

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Boys' & Girls' Brigade Launches New Tutoring Program**

The Boys' & Girls' Brigade has launched a tutoring program for 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls. The program takes place each Monday in February and March at the Brigade building at 109 W. Columbian Avenue in Neenah. A meal will be served in the Shattuck room for the students arriving at 5:30 p.m. The homework assistance takes place from 6-7:00 p.m. It is not necessary to be a member of Brigade to participate; the program is open to any and all 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls. Students will receive tutoring by adult volunteers under the direction and supervision of Sue Ruthven a member of the teaching staff in the Neenah school system. Non-Brigade members are welcome and invited to stay and take part in the regular 6<sup>th</sup> grade program that takes place from 7-9:00 p.m.

Sue Ruthven is a regular Monday night Brigade volunteer leader as well as a teacher at Roosevelt elementary school in Neenah. Ruthven recognized the children's need for assistance with school homework. She also identified the value of combining this program with the regular Brigade weekly leadership program and feels that a homework help component would further benefit the youth. "It made perfect sense to position the program for 6<sup>th</sup> graders who are just beginning to understand the discipline it takes to complete homework in a timely manner so they can participate in other enriching out-of-school extracurricular activities," explained Ruthven. "I'm very excited to be a part of this offering at Brigade."

Participants must bring their homework materials to the session (books, worksheets, calculators, etc.). Youth will be expected to secure their own transportation to and from the Brigade. The tutoring program and meal will be provided free of charge to the 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

During March the Brigade will determine whether the pilot tutoring program will be extended to the end of the school year. For more information on the tutoring program call the Brigade office at 920-725-3983.

John Dery, Executive Director, commented, "This is a pilot program that I fully expect will expand into other grades next fall. I am grateful that Sue and other fellow teaching staff have stepped forward to meet this critical need." Dery went on to say that the education component fits very well with the mentoring that has taken place throughout the 110 year history of Brigade. "This is another fine example of the tremendous commitment that these volunteers have toward the kids."

The Brigade mission is: We Build Leaders. Leadership programs are offered year round with weekly meetings from October through March at the Brigade building located at 109 W. Columbian Avenue in Neenah, Wisconsin, and from June until September at the Brigade summer camp at Onaway Island located in Waupaca, Wisconsin. For more information visit Brigade's website at [www.bgbrigade.com](http://www.bgbrigade.com) or call (920) 725-3983.

CAPTION: Sue Ruthven, Brigade volunteer leader and teacher at Roosevelt elementary school in Neenah is helping launch a new tutoring program at the Boys' & Girls' Brigade. Sue is pictured on the left tutoring a 6<sup>th</sup> grade Brigader on Monday night.

