

# 'She was a very special lady'

Yorkville mom tutored  
prison inmates, taught  
her kids that love wins

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YORKVILLE — Dorina Nelson will never forget the woman who taught her to read and write English when Nelson, an immigrant from Romania, was adjusting to life in America.

Marlyn Schaefer, a retired Racine County welfare administrator, devoted an entire year to meeting Nelson inside a public library two nights a week — free of charge.



**Schaefer**

Although they were 30 years apart in age, the two women forged a bond and became friends, as Schaefer offered other assistance to her young protege, such as cooking tips.

"She was a very special lady to me," Nelson said. "And she was special to the community."

Schaefer, a wife and mother who raised nine children in the family home on Durand Avenue, also volunteered as a tutor inside the Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center, a state prison for