



Community & Home Living

EXTENSION HIGHLIGHTS

Jan Madsen Named County/City Volunteer of the Month



Jan Madsen (center) was recognized as the November County/City Volunteer of the Month. With her are her daughter Marta (left) and LaDeane Jha (right) of Lancaster County Extension.

On Oct. 29, Jan Madsen of Lincoln was recognized as the Lancaster County/City of Lincoln Volunteer of the Month for November by the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners.

She is a tireless worker for several Lancaster County Extension programs and always goes the extra mile. She has served as a 4-H leader of the Super Stars 4-H club for 13 years and volunteered at the county and state fairs for many years. She also presents 4-H workshops, is involved with Character Counts!, and co-facilitates Parents Forever classes.

Madsen became a 4-H leader because she fondly remembers the help and individualized attention she received from her 4-H leader when she was in 4-H. She is also motivated by research completed by the SEARCH Institute that states only 27 percent of today's youth feel they have an adult role model to look toward for positive, responsible behavior.

One of her favorite volunteer experiences was when the Super Stars 4-H club did a community service project at the City Mission. Madsen helped the 4-H members prepare a grant in which they asked for items to complete projects in cooking, sewing, leather craft and woodworking. The grant was awarded, and the Super Stars provided weekly activities for the families at the Mission.

In addition to her volunteer work with Extension, Madsen volunteers for Boy Scouts, is active at Sheridan Lutheran church, is a board member for the Northeast Family Center, and serves on many community coalitions.

Madsen often involves her husband, Galen Madsen, and three children, JoHanna, Marta and Hans, in her volunteer projects. She thanks her family for their support. Madsen works full-time as a registered nurse and Perinatal Education Coordinator at Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center.

Congratulations to Jan Madsen, a super volunteer and an asset to the community!

Neighborhoods as Communities of Interest — Part II

William Freitas
Graduate Student

In the first part of this article (see October's edition) interactions as the basis for all communities was discussed. It is through interaction a neighborhood becomes a pleasant, healthy and safe place to live. Interaction means strengthening relationships, having open communication, encouraging community initiative, responsibility and adaptability.

The result of positive interaction is the development of social capital. Social capital is described as networks, norms, and trust that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit.

Social capital can be divided in two elements: bonding social capital and bridging social capital. **BONDING SOCIAL CAPITAL** is the connections among homogenous individuals and groups. Homogeneity may be based principally on class, ethnicity, gender or other social characteristics. **BRIDGING SOCIAL CAPITAL** connects diverse groups within the community to one another and

to groups outside the community. Both kinds of capital are necessary for strong neighborhoods.

Dr. Cornelia Flora presents a very interesting topology of social capital:

- **Absence of Social Capital**

"When a neighborhood engages in involving people from different cultures and backgrounds, it enriches its social capital. Everyone learns from one another and the quality of life in the neighborhood is increased."

—Dr. Cornelia Flora

(bridging low: bonding low) — Neighborhoods without social capital lack the capacity to bring about change. Individuals are alienated from neighborhood issues and as consequence high indices of health problems and crime rates occur.

- **Conflict with the Outside/Internal Factionalism** (bonding high; bridging low) — Neighborhoods with high bonding but low bridging resist changes, view newcomers

with suspicion and have homogenous groups or factions within the community. The consequence is that the neighborhood isolates itself from resources offered by the city and from healthy relationships with other neighborhoods and groups. The neighborhood may be organized against the outside or against itself. The latter case occurs when the homogenous groups are in conflict with one another.

- **External Influence via Local Elites** (bridging high; bonding low) — Some neighborhoods are dominated by one or a few influential families or by elites who have

some degree of control from outside the neighborhood. In extreme cases they may be controlled by Mafias or factions. Power is clearly concentrated in the hands of few who decide for all.

- **Participatory Community Action or Entrepreneurial Social Infrastructure** (bridging and bonding social capital are both high) — Equilibrium between high bonding and high

see *COMMUNITIES* on page 11

Grantsmanship Training Scheduled for 2003

The Grantsmanship Training Program will again be offered to the Lincoln community May 5–9, 2003. The intensive, "hands-on" workshop covers all aspects of researching grants, writing proposals and negotiating with funding sources.

Designed for both novice and advanced grant seekers, the program participants are given follow-up services, including expert grant proposal reviews for a full year following training. To maximize personal attention, the group size for the workshop is limited.

Since 1997, UNL Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County has hosted the Grantsmanship Training Program.



Approximately 100 individuals representing various Lincoln and area agencies have participated to date.

For more information and to

register, as early as possible, contact The Grantsmanship Center directly at (800) 421-9512 or visit online at www.tgci.com. (GB)

Hey Kids! --
Teachers &
Parents too!!



Here's your chance
to enter a fun event!
5th Annual
Aging Services
Intergenerational
Photography Contest

Open to ALL ages, Kindergarten to older folks!
Anyone.....Anywhere!!!

Best of Show, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention prizes by age groups of: K-6, 7-12, and Adult.

Best of Show winner is awarded \$100

For a registration and information packet, call (402) 441-7022 (collect calls accepted).

Think Campus Visit When Preparing for College

The best way to see what the University of Nebraska is like is to make an official campus visit through the office of admissions.

Several easy to schedule opportunities are available.

Red Letter Days for High School Seniors

Nebraska's all-day (8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) open house program is offered to high school seniors and their families. At Red Letter Day, participants have the opportunity to pick

from several group presentations — choosing a major, scholarships, learning communities, financial aid and many more. In addition, there is a chance to attend academic presentations, meet with faculty in your academic interest, have lunch at a residence hall, meet with other prospective students and interact with current students.

Upcoming Red Letter Days are:

- Dec. 6, 2002
- Jan. 24, 2003
- Feb. 7, 2003
- Feb. 17, 2003

High School Junior Visits

High school juniors can schedule a half-day campus visit for any weekday or register to attend a juniors only, all-day, open house NU Preview event.

Daily Campus visits are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday thru Friday and on selected Saturdays.

For more information or to register, visit online at admissions.unl.edu/visit or call the UNL Office of Admissions at 472-2023. (GB)