



Fall: A Time of New Beginnings and Goal Setting

Fall is my favorite time of year. I love the crisp mornings, the amazing color display, and the sound of geese flying south. It is also a time for leaves falling from trees, flowers dying. Even so, it is a time of new beginnings. I think this is probably because of the association with starting a new school year, a time for a fresh start, a time to set new goals.

For me personally, it is a time for new beginnings. My husband and I are now empty nesters and learning to deal with all that that entails. It is quiet at our house, too quiet. I always enjoyed the sounds of my teenagers coming and going, their friends, the phone constantly ringing, dinner together, and hearing about their days. I have new responsibilities with my school board position and my job at the Marshfield Community Foundation. I have always been big on setting goals (I never do New Year's resolutions, however) and have found that communication is my number one goal this new year-communicating with my grown children at college (I've learned to send text messages!), communicating with my husband, helping the school district communicate to the community and helping more people learn about the good things happening at the Community Foundation .

Each fall the Foundation hosts a Friends of the Foundation Community Grants Reception to announce our Community Grants recipients and to honor our fund holders. This year we are celebrating 15 years of caring in the Marshfield area. The Community Grants provide seed money for new programs, projects, and events that respond to area needs including education, recreation, the arts, social services, conservation, and community development. A portion of the grant money is earmarked for senior citizen programs and the new Women's Giving Circle has reviewed grants that reach out to help women and children. This year we had more grant requests than ever before. Sixteen different organizations asked for a total of \$83,325 support. We were able to fund 7 of those requests for \$7,725.00. As you can imagine, there are many worthy projects, all with significant need, but not enough funds to be able to fund them all.

That's how you can help. Please consider giving a donation to the Forever Fund, so we can continue to fund community grant requests. Donations may be sent to MACF at PO Box 456, Marshfield, WI 54449.



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