

My Grandma Trena Vandembark should be the AARP South Dakota Grandparent of the Year. She is caring to all those around her, unique and creative in all ways, and she is also a good role model for me.

My grandma is caring. She invites one of us to spend the night at her house every Friday. She always has something fun in mind for us to do together. An example of this is she lets us pick something to bake as well as a craft to create and give to my family members. She also is a good friend to her neighbors. She visits her neighbors and friends that are in the care center. She reads them books and volunteers to help them every Tuesday at bingo. She also gives rides to people who have doctor appointments in other towns. She is as kind and caring to her friends as she is to us.

Grandma is unique. She decorates her house with fun things like her favorite colors, orange and yellow. Her porch is a peach color. I think it looks beautiful like her smile and as bright as her laugh. She makes her own cards that she sends to far away friends. She also has been known to make her own jewelry out of dried vegetables and paint them in bright rainbow colors. She is always busy creating something; cross stitched bookmarks for friends, windsocks for each holiday and season, blankets for the grandkids, and so much more. Grandma Trena also shows that she is one of a kind by tearing out her lawn and only planting flowers. She teaches me that being unique is wonderful and special.

Grandma Trena is a good role model to my siblings and me by using her talents to create and to cheer up people who are down. She is always helping others, making new friends, and is always being cheerful and glad. She always has a smile on her face. This makes me want to be like her and to be able to help other people who need help. She teaches me to follow the golden rule by her example. She teaches me to be honest in all I do and say. She says to not say can't because you can always find a solution to your problem. Another thing she says is she is allergic to whining, and it hurts her ears. This makes me want to think more positively and not to complain. What a great role model she is!

If all the reasons listed above do not convince you that my Grandma Trena should be the AARP South Dakota Grandparent of the Year, then you need to meet her. In fact, I think it should really be called the spectacular or phenomenal AARP South Dakota Grandparent of the Year because that is what my grandma is and so much more. She is caring, unique, and a great example to me and to everyone I know.

Emma Vandembark

Colome Consolidated School District