



Does Your Family Have a Reunion?

Does your family have a reunion? Mine does. My family has a family picnic once a year- where everyone brings a dish to pass, spends the afternoon together, talking, reminiscing, and then everyone goes on their merry way. Just enough time to catch up, but not enough to start wondering how in the world you could be related to your cousin Diane!

My husband's family has a reunion too, what I would call a reunion on steroids. For 40 years they have gathered at a fishing resort in Hayward – grandmas, grandpas, aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers, sisters, kids, about 60 Leifheits in one location. It is a time to fish, swim, hunt frogs, -and reconnect. A bit too much togetherness in the north woods for this city girl- but a nice family tradition in any case.

Just lately, I've been thinking that a community foundation is like a family reunion.

You know Aunt Rosemary is going to do most of the work and bring the best food year after year, just like you know that a small group of dedicated volunteers are going to make the foundation work year after year. You have to trust one another to help get the job done right. We have been blessed to have so many people involved with the Foundation over our 20 years that care about our community's future.

Here's another thing. You know how sometimes at a family reunion you don't know who made the potato salad? You might wonder for a second or two if it was refrigerated properly, but you end up digging in anyways because you trust the people who did it. We at the Foundation adhere to National Standards, a strict set of rules that make sure Community Foundations do their work right.

Lastly, think about that great aunt of yours who always dusts the cobwebs off of old photo albums and hauls them to the reunion. Your kids may laugh and point at your teenage haircuts and outfits, but it's always fun to spend some time paging through, reflecting on where you've been and where you're going. At the Marshfield Area Community Foundation 25th reunion, we showcased the progress our family of volunteers has made, from generation to generation. Many of the people that have helped our foundation over the years were in attendance: past board members, past directors, some of our original fund holders, as well as new board member and new fund holders. We could see how the torch has been passed from the Adler sisters to so many new people from our community, to make sure their vision, to improve the quality of life, happens here in Marshfield.

Next time you're applying bug spray and lighting up the grill surrounded by your extended family, think about how it all came together thanks to dedication, trust, and a community of people who care, year in and year out. The Marshfield Area Community Foundation is proud to be part of so many Marshfield families' past and future.

If you 'd like to help, you can call (715)384-9029 to volunteer or send a check to PO Box 456 Marshfield, WI 54449.

PS: The sign in the bathroom of the fishing resort that my husband's family goes to says: "In this land of fish and fun we never flush for number one." Known fact: I am a rule follower. Little known fact: Not where this is concerned!



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