Humanity in Motion

February 2012                                    A Publication of the Rotary Clubs of Gallatin and Park Counties                                Volume 4, Number 4

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A Glorious Life:
Donna Daems

By Lauri Olsen

Movies and books are filled with superheroes, those larger-than-life personalities with special powers. Donna Daems doesn’t wear a cape and tights, but she is one of Bozeman’s superheroes. Dynamic, determined and devoted, Donna has the power to transform community needs into results.

“I’m not afraid to ask for money for a project,” the 84-year-old woman laughs. “One man called me ‘the Beggar of Bozeman’. He suggested that when I die, they can write on my tombstone, ‘She’s dead. You can finally put your wallet away.’ He’s right. I’ll always ask.”

“I love this community. Bozeman is always giving, always sharing, always caring. You can’t live in a community and not really live in it. You have to give back. There’s where I am. At the end of each day, I look back on the day’s events and I think, have I completed what I should’ve done for the day? Have I reached out?”

Reached out, she has. Working with the VFW and the American Legion, collecting funds for projects associated with homeless veterans and with low-income families, Donna’s enthusiasm never waivers.

Part of Donna’s giving spirit is credited to her strong faith.

“I attribute my basic lifestyle and understanding of life to my Catholic education. I was really caught up in a life of caring and being cared for. You accepted what they told you, you lived by their rules, and for my whole lifetime, it has been the beacon that I live by. The priests and sisters were strong men and women, and I was encouraged to be a person that probably I never would’ve been had I not been there. It’s all in the way a person accepts things. I didn’t argue with the nuns; I went along with them. If they found fault with what I did, I accepted their criticism. You can get along and learn from your experience. This is a beacon I live by. This year, I received a Christmas greeting from Archbishop Hunthausen of Seattle. He said three things to remember each day are Be kind, be kind, be kind.”

Kindness is one of Donna’s many strengths. She and her group of volunteers provided 800 home-made Christmas stockings this year for low-income children. Filled with candy, cookies, and goodies, the stockings were donated to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank and distributed to families.

Last year, Donna was part of a nationwide effort to send chocolate to U.S. troops in Afghanistan. With help from the local VFW and American Legion, the candy arrived in time for Christmas.

In 2007, Donna was awarded the prestigious Alexandar J. Brunett Medal for Social Justice. Prior to that she served on Judge W. Lessley’s Youth Advisory Committee as part of a supervisory group for detention homes and in the selection of foster care homes for youth.

Donna helped organize the Loyalty Day patriotic observance on May 1 with a free spaghetti dinner.

“My motto is ‘Faith, Friends, Family,’” Donna says. “My life has been good. I’ve had adversity, I’ve had fabulous, I’ve lived – really lived – in this community.”

Born in Plentywood, Donna and her family moved to Bismarck when she was small.

“It was the Depression. Times were tough. My step-father wanted to relocate to Bozeman, where he did haying for Ernest Monforton out at Gateway. When they had saved $11 for a train ticket, they sent for me and I moved from Bismarck to Bozeman. I started here at Holy Rosary in the sixth grade. We lived in the poorest conditions, but I never felt poor. I never felt like I wasn’t as good as somebody else.”

Continued page 3
Calendars of Events

Humanity in Motion in Bozeman Sunrise Club
Weekly Tuesday weekly delivery of Ideas on Wheels to seniors in the community
February 23 Founders Day of Bozeman Sunrise Rotary
April 28th Lay Overhaul Magic Show – Brick Breeden Fieldhouse sponsored by the Lions Club, Nissi Rotary Club
April 29th - Book Give away from Sunshine Rotarians to all 2nd graders in local schools
May 20th Kids Fishing Day at East Gallatin Recreation Area – on a Saturday

Donna Daems Continued from page 1
Donna was inauspicious even as a young girl. ’I did the office work for the nurse at school. I really appreciated the relationship that I had with them. When I was in eighth grade, they wanted me to go into the teaching ranks, I think as an opportunity for a baby on the way.’ Donna had a baby girl.
Giving in the Gallatin

By Lauri Olsen

Former First Lady Barbara Bush once said, “Some of the most beautiful creations of the human heart are things that we do quietly, with money, some of their skills and whatever other resources we have, giving their lives’ blood. But everyone has something to give.”

Few communities reflect a culture of giving better than the Gallatin Valley area. Whether it is through local charitable organizations, non-profit foundations, or through regular giving, Bozeman has claimed its place as a leader in philanthropy. Nonprofit organizations, and thousands of generous individuals and families, contribute to the community in myriad ways.

Contributors have enriched the cultural life of the community and continue to benefit both local residents and visitors to our area.

The world-class Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman grew into a second season, in 1979. As opera and ballet exploded onto the Gallatin Valley’s stage, the museum housed a generous variety of exhibits and a rotating collection of art that riched the cultural life of the community. It now supports both local residents and the broader Gallatin Valley. Organizations that receive monies from a Bozeman family’s foundation house patients in a hospital and outpatient facility, and benefit charitable organizations whose mission is to empower adults with disabilities to learn these skills and achieve independence. In 2006, the organization’s mission is to empower adults with disabilities to learn these skills and achieve independence. The organization’s newest residential facility for adults with disabilities whom they serve to attain their individual potential and aspirations.

Bozeman’s Museum of the Rockies is a vital part of downtown Bozeman. In addition to the huge restoration that took place in 2006, the museum houses a variety of art and artifacts. The building, a gift from a Bozeman family’s foundation, Bozeman has an in-depth understanding of the museum’s unique identity.

By 1998, the ink of the museum’s opening is still on its walls in the museum’s reception. By 1998, the ink of the museum’s opening is still on its walls in the museum’s reception. "I have to know the correct name and proposed use of kitchen utensils can present a challenge. Learning independent living skills is easier.

This is important, for many reasons. They have so much to offer.

In giving with caution, he chipped his lip together and shook his head firmly. The image was painted, and he was ready with a stretched canvas. Some do, most do not. A lady is easily identifiable. A woman in a long, black dress. The person, however, knowing the correct name and proposed use of kitchen utensils can present a challenge. Learning independent living skills is easier.

From Ordinary days to Extraordinary Lives

REACH, INC.
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Warming Center

By Lauri Olsen

Look around you, see that elderly man in the suit across the street? How about the young mom scurrying into the store with a little kid hanging on her hand? And what about the female in the Salvation Army ski hat and dolls? They all have something in common. They’re homeless. The Salvation Army centers across Montana operate every night from 7:00 p.m. through 7:00 a.m. to house the homeless and keep them off the streets. Numerous other nonprofit organizations in the Glacier and Gallatin valleys operate warming centers. Here’s how:

The Gallatin Valley is fortunate to have an organization in Bozeman called the Gallatin Solid Waste Management District to help track recycling and recycling rates. The Solid Waste Management District is helpful in organizations at the very small end and in the very large end of the spectrum, both in the community and in the classroom. The Solid Waste Management District offers programs to help citizens recyclers separate their recyclables and provide a visual guide to the recyclables that can be accepted. For more information, call Bowman at 582-2431 or visit www.gallatinwmd.com.

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The Bozeman Warming Center is open every night from 7:00 p.m. through 7:00 a.m. for families against winter’s sub zero temperatures. The warming center provides a shelter for the people who are homeless and leaves icy cold and life threatening temperatures outside. The Gallatin County Solid Waste Management District offers recycling programs at the local level. For more information, contact Bowman at 582-2431 or visit www.gallatinwmd.com.

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