



Night to Shine

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MAY 2020

Night to Shine

Harvey hosts prom to celebrate individuals with special needs

BY BRITTNEE WILSON



It was definitely a night to remember for both prom guests and volunteers at the Night to Shine event at New Life on Main Church in Harvey. Over 80 guests with special needs, dressed to the nines, danced the night away as kings and queens.

This was the second annual Night to Shine event at the New Life on Main Church. The event, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, has annually celebrated thousands of people with special needs all over the world on the Friday before Valentine's Day for six years. Dances are held across all 50 states and are associated with over 700 participating churches.

When New Life on Main Church



member Annie Larson heard of this spectacular event happening nationwide, she had a calling to bring it to her community. A request was sent to the Tim Tebow Foundation and once accepted, the planning started right away. Larson headed the five-person planning team, including church member Kacie Reimche, Pastor Jeff and Sharon Robison, and local Hav-It employee Val Olson. They hit the ground running, gathering donations, lining up professional services and volunteers, and tackling the “little things” that make the event successful.

“It takes our whole community pulling together to make this event happen. It’s much more than New Life on Main Church – it’s the greater Harvey community that pours out their time, talents and treasures through their generous financial gifts, donated goods and services, and dedication to being the hands and feet of Jesus to people with special needs in our community,” Reimche said.

The special guest list was made up of more than 80 individuals from the communities surrounding Harvey, including Fessenden, Carrington, Rugby, Devils Lake, New Rockford and beyond!

Lake Region Corporation (LRC), a private, nonprofit community-based organization that is dedicated to providing quality vocational, residential and support services for people with disabilities, had over 20 supported people attend the prom event.

Their program coordinator, Alyssa Tofsrud, detailed, “Their night was nothing but amazing, regardless of their disability. It was a night where they were really able to shine. The evening consisted of dancing, socializing, meeting new people, and doing something outside of their normal routine. Some of the people we support had never been to a high school prom or an event like this, which makes this night even more special.”

The Night to Shine planning team and volunteers let no detail go undone. They really rolled out the red carpet, literally, complete with limo rides. Once inside, guests received the royal treatment, including professional photography, flowers, prom favors, catered dinner, and, of course, a dance floor complete with a deejay playing music all night.

Each honored guest was paired with a volunteer “buddy” for the night. The buddy’s job was to accompany that guest for the evening, assisting them with whatever they needed. Parents and caretakers were encouraged to relax in the respite room. To pull off the event took over 125 volunteers from the church and community.

“This event impacts each of our guests with special needs, but often equally impacts the hearts of our

volunteers,” Reimche said.

The highlight of the night is the crowning ceremony. This year’s crowning ceremony was extra special, as Miss North Dakota 2019 Haley Wolfe volunteered her time to not only attend the event, but to crown each guest as king or queen of the prom. Even more special, each king and queen got to keep a souvenir crown.

Through the generous outpouring of support from the businesses, churches and individuals in local and surrounding communities, this event was free for each attendee. In addition to financial donations, many people and businesses offered their goods and services at a discount or free of charge.

The planning committee also held a dress drive, where they gathered gently used prom dresses from the community for attendees to come “shop” at no cost.

“After last year’s event, our Night to Shine representative asked us how we can possibly pull off this event at such a low cost. The answer to that question is simply a testament to the loving and generous community that we live in,” Reimche said.

The planning committee is already making plans for the 2021 Night to Shine. Questions about dress donations, registrations or supporting the 2021 Night to Shine can be directed to Annie Larson at 218-280-0853 or Kacie Reimche at 701-570-6385. ■



PLAY IT SAFE AROUND ELECTRICITY

To play it safe around your home this summer, remind your children of the rules for using electricity the right way.

DON'T plug a bunch of stuff into one outlet or extension cord. It could damage the electrical system in your house or even cause a fire.

DON'T ever climb the fence around an electrical substation. If a ball or pet gets inside the fence, ask an adult to call the electric cooperative – they'll come and get it out for you.

DON'T yank an electrical cord from the wall. Pulling on a cord can damage the appliance, the plug or the outlet. And don't stick any objects into an electrical outlet.

Ask an adult for help when you need to use something that uses electricity.

Fly your kite far away from power lines or substations. The kite and the string may conduct electricity – sending it right through you to the ground.

DO look up and look out for power lines before you climb a tree. The electricity can go right through the tree branch – and right through you!



Keep electrical stuff far away from water. Most electrical accidents around the house happen when people use electricity near water. Don't place a hair dryer or other electronics near the bathtub or shower. Electricity and water are dangerous partners! Dry your hands thoroughly before using anything powered by electricity.



Northern Plains Electric Cooperative General Manager **Seth Syverson** (center) presents a check to Anne Carlsen Center representatives on Giving Hearts Day. Left to right are: **Mary Lou Urquhart**, associate campaign director; **Tim Eissinger**, chief executive officer; **Stephanie Nelson**, chief operations officer; **Ruth Wanzek**, Central Region vice president.

Northern Plains Electric makes donation to Anne Carlsen Center

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative made it count this past Giving Hearts Day by making a donation to the Anne Carlsen Center of Jamestown.

Giving Hearts Day, founded in 2008, is a 24-hour fundraising event for charities in North Dakota and northwest Minnesota. With every donation made, a match is given until the charity meets its match limit.

This year, Anne Carlsen banded together with friends, families and board members to create a \$325,000 match. On Giving Hearts Day 2020, Anne Carlsen became the second charity to eclipse the \$1 million mark, raising just under \$1.5 million by more than 1,000 donors.

Anne Carlsen is a nonprofit organization providing individuals with development disabilities or delays with services and support for more than 75 years. With a home campus in Jamestown and seven additional locations across the state, Anne Carlsen provides unique programs, creative therapies and advanced assistive technologies that provide life-changing programming to those they serve.

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative's donation will further the center's Pathways for the Future campaign, a fundraiser to finance a new campus located near the Jamestown Regional Medical Center. The new campus will be served by Northern Plains Electric and plans to break ground in 2020. ■



Uffda board member and adoption coordinator, **Lindsey Masterson**, with a few animals up for adoption.

Water challenge brings money to local charity

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative is committed to the health and well-being of its employees. An in-house Wellness Committee meets monthly to plan wellness activities and contests to keep employees healthy – body and mind.

The latest contest was a water challenge to help employees be more aware of their water intake. During a two-week period, participating employees, on teams of four, drank as much water as they could per day and logged the ounces. At the end of the eight days,

team members Jill Wright Van-Dyke, Travis Triepke, Rodney Kitsch, and Josh Cabler logged just over 6,500 ounces, claiming victory.

The winning team won bragging rights, each a hydro flask and \$100 to a local charity of their choice. The team chose Uffda Animal Rescue of Cando.

Uffda is a nonprofit corporation formed to help homeless cats and dogs in the Towner County area. They assist with veterinary costs including spay/neuter and vaccinations and health restoration before finding their forever homes. ■



Carrington student earns \$1,000 scholarship

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce our 2020 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship winner Addison Hoornaert.

Addison is a senior at Carrington High School and the daughter of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative members Chad and Jennifer Hoornaert of Carrington.

Addison is involved in various school activities such as Future Business Leaders of America, Student Council, National Honor Society, seventh grade mentoring, volleyball, basketball and track. She volunteers at her local youth center and backpack program.

Addison plans to pursue her higher education at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, where she plans to major in nursing, with a long-term goal of becoming a nurse practitioner.

The scholarship is based on many factors, including an essay on how a cooperative can be economic engines for its local communities. Addison's winning essay was one of 24 applicants. Northern Plains Electric Cooperative is honored for the opportunity to play a small part in the education of young adults.

Congratulations Addison! ■



Youth Tour winner announced

Lindsey Nyhagen, a sophomore at North Star High School, has earned a seat on the 2020 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, a learning experience sponsored by the National Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives.

The daughter of Northern Plains Electric members, Scott and Rebecca Nyhagen of Cando, Lindsey will participate in an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., this summer, compliments of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative.

During the weeklong tour, Lindsey and other students from across North Dakota will travel with the Montana youth delegates in the day-to-day touring of the sites, attractions, monuments and congressional office in the Washington, D.C., area. The students will learn about electric cooperatives and discuss issues facing their community and the nation.

Applicants were asked to write an essay describing a moment in American history that they wished they could have been a part of and what they would have contributed. Lindsey's winning essay described how she would like to visit the historic time of Sept. 11, 2001, and start a foundation to help those families who lost a loved one that day. Especially focusing on children who lost a parent, the foundation would provide mentorship, dream vacations as well as financial help as they adjust to their new life.

Lindsey is active in volleyball, basketball, band and choir. She is a member of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), and drama club.

We know she will represent our cooperative well. Congratulations Lindsey! ■



Carlson retires after 26 years

BY BRITTNEE WILSON

Russell Carlson joined the board of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative before the co-op did business by that name. The former Tri-County and Baker Electric cooperatives merged in 1997, creating what Northern Plains is today, the geographically largest distribution cooperative in the state serving over 11,500 accounts from south of Jamestown to the Canadian border.

Carlson, who was first elected to the Tri-County board in 1994, retires this year following 26 years of service, including many years served as secretary.

According to Carlson, nothing is more important to rural America than electric power. "It is rural America's backbone," he said.

Carlson also represented Northern Plains as he served on the board of directors of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) for over eight years. He also served time as chairman of the NDAREC Public Relations Advisory Committee.

"Through my years spent on these boards, I got to meet a lot of really great folks, both members and fellow directors," Carlson said.

Northern Plains board President Tracy Boe said Carlson's knowledge will be missed. "It has been a pleasure to serve and learn from Russ on the board. We will miss his historical recollection of the mergers of Tri-County and Baker Electric," he said.

A graduate of North Dakota State University and a former U.S. Army paratrooper, Carlson spent over 30 years farming in partnership with his brother near Jamestown. After an accident left Carlson paralyzed, they modified a lift into a tractor so Carlson could still farm the land his father once sowed.

"It's more than just a job, it's a way of life," he said.

The dedication he put into his land is the same dedication he put forth towards the co-op.

"Russ has played a prominent role in the success of the cooperative. His years of service convey his

dedication to the cooperative's members and the communities it serves," said Northern Plains General Manager Seth Syverson.

"I'd like to thank the membership for electing me and letting me continue to serve on the board, I really enjoyed my years spent," Carlson said.

Replacing Russell Carlson is Lori Carlson, Jamestown, who was elected to the board at the district meetings that took place in February. ■





Operation Round Up keeps giving

At its March meeting, the Northern Plains Electric Cooperative Operation Round up board of directors approved nine grants totaling \$9,100.

GRANTS APPROVED IN MARCH:

- Sheyenne Fire Department, building addition to house equipment.
- American Legion, LaBrash Altringer Post 236, Wimbledon,

remodel building/make ADA accessible.

- Heart of America Germans from Russia, Rugby, purchase units for historic displays.
- Women's Auxiliary Cemetery Association, New Rockford, storm repair.
- Tara Jones, McHenry, medical expenses.
- Sylvia Martin, Pettibone, medical expenses.
- Wanda Grant, Belcourt,

medical expenses.

- Brilee Mack, Rugby, medical expenses.
- Sharon Neidert, Cando, medical expenses.

The board meets quarterly to review applications. Deadline to submit for the next quarter is May 20. To apply, find an application on our website, www.nplains.com. For more information, contact Northern Plains Electric by calling 800-882-2500. ■

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