

## Jane's Two Stories

*The following account was written by Jane Hewitt, a member of the Fellowship, describing her experiences as a volunteer at Neighbors Link in Mount Kisco. See page 7 of the March 2008 newsletter for more about the Fellowship's growing relationship with this group whose mission is to serve the community.*



Twice a week I work with the second graders at Learning Links After School. Although every child here has a story, I will just tell you about two. One is a lovely seven-year-old girl with long dark hair. Her mother died of cancer, her father was killed and she's being raised by an aunt and uncle. She interacts freely with the other kids but when she's by herself there is an aura of quiet sadness about her. Whenever a volunteer appears, she's quick to say, "Will you help me with my homework first?" For this child, Learning Links is an emotional support.

My other "story" is an eight-year-old boy who has been in this country a little over a year, living with his single mother. When I began volunteering at Learning Links in November, he could print his name but could not read a word. He likes to appear tough and doesn't like the others to see how far behind he is, so I usually work with him solo. He wants to learn, and soaks up all the academic support he can get. He is an artist and remembers what he sees much more easily than things he hears. Last week he showed me proudly that he could print the word "spider."

Learning Links helps children move on with their own lives, by giving them the support and attention that helps them keep up with their schoolwork. It's one more step in giving them the educational foundation they need to succeed.

*—Jane Hewitt*