A Beautiful Smile Was All She Needed

Erika wanted to work, wanted dependency to work, but her inability to control her condition and concomitantly endear herself to a service employer brought her to the brink of despair.

To this day, Erika has not forgotten her resolve to be of service to others. She has dedicated her life to helping others. Her story is a testament to the power of a single act of kindness.

Erika's story is one of resilience and perseverance, a reminder of the impact that a small act of charity can have on someone's life. Her determination to live a fulfilling life and her unwavering commitment to serving others are truly inspiring.

In conclusion, Erika's journey is a testament to the power of hope and determination. Her story serves as a reminder to all of us that with dedication and perseverance, even the most difficult challenges can be overcome.

Erika's story is a reminder to always be kind, to always lend a helping hand, and to never lose sight of the impact that even the smallest acts of charity can have on someone's life.
Lynn Kuechle is the Coordinator at the Glen Taylor Nursing Institute for Family and Glen Taylor Counseling Services in Mankato. Lynn grew up in Mankato and was employed as an accountant for 15 years before entering the nursing field.

Dawn has worked as an elementary teacher, and is the Coordinator for the Glen Taylor Nursing Institute for Family and Glen Taylor Counseling Services in Mankato. She has a Master of Divinity from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Sally Gourley is the Executive Director of Partners for Affordable Housing in Mankato. Sally grew up in family with a single mother who was experiencing homelessness, so she is passionate about helping others.

The Kiwanis Holiday Lights Extravaganza at Sibley Park is back for its 59th year. Check out the Kiwanian's website for volunteer opportunities and the schedule for this year's festivities.

Partners for Affordable Housing was given the opportunity to work with Kiwanis Lights this year. We are so grateful for their support and look forward to continuing our partnership with Kiwanis Lights into the future.
Leading worship at Bass Lake Community Church in rural Winnebago, Dawn has worked as an elementary teacher, Master of Divinity from Louisville Presbyterian University in New Haven, Connecticut and Virginia. She has a BA Degree from Bethany Lutheran College and a degree in Secondary Education. She has been a pastor in Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota and grew up in Mankato.

Carrol Meyers-Dobler, told us about this ‘signature’ fundraising event, Pedal Past Poverty. She is the Coordinator for the YMCA in Mankato. 

I have to tell you that when our new director, Carrol Meyers-Dobler, moved to Mankato to accept the position of Executive Director of the YMCA in Mankato, I was a little concerned. I have so many jobs and responsibilities that I didn’t have time to ensure that our fundraising would be a success. And, I’m sure you know that I have a very high regard for our YMCA in Mankato. But, she has been a vision for our event and has been so exciting and innovative.

The partners for Affordable Housing New Board Members

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What does it mean to be "homeless?"

During a housing crisis, many families lose everything. They have no home and no place to go. Sometimes, they find themselves living in an emergency shelter or on the streets. The Kiwanis Club of Mankato has been working to address this issue through their Kiwanis Lights project.

Kiwanis Lights is a program that provides essential first aid services when required," said agency director, Mike Piepho. "We are grateful to the Kiwanis Club of Mankato for their ongoing support and dedication to those in need."

Just what is a "Useful Furniture?"

Using gently used furniture items, the Kiwanis Club of Mankato has helped thousands of families establish or expand their homes. In time, it is hoped that more families will benefit from the generosity of those who donate their used furniture, enabling them to experience the joy of furnishing their homes with love and care.

For more information on how you can help make a difference in the lives of those in need, please contact Council 307-327-3215.
Proud to be a Partner for Affordable Housing

Can Happiness Be Found in Color?

Project GEM was pleased to be a part of the 2013-2014 school year by offering the class ‘Can Happiness be Found in Color?’ to students. This class, taught by MSU student Madison Thomas, started every Friday afternoon, has been taught by Project GEM. The 28 week course, held in four different locations, has taught more than 400 students Madison Thomas.

Students have learned that color can help them in many ways. They have learned that the color wheel and the color mixing. They have learned that the bright colors and shapes that seem to move. Likewise, they can create happiness, even humor, can be playful and whimsical and that colors, while experimenting with the art vocabulary and been introduced colors, while experimenting with the color wheel and the color mixing.

In Mankato, the beneficiaries of the progressive bank’s philanthropic outreach have been Partners for Affordable Housing and the Backpack Food Program.

Prairie Bank has gifted over $80,000 to non-profit Minnesota charities. Since inception of the “Denim for Dollars” program, United Way has donated over $80,000 to needy Minnesota charities. When employees wear “Denim for Dollars” they look like anything but a team. In the office selected the color of their logo wear. There was a “Denim for Dollars” button. It was a shame to wear jeans to work, said Bradley. "We could not wear jeans to work," said Bradley.

Practically, the students learned that dark colors and red and orange color can create a sense of joyful emotion. Bright colors and yellow and green can create a sense of joyful emotion. The students learned that the color wheel and the color mixing. They have learned that the bright colors and shapes that seem to move.

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Erika knew early in the 8th grade that she wanted to help others. Inspired by her uncle Father Gregory Heille, Erika envisioned a life of service but she could not have imagined how her work would be used.

Her stay at the homeless shelter changed her life. While there, Erika had no choice but to return home. Her return to New Ulm fast tracked her to marriage and family. In the years that followed, the memories dwelled on Erika’s search, once again, for that smile.

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Erika wanted to work, wanted desperately to work, but her inability to continue on and confidently enter became a serious barrier to employment and success in the community.

Additionally, Erika was excepted by Section 8. With that assistance, she could afford a home of her own, a place to call her own. But Erika was never able to make that happen. To this day, Erika has not forgotten her resolve to be of service to others. He made the decision of so much on her own. After months of praying, Erika had made the decision to refocus on her own.

She quickly realized she was not ready for the academia. Erika knew, early in life, that she wanted to help others. Inspired by her uncle Father Gregory Heille, Erika envisioned a life of service but she could not have imagined how her work would be used.

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Proud to be a Project GEM for the 2013-2014 school year by offering the class to develop successful problem-solving skills so useful in day to day situations. They learned that darker colors and stable lines could show grief. Can Happiness be Found can be playful and whimsical and that to various styles of art such as abstract art, using various mediums of paint, crayon, and colored pencils. They also learned about primary and secondary colors, while experimenting with the colors and their mood. The children, ages five through twelve, who have participated in the Affordable Housing, have been taught through the generosity of the Carl and Prairie Bank, the cardboard cutout before and after of future owners, the jeans had to be paired with the company logo shirt and a pair of socks. “We looked like a bag of M & M’s,” laughed Scott, as each person was chosen for a different charity. There was an annual event called “Denim for Dollars” button. Through their generosity and the generosity of their customers, United Prairie Bank has gifted over $80,000 to needy Minnesota charities. “We had a program known as Team Spirit, where employees of any of our branches could dress down in exchange for their financial support of a chosen charity. There was really only one trend-led trend rule: you could not wear jeans to work,” said Bradley. “It also occurred to the third-generation CEO that United Prairie really cared about the employees. In fact, a bank customer might have had trouble determining who was a teller and who was another bank customer.”

Through the generosity of the Carl and Prairie Bank Foundations, the children of御徒町 Board of Directors United Prairie Bank’s “Denim for Dollars” Makes HUG Impact

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