



# Quarterly

A Publication of the 19th Ward Youth Foundation  
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AUGUST 2018

## Smith Village resident, author encourages parents to support young readers

For many years, Jane Hurley made her home on Air Force bases and in small villages in Germany, Italy and England. In these places, she raised her six children—Ellen, Jane Ann, William, Michael, Patrick and Matthew—while her husband, William, served in the Air Force. William Hurley, now deceased, eventually retired as a brigadier general.

As a mother, Jane Hurley always regarded reading essential to her children's education—no matter where her family was living. As a retired educator and author, she hopes to encourage parents to foster a love of reading that will serve children throughout their lives.

Hurley grew up on Chicago's South Side. She earned a bachelor's degree in European History and master's degree in Education from DePaul University, and a second master's degree in Library Science/Research from Chicago State University. In addition to teaching education courses at a U.S. Air Force branch of Troy University (Alabama, USA) in Germany, Hurley taught education at Loyola University Chicago.

With the new school year on the horizon, Hurley offers tips for encouraging children to read:

1. Use formats kids like—whether that's colorful bound picture books, chapter books, children's magazines or a tablet offering access to eBooks and other reading materials.
2. Help children select books and articles about subjects and people they find interesting. Their eagerness to learn more will naturally strengthen reading skills.
3. Give subscriptions to book clubs and magazines as presents.
4. Provide a quiet place or atmosphere for reading and set aside a regular time of the day for relaxation and reading.
5. Make regular trips to your local bookstore and library.
6. Accompany young children to library story time activities.
7. Encourage children to discuss and share books with their friends. Encourage them to join or form a book discussion club for young readers.
8. If you belong to a book discussion group, suggest the group read and discuss a children's selection and invite your children to attend.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Hurley and her husband authored books about U.S. history for elementary schools that were distributed nationwide. For example, *Afro-Americans: Then and Now*, published in 1969, featured profiles about Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, Chicago's first permanent resident; Percy Julian, one of the most influential chemists in American history; Ethel Waters, singer and actress; and Gwendolyn Brooks, poet laureate of Illinois.

Hurley and her family eventually settled in Oak Park and later Palos Heights. She moved to Smith Village in December 2016. One of her favorite pastimes is conversing with fellow residents over dinner. She also enjoys flower arranging, watching movies, attending musical events. She attends daily rosary sessions at Smith Village.

Four of Hurley's children live nearby and visit frequently. She has 11 grandchildren.

About Smith Village

Smith Village is sponsored by Smith Senior Living, a not-for-profit organization serving older adults since 1924. The life plan community, located at 2320 W. 113th Place in Beverly Morgan Park, provides spacious residences and engaging programs



*Smith Village resident Jane Hurley, a retired educator and author, encourages parents to foster a love of reading in their children. She also enjoys flower arranging. Photo by Smith Village*

for independent living, as well as assisted living, memory support and skilled nursing care. Smith Village also offers short-term rehabilitation services for residents and others requiring assistance after surgery or a medical incident. For more information, call 773-474-7300 or visit [SmithVillage.org](http://SmithVillage.org).