

HOMETOWN HERO:

Teresa Rimel

“Our students and staff are grateful for her efforts to make Point Pleasant a truly inclusive and safe environment for everyone.”

Teresa is the mother of a student who has been in my class for three years. During that time, Teresa has dedicated her efforts to her daughter's growth by donating books, other hands-on educational materials, computers and other technology, sensory materials, and her time. In doing so, she has considered and contributed to the growth of all children in my class. She is known as "Mrs. Lara's Mom."

Teresa has gone beyond the scope of our classroom and is positively affecting our school community. During Autism Awareness Month in April 2007, Teresa developed a comprehensive interactive program for our school community, promoting the understanding of communicative, behavioral, and social aspects of peers with ASD. This task was particularly difficult to implement due to structural and scheduling characteristics at Point Pleasant. Yet, Teresa not only organized and implemented this, but differentiated activities for appropriateness between buildings and among grades.

Teresa is making Autism Awareness Month a tradition of innovative activities providing concrete information and experiences for all children at Point Pleasant. Teresa has built on and revised the awareness program for 2008. Our students and staff are grateful for her efforts to make Point Pleasant a truly inclusive and safe environment for everyone. Teresa Rimel is my Hometown Hero.



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CHAPTER

NOMINATED BY: Ellen McFarland, Special Educator, Point Pleasant Elementary