



## Learning is Lifelong! So many Good People and Projects.....

It has been a month since I started at the Marshfield Area Community Foundation as the new Executive Director and introduced myself to you. My two teenagers are headed back to the fall term at their respective colleges. As you recall, Matt is a sophomore at the Rhode Island School of Design, and Kate is starting her freshman year at Bowdoin College. I see the excitement they are feeling as they undertake new endeavors, and I am glad that we raised two independent young adults that are excited to begin new adventures in their life, learning new things. I am reminded that you are never too old to learn new things. It's been a busy month for me; there is so much to learn at the Community Foundation!

The foundation's mission statement: "Connecting people who care with causes that matter to enrich the quality of life in the Marshfield area" really comes to life each day at the Foundation. I am beginning to meet the people who have worked to start the funds that have been used for so many worthwhile community projects. Marsh-21 was formed fifteen years ago, recognizing a need for adequate sports and recreation facilities that could be used for competition. During these years many people have been involved with fundraising, planning, and implementing of their projects including Scotty Berg, Scott Scheuer, Dave Tiffany Gene Delisio, Mona Giffith, Jim Krueger, and Gordy Adler. This group has raised money for Griese Soccer Fields, Steven J. Miller Park, Jack Hackman Field, Reeths Field, and G. P. Olson Fields. They are also responsible for the fundraising to buy many enhancements at these parks. They have purchased new scoreboards, wind stops, fencing, bicycle racks, soccer goals, spectator bleachers, playing field lights, batting cages, concession stands, restrooms, the press box building, a sound system, an irrigation system, and landscaping. Marsh-21 is now working to make a system of bike trails connecting Stevens Point, Wausau, and Marshfield a reality. The group continues to fundraise for other improvements at the baseball fields and is looking at ways to build more soccer fields, due to the loss of those fields on Walnut Avenue. The work Marsh-21 does is essential to the quality of life in Marshfield.

If you'd like to be a part of all the good things the Marsh-21 does you can make a contribution. Please send it to: Marshfield Area Community Foundation at PO Box 456 Marshfield, WI 54449. The Marsh-21 and the many people associated with it are just the tip of the proverbial iceberg - there are so many admirable people and worthy projects going on here in the Marshfield area. I am humbled to learn of all of their good work.

Amber Kiggens-Leifheit is the Executive Director of the Marshfield Area Community Foundation. Her column appears monthly in the News-Herald.

