

AARP South Dakota grandparent of the year
by Bella Maxwell, Madison, SD

My grandmother deserves to win the AARP award because of all the important things about life she has taught me. My Grandma Pat and I spend lots of time together because we only live one street apart. She is like my second mother. The activities my sisters and I do with my Grandma Pat are: riding bikes, baking, gardening, and playing softball. My Grandma Pat is different from most grandmas because we don't just have fun, we do important things like visiting elderly people, raising and donating money to charities, and taking care of the earth.

Over the summer my Grandma, three sisters, and I had a lemonade stand. It was different from other lemonade stands because we raised the money to donate to Mission Haiti. We also made baked goods and donated them to the church to raise money for an orphanage in Guatemala. My Grandma knows lots of elderly people and she takes us along to visit them because she says they enjoy visiting with kids. We usually take them a flower arrangement from the flowers she grows in her garden. We also deliver Meals on Wheels to people to help make sure they get at least one meal a day. One of my favorite activities with Grandma Pat is when she takes my three sisters, cousin, and me biking at the state park. The beautiful scenery, the brilliant, clear blue lake, the wind whipping through our hair as we bike, but my favorite part is when my grandma points out all the birds and flowers, and we all laugh.

On the last day of summer, right before we go back to school, Grandma Pat lets my three sisters, my cousin, and I each invite one of our best friends and we have a back to school party. This year Grandma Pat took us to a water park. We made her go down the huge black slide and we laughed as she screamed her head off. Then she made us go down and I remember screaming as I slid into the black, dark tube then out into the sunlight plunging down faster and faster until I hit the bottom of the pool making a big splash. I can still hear my grandma laughing.

Thanks to my Grandma Pat I have learned a lot of important life lessons, we have tons of fun doing it, and no matter how busy she is she always makes time for me. This is why I think she should be the AARP grandparent of the year.