

## Karen Vandenberg

Spanish  
Computer Literacy



My husband and I were missionaries in Costa Rica from 1984 – 1991. With the support of Christian Reformed World Missions and many family and friends, we worked on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, in a squatter community to start a church and train leaders to be pastors, elders, deacons, and lay ministers. Two of our three children were born in Costa Rica, the oldest was just one year old when we arrived for language school in 1984. In 1991, we returned to Martin, Michigan, a rural community south of Grand Rapids, and enrolled our children in a small Christian elementary school where I taught Spanish for 6 years. When our oldest started High School, I began teaching in the high school. I taught HS Spanish levels 1-4, computer literacy, basic art, and accounting. Along with teaching classes at the Parent Teacher Co-op, I am currently working for Kalamazoo RESA as an educational interpreter, assisting with communication between Spanish speaking families and teachers/therapist. I also do free-lance interpreting and translating for area schools. I also do a little Photography on the side, including weddings, portraits, stock photos photo montage slide shows and I design products using my photos for my store with zazzle.com. I love my husband of 28 years, my 3 grown children and my 3 grandchildren. I enjoy photography, art, and traveling. I love Jesus and I find such great joy in living my life for Him. I believe that God has given talents to each of His children, and that incredible joy is discovered in developing and using those gifts in His Kingdom. I like this quote by Erma Bombeck: “When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me' “.