

Connecting People Who Care with Causes That Matter

According to Edward Hallowell, author of a book titled "*Connections*", Americans are excellent at achieving and succeeding. He says it is what we do best, but we are woefully deficient in connecting with one another. And, Hallowell goes on to say, "*It is connections that sustain us - that give our lives meaning.*"

I think you would agree with me that Chippewa County abounds in great connectors and great connections. Just look around - in every corner of our county we are thankful for productive and life-giving connections. A few examples: Bloomer's impressive Walking Park and Outdoor Classroom that came about because of connections between the Women's Club, city government, schools and community-minded individuals; the Cornell Food Pantry connecting volunteers, local churches, youth groups, and businesses to help their vulnerable neighbors; the United Way of Chippewa County effectively and efficiently bringing together the resources of hundreds of people to meet critical needs of thousands. And we could go on . . . and on . . . and on.

Here at the Community Foundation, caring people not only from Chippewa County, but from throughout the United States, connect as donors to funds that support dozens of causes near to their hearts related to environment, education, youth, senior citizens, the arts, etc. Most recently, the Marching Forward Campaign has connected generations, public and private schools, businesses, musicians, and athletes in a huge project that will benefit the Chippewa Falls area for decades to come. We continue to be amazed at the vast expressions of concern and donations since the fatal 2005 bus crash that connected the hearts of America to Chippewa Falls' students and music.

The Community Foundation exists to serve the donors and nonprofits of Chippewa County, and has experienced yet another rewarding year of connections. We are blessed to have so many people who care, and who show they care by connecting their generous gifts of time and money with important causes that improve the quality of life for all—now and forever. One thing I love about the Community Foundation is that it can connect **everyone** who cares. From the \$10 gift to the \$10 million gift—each gift is valued. Endowment gifts are invested for growth and last forever, connecting generating with income for grants to help local nonprofits sustain and improve our quality of life.

Another connection that could unleash tremendous power relates to how wealth will be transferred from one generation to the other. Research tells us that in Chippewa County alone nearly one billion dollars in family wealth will have been transferred by 2010. How will those dollars be used? If individuals would designate as little as 5% for a charitable endowment, Chippewa County's nonprofits could receive an additional \$2.5 million per year! Wouldn't it be wonderful if people would consider their community as one of their heirs, and include a gift that would leave a lasting legacy, thus connecting their belief in 'giving back' with generations far into the future?!

The Community Foundation of Chippewa County will be celebrating connections Wednesday, September 12th from 5:00 to 6:30 PM at Avalon Conference Center in Chippewa Falls. At this annual Report to the County, we will be thanking all who have demonstrated that they care. We feel it is a privilege to help connect with a future in which the good causes are supported that are so dear to each and every one of you. Come, join us and celebrate these connections that give our lives meaning!

Carol Gienapp, Executive Director
Community Foundation of Chippewa County

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Report to the County
Wednesday, September 12, 2007
5:00 to 6:30 PM
Avalon Conference Center Ballroom
Chippewa Falls
RSVP to 715-723-8125 or email djacobson@comfdncc.org**