New Fund Brings Comfort to Betty Hanten

Comfort. You might feel comforted with friends or family, a hug, fond memories or even a daily routine. Many find comfort as soon as they walk in their front door, sit in a favorite chair or gather at the table to share wholesome “comfort” food.

Betty Hanten of Watertown finds comfort in all those things.

“On the farm, lunch was always straight up at noon,” she reminisced. For the kids, many times lunch meant a sack lunch, whether for school or during a break from chores. "I'd usually include a treat like chocolate chip cookies. If I really wanted to spoil them, I'd pack a piece of carrot cake. We always ate supper together. " Meat and potatoes, as well as casseroles like calico beans were a staple. Now, many years later, Betty still makes her children and grandchildren their favorite comfort foods.

Betty and her husband, Herb, farmed for many years just south of Watertown. In the early 2000s, they sold a portion of their land to the City of Watertown. That land was developed into the Hanten Industrial Park which led to the development of Glacial Lakes Energy. That sale brought Herb some very meaningful comfort. “After that, he knew I would be taken care of,” Betty said. "He had the forgone conclusion, he would go before me.” Herb passed away in 2008.


"There's a tremendous amount of talent in the Town Players organization," Betty continued. “I've gone to almost every production they've had.” The Boys and Girls Club of Watertown is a great place for our young people. And I wish we didn't need the Beacon Center, but the fact is, we do.

Betty takes comfort in not only knowing those organizations are there, but also knowing that she is able to help them forever through the Herb and Betty Hanten Family Fund she recently established at the Watertown Area Community Foundation.

“This has always been my community,” she said. “I believe in this community and if there's anything I can do to help, I want to do it. That's all there is to it.”

“Really and truly, Watertown is important to me,” Betty added. “I went to high school here, worked here and raised a family here.” Mr. and Mrs. Hanten were married in 1953 and had three sons. Their sons and grandchildren were all raised in Watertown. Betty is comforted every time she looks at a wall of family photographs in her home. She also displays several things she brought from the farm that hold a special place in her heart.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF WATERTOWN

Watertown Area Community Foundation has awarded the largest grant in its history to the Club. This $500,000 matching grant will be used to match $250,000 in contributions to the Club's capital campaign and match $250,000 in contributions to the Club's endowment fund.
“As a Watertown Community Foundation Board member, I am proud of our board in its support of the Boys and Girls Club Capital Campaign. I see no greater project than investing in the youth of our community. The Boys and Girls Club is a vital organization to helping our local kids develop their full potential.”

~ Lee Schull, WACF board member

“I think that the Boys & Girls Club is one of those organizations that people take for granted. What would Watertown do if all summer we had 300-plus kids roaming the streets.”

Dale Christensen, WACF board member
Dear Community:

It’s been an exciting time for Watertown. The Boys & Girls Club kicked off its “Opening Doors” campaign and announced plans for facility renovation.

Thanks to our donor support, the Watertown Area Community Foundation has awarded the largest grant in its history to the Club. This $500,000 matching grant will be used to match $250,000 in contributions to the Club’s capital campaign and match $250,000 in contributions to the Club’s endowment fund.

The end result is an amazing $1 million for the Club and its members. Capital campaign dollars will help with bricks and mortar for the Club’s transformation which will assist the Club in meeting safety standards, creating innovative program opportunities and increasing organization efficiency. Growing the endowment fund will help the Club cover increased operating costs and maintenance of the upgraded space and programs into the future.

The Foundation and the Club share a long relationship. Since the Foundation’s first grant to the Club in the early ’80s, more than $300,000 in Foundation grant monies have helped the Club in its mission. Those grants have supported everything from Legos and computers to programming and kitchen equipment.

Donors have always been the ones who make it happen. Thanks for your support in helping the Foundation be a part of the Club’s past as well as its future. Doors are truly opening for Watertown youth.

Sincerely,

Jan DeBerg
Executive Director
Watertown Area Community Foundation

“We understand that our youth represent our future. Our grant in support of the Boys and Girls Club is an investment in that future.”
~ Laurie Benson, WACF chair

“I believe strongly in what the Boys and Girls Club gives to our youth and our community. Our children are our future, and we must make sure they are well taken care of. The Club fulfills that mission and truly believes ‘it takes a village to raise a child.’”
~ Dr. Lesli Jutting, WACF board member

“We’re so very happy and proud to be able to help provide funds for this much needed expansion! Our children are our greatest resource and the Boys and Girls Club helps them reach their full potential with the many programs and opportunities it offers. The Club also supports our parents by providing a welcoming, safe place for their children to enjoy. It is a very important part of our Community!”
~ Angie Reppe, WACF vice chair

“We believe that our youth represent our future. Our grant in support of the Boys and Girls Club is an investment in that future.”
~ Laurie Benson, WACF chair
There's not a lot you can get for $1 anymore. But, believe it or not, you can impact your community with just $1 a day through the Giving Back 365 program at the Watertown Area Community Foundation.

Almost $12,000 was awarded to local organizations in 2015 by Giving Back 365 donors. Overall, almost $42,000 has been awarded through the program since it began in 2012.

The following 2015 grants were awarded:

- $2,000 to Beacon Center to purchase two new computers, accessories and software.
- $1,200 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Glacial Lakes to purchase a new desk and locking filing cabinets for its office.
- $1,776 to the Boys & Girls Club of Watertown to purchase four new tables to be used in the Education Center at the main club site.
- $2,000 to Habitat for Humanity Greater Watertown Region to purchase new tools including a compressor, miter saw and stand, framing nailer, wobble lights, cords, hoses, circular saw and hand tools.
- $2,000 to Habitat for Humanity Greater Watertown Region to purchase new tools awarded by Giving Back 365 donors. A grant of $2,000 will support the purchase of new tools to help Habitat with its mission. The scaffold these workers are on was also due to a former Giving Back 365 grant.
- $2,000 to Joy Ranch to purchase materials for a wooden deck with roof and ramp to make the archery program handicap accessible, as well as materials to construct six targets and arrow holders also for the archery program.
- $1,406 to Lake Area Zoological Society to support the Watertown Wildlife Warriors program at Bramble Park Zoo.
- $950 to PACH to purchase roll carts to aid in the entire process, from receiving bulk food to the end result of packing items into the packs that are distributed to program participants.

If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to join the 2016 Giving Back 365 effort. Half of your contribution is used for grants in the current year and half is placed in an endowed fund to support future grants. As a member, you are eligible to participate in the grant-making process.

There are several ways to join or make a donation. You can donate by check (whether that be a monthly gift or one lump sum of $365) or go to www.watertowncommunityfoundation.org to use your credit card.

For more information on joining Giving Back 365, please contact us at 605-882-3731, 211 E. Kemp or email: foundation@iw.net.

NEW DESK- A Giving Back 365 grant of $1,200 helped purchase this desk unit and locking file cabinets for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Glacial Lakes. Alissa Bauman, program manager, appreciates the added organizational space and security.