



Many of us have been fortunate enough to have had a few special people in our lives who have made a lasting, life-long impression on us, even though our time together may have been too short. I truly feel that way about three volunteers who we had the pleasure of working with in our activity department for too short of a time. These ladies have left a lasting impression on myself, my fellow activity staff members and many residents.

A volunteer is a person who freely gives their time, talents, and effort to meet a need, or further a mission, with the attitude of social responsibility, without concern for monetary profit, going beyond one's basic obligation. There are seven characteristics that every great volunteer has in common; that they live by. These seven characteristics are: they have infinite patience, they have a fearless approach, they are creative, they are eager to take initiative, they stay humble about their work, they are driven by passion, and they work in a team. Our three honored volunteers all possessed these qualities, and truly enhanced our lives and the lives of our residents. They are sadly missed, and we remember them often throughout our days; as we see things in our facility that they have made, and lead programs that they were involved with. We lovingly remember their volunteer services that they warmly shared with our staff and our residents.



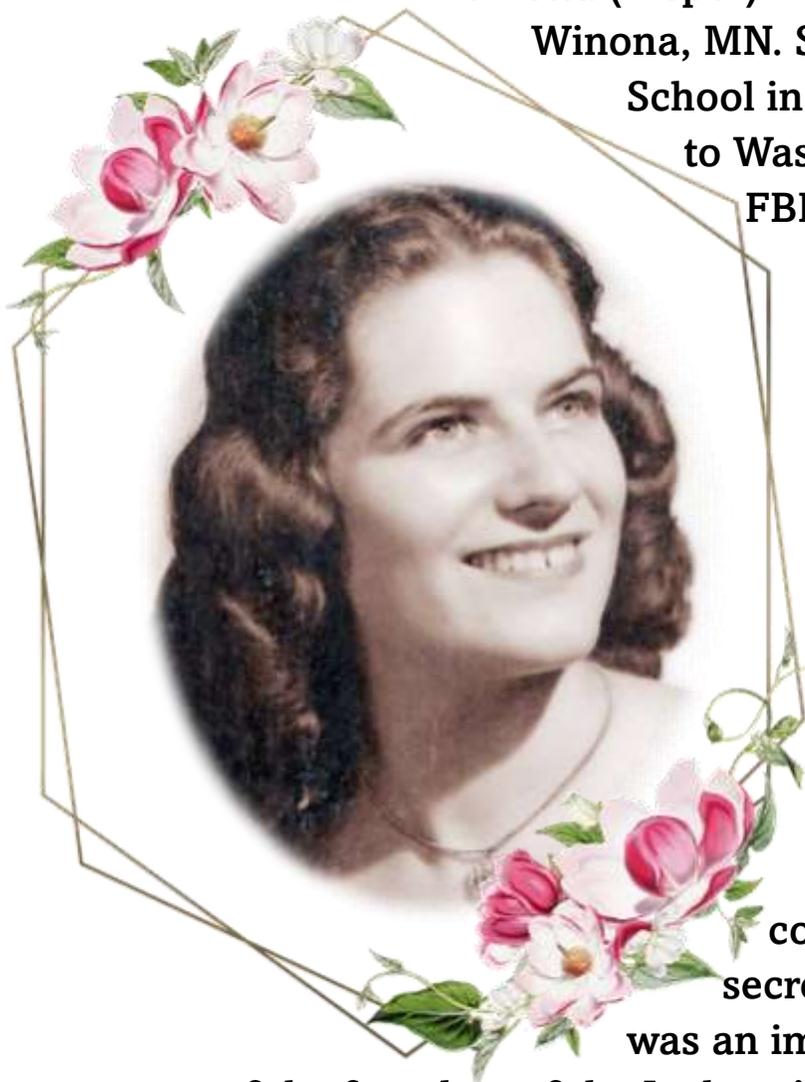
Bonietta Bruner

Bonietta (Pieper) Bruner was born on Oct. 3, 1933 in Winona, MN. She graduated from Viroqua High School in 1951. After graduation she went to Washington, D.C. and worked for the FBI in the fingerprint department.

While working in Washington, D.C. she met a young sailor from Spooner. She married Darald Bruner and they raised three daughters. Bonietta lived her life dedicated to serving others. She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church where she was a Sunday School teacher, VBS teacher, choir member, LWML member, Ladies Aide member and enjoyed the quilting

committee. She was the church secretary for 11 years. Volunteering was an important part of Bonietta's life. She

was one of the founders of the Ladysmith Nursing Home Auxiliary serving as both President and Vice President for many years, developing the hair care program, which continues to be an important part of our resident's lives today. Bonietta also led monthly sing a longs, helped on community outings, and organized fund raising events. She willingly gave over 3,000 hours of her time volunteering. Bonietta sold daffodils for the American Cancer Society for many years, she was an avid bowler, and member of the local TOPS club where she maintained KOPS status for many years. Bonietta continued to volunteer at LCC while she was fighting cancer for as long as she possibly could, although she was unable to help with our last Holly Tea, she was happy to attend it!



Marita Leeder

Marita Gwendoline (Fowler) Leeder was born on Feb. 17, 1936 in Milton, during a severely cold and stormy winter. Despite the cold beginning, Marita touched many lives with her warm and loving spirit, joyful laugh and contagious smile! At an early age, Marita's family moved to Whitewater. She attended elementary through high school at the UW-Whitewater College Training School. Marita was able to have sewing classes in third grade, which began her love for sewing and needlework projects. Marita continued onto college at the same campus and earned her bachelor's degree in Kindergarten-Primary Education in 1958. After teaching in Janesville for two years, she decided to pursue her dream of teaching the deaf which became a goal after watching her deaf neighbor communicate with her mother by passing notes. Marita attended Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C, and earned a Master's of Science Degree to teach the deaf and graduated in 1961. She took great pride in teaching at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf until her retirement in 1996. She married Jack Leeder and together they raised three children, at their country home of 44 years, overlooking the beautiful Rock Prairie. Marita and Jack loved to dance together, and always worked alongside each other on multiple projects and through every life adventure. Marita treasured every moment, always a teacher at heart sharing the lesson, "The chores will wait while you show the child the rainbow, but the rainbow will not wait for the chores to be done". In later years Marita provided Jack with unending care and unconditional love as they walked through the journey of Parkinson's Disease. They moved to Ladysmith to be closer to their daughter Maria and where Jack could get the care he needed at Ladysmith Care Community. Throughout her brief time in Ladysmith, Marita developed many special friendships with neighbors, staff and other residents and continued to share her many talents. She was a gifted seamstress who designed aprons, chair cushions, bath blankets, adaptive clothing and even upholstered furniture! She was considered to be a member of our activity department helping with a wedding gown display (exhibiting many gowns she made herself), and shared signing with the residents, teaching us how to sign along to songs and hymns. She and Jack continued to dance to the delight of everyone. Marita also led a caregiver support group, which had been a facility goal for many years. Marita had a beautiful soul, positive spirit and saw beauty in everyone and everything, she enjoyed life to the fullest and touched everyone she met! She was loved just as much as she loved her family and friends. Our hearts are breaking with the thought of missing her, however we will always remember "Every day is a good day", and "Be the best possible person you can be."



Linda Olsen

Linda Louise (Doolittle) Olsen was born on Oct. 6, 1953, in Stevens Point, WI. She grew up in the Hayward area and graduated from Hayward High School in 1971. After receiving her nurse's aide certification in 1971, she began her lifelong career, working at Hayward Hospital in the maternity ward and then at Rusk County Memorial Nursing Home and the Ladysmith Care Community. Even though she always shied away from attention, Linda was recognized as Employee of the Year at RCMNH for her commitment and compassion as she cared for the residents. She worked in the activity department of the Ladysmith Care Community and after her retirement, she volunteered in the activity department of LCC and in her daughter, Wendi's classroom at Winter Elementary School. She married John Olsen; her greatest joy was her husband and her family. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother who always put her family first, she was the foundation of every family gathering. She attended every sporting event, concert and program she could, and spent countless hours playing games, doing crafts and reading stories to her children and grandchildren. Linda had many passions, including traveling with her family, reading, baking, gardening, photography, arts and crafts and spending time in nature.

Linda was a great organizer, often setting up for all of the special events of the LCC residents' activities.

She loved helping with all of the activities, especially taking residents shopping. Linda, with her sweet, and gentle spirit, left an imprint upon everyone who was lucky enough to have met her. She was unceasingly patient, kind, generous, lovable, selfless, devoted and caring. Linda was a strong Christian, and her unshakeable faith shined like a beacon. She was humble, had a servant heart, was slow to anger, freely offered forgiveness and put others before herself. She lived out 1 Corinthians 13:4 each day of her life. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud". May our sweet memories of Linda and the blessed assurance of salvation from Jesus Christ our Lord sustain us until we meet again in Heaven.



Betty DesJarlais

Ladysmith Care Community employs over 150 people, few have been as dedicated to our facility as Betty (Kelley) DesJarlais. Betty was born on July 18, 1960 in Rice Lake and grew up in Ladysmith, the daughter of Mike and Cindy Kelley. Being the daughter of the administrator, Betty spent her youth growing up around the residents, and continued to work in the dietary department, and later managed the dietary department for many years. Betty loved each resident as if he or she was her own grandparent. She knew not only each residents' dietary preferences, but also their social history and activity preferences! Everyone who knew Betty knew that she had a heart of gold and lived a life of giving and caring for others. She would literally give you the shirt off of her back if you needed it, and always reached out to others in need. Everyone who knew Betty, also knew of her amazing talents of being a gifted chef. She made every special event at the nursing home memorable as she created delicious feasts of hors d'oeuvres, salads, entrees and desserts. She worked hard and stayed behind the scenes, never boastful or wanting to take credit for her efforts. She worked long days, weekends and at home to prepare for events and manage her department. She loved catering and also cooked for community events such as Rock Fest. Betty loved rock music which was always playing in her office.

