

Connecting Communities

A newsletter from Better Together and the Community Connector Team at ODC

A Story Worth Watching

Because Life's A Stage



If you saw LeAnn's story on the Hallmark Channel, it probably wouldn't surprise you. Her family moved from the city and she grows up on a Christmas Tree Farm. After 20 years on the farm, she realizes it's time to head back to the city. LeAnn packs up, leaving the tall standing pines behind. As she settles into her new surroundings, she runs into an old friend. Not only does he live in her apartment building- he's right across the hall. Hallmark themselves couldn't have written it any better. Twenty years dissipate as LeAnn and Haran pick up right where they left off.

Like any great Holiday-season story, LeAnn felt something was missing in her life. She was searching for a connection. This is a story about finding, and doing the things that you love. LeAnn has an incredible passion for the Performing Arts. This love led LeAnn straight to the big white doors of The Grand Theater in Downtown Wausau. Like so many other theater stories, LeAnn's didn't come as easy as she'd hoped. Busy work schedules and hectic theater schedules kept LeAnn from being able to be as involved as she'd hoped she'd be. With the help of a Community Connector and Haran at her side, she focused on her other passions. In stepping back, she realized she really enjoyed getting out, participating in community events and meeting new people.

Then, it happened. The phone call LeAnn had been waiting for. A call for a volunteer opportunity at The Grand Theater. With a Community Connector by her side, she walked into the theater with anticipation and a smile from ear to ear. LeAnn entered the office to meet with the director. The Director only had ten minutes with a full schedule and the day's obligations ahead. LeAnn's passion and excitement was so impressive that half an hour later, the director couldn't tear herself away from this experience. Like any great holiday Hallmark movie, LeAnn's story ends happily. From leaving the life she knew so well, to rekindling an old friendship to the ups and downs of finally getting involved in what she's always wanted, LeAnn's story continues to be written.

SHOUT OUT!

Community Connections would like to give a big shout out to Heather Sairs from Nekoosa Community Center for donating her time, and space at the Center to hold our November Craft Event! We would also like to thank all other donors that helped make this event a success; the City of Nekoosa, Piggly Wiggly, Katie-Did, Let's Create!, Home Depot, and the ODC Public Relations team.

Join COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS for an hour of BINGO, prizes and snacks!
Have some old-fashioned fun where everyone is welcome, no special skills are required and you can meet and get to know people in your community!

SATURDAY 1-2PM | **DECEMBER 9TH**
MCMILLIAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY
490 E. GRAND AVE WIRAPIDS

FIND US ON THE SECOND FLOOR MEDIA ROOM!

Community Events and Activities

Marshfield

Christmas Craft Show
Saturday, Dec. 16th 9am-3pm
Central Wisconsin State Fairgrounds
513 East 17th Street

Merrill

T. B. Scott Free Library
Edible Gingerbread House Craft
Tuesday, Dec. 5th @ 3:30pm-5pm

Stevens Point

Annual Winter Makers Market
Saturday, Dec. 9th @ 1 pm
Central Rivers Farmshed
1220 Briggs Ct

YMCA

Adaptive Recreation Holiday Dance
Saturday, December 16, 2023
6:00-8:30PM in the Y main gym.

Wausau

Monk Botanical Gardens
Crafts and Cocoa
1st and 3rd Tuesdays Dec.-April
5pm-7pm

Wisconsin Rapids

McMillian Library Movie Monday
Monday, Dec. 11 @ 1:30pm & 6pm
Showing: Barbie

BINGO!

For more information on how Community Connection can support you, please contact

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Sing for Fun with Santha

A Story of How Music Unites Us

“Singing is joyful. Sharing in the experience of singing is even more so. What started decades ago as a funded program, Very Special Arts (similar to Special Olympics), has now become a volunteer-based program that continues to bring people of all abilities together to share in the joy of music and friendship. Santha Bickford is currently leading the Sing for Fun program that happens every second Thursday of the month. It is held at the Stevens Point Lincoln Center, also known as the Aging Disability Resource Center (ADRC), from 7-8pm. Since the COVID pandemic, the number of participants has been down, but Santha and the team of volunteers are hopeful to encourage more people to join. When asked what Santha enjoys most about the Sing for Fun program, she responded, “You can be having a hard day and go in feeling down, but you always come out feeling better!”

For more information you are welcome to contact Santha at santha.bickford@gmail.com or give her a call at 715-340-5501.

Upcoming Better Together Events

In January 2024 Sentry will sponsor a curling event at the Curling Club.

February's game night will be sponsored by Delta Dental of Wisconsin.

If you or your organization would like to sponsor an event with friends in Better Together, reach out to Sami today!

More than Painting

Why Together is Better

When Amanda was paired with her new friend Abby, Abby said that something she really wanted to do together was PAINT! So Amanda took to social media and asked around to see if anyone would have ideas for painting in the area...and her old friend, Jessi Betz of Platinum Mountain Designs, reached out and offered to lead a whole painting class for the Better Together group. Amanda and her husband of J&R Auto (detailing, mechanical, and minor body work) along with Pingel Brothers Excavation & Grain Handling volunteered to sponsor this event. Because of their ideas and generosity, we hosted 22 friends to paint turkeys, share snacks, and enjoy each other's company on November 16 at our ODC Berkshire building. This is a true example of how Together is Better because so many community members offered to support something meaningful, which goes way beyond painting...this is the community we are building, TOGETHER!



Better Together Contact

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