

Mavis McPhee steps outside the traditional perception of educator. She reminds us that access to information, whether literacy, parenting, safety, nutrition or skill enhancement (just to list a few) is a right, not a privilege.

For over 30 years she has worked with children who have special needs; teen parents, street youth, adults and families.

In 1992, she gained her certification with the Saskatoon Adlerian Society as a parent group facilitator and since then has also received certification in several additional parenting programs including Kise-wa-to-ta-to-win Aboriginal Parenting Program, PET-Parent Effectiveness Training, and Nobody's Perfect. She has facilitated parenting groups and has worked with hundreds of parents. She also was the Teen Parent Coordinator at Saskatoon Downtown Youth Centre/EGADZ for six years working with teen mothers who faced many challenges in their lives, aside from being a young parent. .



In 2002 she joined READ Saskatoon as the Family Literacy coordinator. Today she is responsible for READ Saskatoon's Adult One-to-One Tutor Program, in which she provides supervision and support to over 300 learners and tutors. She facilitates four tutor training sessions a year as well as additional tutor in-service sessions for tutors.

"It is clear that Mavis cares about everyone who is around her; whether she is close friends with them or has just met them. When I was new to the READ board of directors, she would make sure I was not overworking myself with a friendly phone call to see how I was doing. In today's busy world that is the best feeling; someone cares and has taken the time out of their busy day to let you know." Kristy Heinbigner, tutor and Board Member, READ Saskatoon

Mavis is clearly passionate about what she does, because when she speaks, it is evident that she is educating families about literacy and healthy choices because she truly wants to help families lead better lives; it is not just a job, it is a part of her life that she passionately cares about.

- Kristy Heinbigner, literacy tutor,
READ Saskatoon

On a personal level she has been involved in the community and church for many years taking on leadership roles as needed. In the years past, she was actively involved in the church as parent liaison and fundraiser for the New Sensation Singers. She

assisted to co-ordinate several musicals and assisted in the production of the choirs CD project. She and her husband Al also served several terms as youth leaders for the church. Most recently she served two years as the Chair of the Board at St. Martin's United Church. She remains an active fundraiser for the church, recently co-ordinating a fundraising auction. She has been married for almost 30 years and has two adult children.



In her own words: "Literacy and parenting education are inextricably linked. Parenting is about supporting the family and encouraging what's best for the child. Adult Literacy is about encouraging the adult as they discover how to better support the family and child."

Her personal vision is best articulated by Neil Kurshan: "Our most important task as parents is raising children who will be decent, responsible, and caring people devoted to making this world a more compassionate place."

I look to Mavis as a role model; she is selfless and passionate about what she does.

- Kristy Heinbigner, tutor,
READ Saskatoon