

## Susan Townsend's History:

I had the pleasure of working in the Hearing Impaired Program at Bailly from 1981-1991. Those were wonderful years and I remember my students with fondness. So much of what I know today I learned at Bailly. I have been lucky to have been able to see many former students through the years and have even had a grand-student; Cathy Ulanowicz's son Chris!

At the end of the 90-91 school year, Porter County changed the way it served it's hard of hearing students, providing assistance in the child's home school. That same year Michigan City began a program of it's own so my class was dissolved and I moved to Brummitt Elementary in Chesterton. Since then I have been working with Mildly Mentally Handicapped and Autistic students, which I really love. I am fortunate that I get to practice my signing skills every summer when I teach summer school with a class of my students and Mrs. Pool's. I am amazed at how many signs my old brain remembers!

I am still at Brummitt and probably will be until they carry me out in a box! My husband, Bill, still teaches at Highland Middle School. Our oldest son, Brett, is a junior in Music Education at Ball State. He will be 21 in December. Ben and Becky, our twins, are 17 and are juniors at Valparaiso High School. We are also raising my niece, Nicole, who is 15 and a freshman at VHS. She has lived with us since she was 9 years old. We live in Valpo with our 2 dogs and new kitten.

In my spare time, I drive my kids around and read as much as I can. I am a volunteer trainer for Drifting Dunes Girl Scout Council, training Girl Scout leaders. I recently received certification by the State of Indiana as a new teacher mentor, which made me think often, with gratitude, of Jan who was my mentor back before we even knew that new teachers needed such a thing.