

FIRST PLACE WINNER – AARP GRANDPARENT OF THE YEAR ESSAY - 2012

**By Elizabeth Hofer
Sharon F. Delzer Elementary
Estelline, South Dakota**

I nominate my Grandma, Eunice Berwald, as the AARP Grandparent of the Year. An unknown author described a grandma as a little bit parent, a little bit teacher, and a little bit best friend. That describes my Grandma Berwald perfectly.

My Grandma is a little bit parent. She lives just about a mile away, so I have always spent a lot of time with her.

When I was little, Grandma would baby-sit me while my mom worked. I loved going to Grandma's and was glad I didn't have to go to a daycare. When I got older and went to school, the bus would drop me off at Grandma's. There were lots of reasons I liked going to her house. Grandma is the best baker in the world and I knew there would always be special treats.

Grandma also made time for me. No matter how busy she was on the farm or with housework, she was always willing to drop everything to spend time with me. She would read to me and play with me. The most special thing my Grandma did for me was to sing. I knew all of the Bible songs at a young age. She taught me how to sing and it's an important part of my life.

My Grandma is a little bit teacher. She taught me many lessons in life. She taught me right from wrong and the importance of having faith in God. My Grandma took me to church every Wednesday where she volunteered as a teacher. She was always willing to help me with homework and spelling words. Grandma has always told me I was a talented singer and encouraged me to keep growing in my musical gift by taking me to singing lessons. She helps me practice my pieces for contests, rodeos, summer festivals, and special music at church. Grandma Berwald has taught me so much.

My Grandma is a little bit best friend. Actually she's more than a little - she's a lot. Grandma and I do lots together. She has taken me to many singing contests and events. We love to go shopping together and out to eat. My Grandma and Grandpa come over to my house on Sundays for supper. We like to play cards. Grandma Berwald and I like to be partners in cards. Grandma Berwald and I like to be partners in cards because we are lucky! Every spring my Grandma plants a huge garden and we have fun being outdoors together. Some of my best memories are fishing trips with Grandma. She is also a great photographer. I know all the special moments in my life will be caught on film by my Grandma. I shot my first deer two weeks ago and Grandma had a framed picture for me the very next day.

My Grandma Berwald is very deserving of the honor of Grandparent of the year. She's a little bit parent, a little bit teacher, and a little bit my best friend.