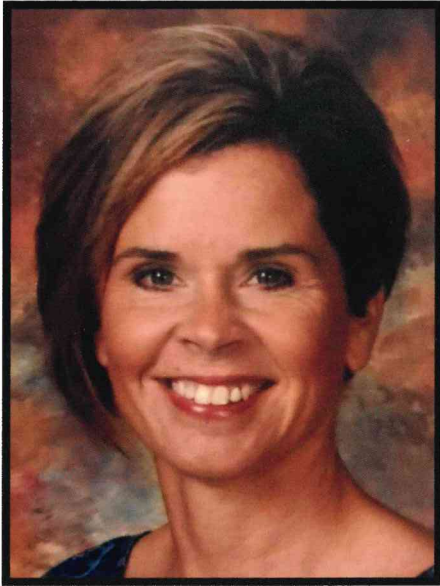


THE STORY OF THE LITTLE RED READING BUS



As a long-time educator, I've been passionate about literacy for years - 26 years, to be precise. I started out teaching first grade and second grade in the elementary school setting, mainly in Grand Forks, ND. Our family moved, and I moved into Title I Reading and Reading Recovery positions, paired with instructional coaching and mentoring new teachers here West

Fargo. I've also served as an adjunct professor for UND, teaching undergraduates and graduates in the college setting, either on-campus or on-line, all the while. All of my "life's work" has been devoted to teaching either my own students or my fellow teachers about the love and joy of reading and of learning to read. I've also been in LOVE with bookmobiles since I was a kid! I have vivid memories of summer reading experiences through local libraries most of my childhood. So, when I

heard of a bookmobile starting in Grand Forks (where I had been a teacher) a few years ago, I had to go check it out! I signed up for a morning of volunteering and that was all it took - I was HOOKED! I had been serving on the Library Board in West Fargo at the time, working to get more people to visit the library during a period of amazing growth in our community.

I was also a teacher who knew the challenge of keeping kids engaged in reading over the summer months, with so many things competing for their time and attention. A bookmobile seemed to make sense, so I pitched the idea to the West Fargo Educational Foundation. Thanks to a mini-grant from the West Fargo Educational Foundation, I was able to spread the idea to our preverbal "village" of supporters to try to seek sponsorship. We were met with support and in less than a year, I'm so proud to say we had ourselves the cutest little bus around, spreading joy and helping kids Read Every Day!

The story of the little red reading bus coming to West Fargo is my FAVORITE story to share!