**Mission of CRVIS**
To make a difference in the lives of school children by enhancing and enriching their educational experiences.

**Who we are and what we do**
We are volunteers who give our time and attention to children who may need extra help in reading, math, homework, or other activities. Retirees with interests in special areas—such as science, nature, gardening, music, or arts and crafts—are encouraged to present hands-on projects. No one receives compensation. All of us—who come from various work and life experiences—find that making a difference in a child’s life is reward enough!

**History of CRVIS**
Beginning in May 1995, Cornell retirees held meetings to discuss the implementation of a National Retiree Volunteer Coalition at Cornell University. A steering committee was formed and the members decided that they wanted to help children aged 5-12 in the local school system.

The program, which officially began during the 1996-1997 school year, was named Cornell Retirees Volunteering in Service (CRVIS—pronounced “Service”) and was piloted at Cayuga Heights. In 2005, the name was changed to Cornell Retirees Volunteering in Schools, to more accurately reflect the work being done.

CRVIS continues to expand into local schools as requests for the program are received and reviewed, provided that there are volunteers available to serve in the new school.

**What is “CRVIS?”**
The Cornell Retirees Volunteering in Schools (CRVIS) program provides an opportunity for Cornell and community retirees to volunteer in local elementary schools.

The program, sponsored by the Cornell Retirees Association, receives support from Cornell University.

**Vision of CRVIS**
Retirees have gained much from their community over the years and are in the position to give something in return. They can contribute significantly to the betterment of the community through volunteerism and service.
Choosing a school to serve

CRVIS volunteers currently serve youngsters in eight local schools: Belle Sherman, Cayuga Heights, Enfield, Fall Creek, Freeville, Lansing, Northeast, and Trumansburg. If you are interested in the possibility of helping in a school that is not listed, please call (607) 255-0388.

Volunteer positions

Various types of positions are available at each school. These may include, but are not limited to:

- cafeteria monitors
- playground (recess) monitors
- classroom aides
  - small group setting
  - one-on-one attention
  - general assistance
- art room assistants

Volunteers may help in these areas:

- reading books to young children
- chaperoning field trips
- homework club (math, reading, etc)
- science enrichment or experiments
- fossil or bird identification
- nature walks
- special projects

If you have special talents or interests and have ideas on how we can utilize your knowledge and skills, please let us know. All suggestions are welcome. Retirees are encouraged to get involved in special projects, which may include: arts, crafts, music, foreign language, plays, travel, gardening, etc. Our school liaisons work with teachers to find the best fit to match the needs of the children with our volunteers.

Setting a volunteer schedule

Volunteer one hour a day, or more, one day or more per week. You and the teacher will agree on a time that works best in the classroom and set a schedule for your hours. Open Houses or meetings may be held in the fall, at which volunteers and teachers are able to get together and talk about the interests of the volunteer and the needs of the children in the classroom.

Why is the CRVIS program important?

It makes a big difference to a child to have someone readily available to work one-on-one or with a small group. That extra bit of personal attention helps children do much better in school.

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Who can get involved?

Any retiree living in the local community—regardless of where you retired from—can work as a volunteer.

Here’s how you can get involved:

For more information and to request an application form, please contact Kathie Shaff, Cornell CRVIS Coordinator, (607) 255-0388 or krs4@cornell.edu or CRVIS Committee Chair Elaine Quaroni, (607) 257-7741 or elainequaroni@verizon.net.

Please mail your completed CRVIS application form to:

CRVIS
Cornell University
160 Day Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853