Every Tuesday, Ann Egeland puts on a hip outfit and goes back to school. It’s not that she’s fashion-conscious, but as a former teacher and current volunteer with Public & School Partnership’s community and senior volunteer program, she knows: Seventh grade girls notice everything. She loves them for it. “I absolutely adore seventh and eighth graders,” she said. “They’re still little kids and they’re trying so hard to crack the shell to be adolescents. … If we can help by making the school a little more friendly, I think that would help.” Egeland is one of many volunteers with the Public & School Partnership, which recently became part of the Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University. PSP focuses on providing services to underserved and at-risk populations in Northern Utah by helping them access resources, especially those needed for educational success. The program utilizes full time AmeriCorps VISTA Members, as well as community and senior volunteers, to bolster programs and provide services in local schools and community centers.

Ann Egeland serving at Mountain Crest High School. “That way we don’t overburden them with volunteers, but we give our entire group time to serve with them.” Last year they helped Sub for Santa. “It was an incredible opportunity to see firsthand the impact we were able to have with the families involved with it,” Webb said. Egeland enjoys seeing the impact of her work on individual students. The former educator is there for the girl or boy who quietly struggles in the back of the room over a math assignment, and she knows what they need. They don’t need to feel stupid in front of their teacher or peers or family members. They just need a friend to help them with math. “The best pay you can get is when they have that ‘Aha!’ moment when they get it, and they know they can handle it,” Egeland said. “It’s wonderful. I really look forward to it.” For more information on the Public School Partnership, or to find out how to get involved.