Math grades 4-6. I only taught for a year. After that year I worked with OfficeMax until it closed its doors. I then went to work for IReach2, working with people with disabilities. I really learned a lot from this wonderful diverse group of people. I can honestly say that working with people with disabilities was a great learning experience. I am truly humbled by their amazing love for life. I worked at a physical therapy hospital for several years meeting wonderful people as they came to my desk. I love working with people of all diversity! I am really excited about becoming a service member for the Food Bank of the Rockies. It will be an honor to serve in the community that I know and love.