

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

The definition of the word 'Community':

1. a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.  
"a rural community"
2. a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.  
"the sense of community that organized religion can provide"

I was carrying a very warm feeling with me as this past week came to a close. The feeling came from the word 'community'. This week our community was doing what it does all year long – coming together to help make the world a better place for groups or individuals.

The culmination of our week (Mike, my husband and I) was the Christmas Cantata in its abbreviated form performed at Waters Edge. Looking at the choir and seeing the faces of many friends bring joy to the residents, families and friends gave me goose bumps. The twinkle in the eyes of Dot, Paula, Nina, Ann, Dawn and Madeline and many others– such talented people – all giving and caring.

Did I mention that the Packers won on Sunday? Also on Sunday, Sue Hudson took on an extra shift at the Thrift Shop – just in case there were shoppers out and about.

Prior to that I had stopped at the McCormick House where Darlene Kirchdorfer was hosting a traditional Christmas gathering for children with hot chocolate, stories and songs. I had not been in McCormick House since former owner and dear friend Jeff Miller passed away and had been purchased by the DeYoung family. It is still beautiful and elegant with beautiful splashes of Kelly green accents. McCormick House is a community treasure.

The night before, Saturday, (I am going back thru the week), Bob Hammond, owner of The Boulevard, and Jill Martin hosted a party for the Northwoods Humane Society. Chippewa Bank provided funds for appetizers, Stacy Hughes shared her beautiful voice bringing holiday songs to the event. A huge sculpture of a French bull dog and a painting by Wendy Hedin were donated for a silent auction. It was a full house of animal lovers and fans of The Boulevard. Shirley Wallace took off her beautiful felted bracelet and gave it to me – that was so special!

During the afternoon on Saturday, the NHS Shelter held an open house. Supporters brought toys and treats for the animals and eight kittens were adopted! People from the community were there volunteering and caring.

Friday at noon I had the opportunity to have lunch with my mother-in-law, Dorothy and her friends Bunny Fischer and Dorothy Crandall at Waters Edge. Very fun ladies to be with. Community volunteers were so welcoming as was the staff.

Following lunch I met with Pat Brummel, Georgia Frye and Eileen Brossard at the library for our monthly book discussion – this time it was "The Storyteller" which took place in India. The book offered a rich description look at the culture of India as seen through the eyes of an American young woman. Next we

are reading "One Thousand White Women". If you would like to join us please give us a call – we gather on the second Friday at 1:30 each month. You can feel a sense of 'community' throughout the library.

Thursday night was an early meeting with Shirley Armstrong, Donna Post and Lori Butala at the Out of Woods Winery to plan a community gathering for NHS on February 13 and 14 – our second annual Tour of Tastes for NHS. Lori and I stopped at the Steakhouse on the way home for a beverage and we found the dining room full of WOWs and their spouses celebrating. These women are outdoor 'girls' that hike, snowshoe, kayak, walk..... They just signed up their 200<sup>th</sup> member. We are blessed with groups that are embracing to new 'community' members.

Wednesday night was the annual Holiday Thrift Shop party at our home. I love this group of people and I know that there are many that I would not know if it were for our common bond of caring about animals in need.

Tuesday I was suppose to do several things and they were cancelled because of the snow. Monday was suppose to be a meeting with Kathy Begay to plan an art opening at Out of The Woods followed by the CHARAC annual meeting. The snow took control and both were postponed. Instead, Mike and I stayed home, built a fire, played Rumikin, stuffed some olives and had a martini. It was a wonderful evening. Thus is life in the north woods.

Our community is rich, full of energy, embracing, full of hopefulness and committed to those that live here full time or part time or just passing through to step up when there is a need and to enjoy being part of a wonderful community.

Dates to Save: February 13 and February 14 – Tour of Tastes – Out of The Woods Winery