

## **Mary Willis**

I would like to nominate Mary Willis as a Great Friend of the Family. She has volunteered at the Playhouse, furthered Montessori education in the High Country, and participated as board member of the Sugar Grove Developmental Day School, and devoted herself to learning and sharing child development.

Her preschool is exemplary in its preparation and care of children. She embodies and exudes Montessori values. She provides parents' education nights free of charge. She has also at times assisted families who could not afford tuition from her own pocket, without state assistance. For years she has donated money to the Heifer project in her students' name. For every book she reads with them, she donates a certain amount to Heifer and lets the children choose what animals will be given to needy families around the world, such as rabbits or chickens or bees. She spends her free time searching the web and other resources for children's activities and successes which she shares with her families.

She also started the God's School at St. Luke's Episcopal church. Many generations of Wataugans have benefitted from her efforts.