

JULY 2016

Friends of McMinnville Senior Center



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Chats from the Chair:

Hello everyone!

It is my great pleasure to announce that your board has chosen Shaylyn Bristow as the recipient of the 2016 Friends of McMinnville Scholarship Award. Miss Bristow has A 3.87 grade point and is continuing her education at Oregon State University majoring in Human Development and Family Sciences. Her winning essay epitomized the intention of the essay which was to show how an older person positively affected the life of a younger one. Her essay is reprinted in its entirety:

In middle school I was introduced to an elderly woman from down the road. I was offered the job of mowing and caring for her yard during the spring and summer months. After several months of walking my lawn mower down the street and working on her yard Thelma and I got to know each other better. We became more comfortable with each other and soon would talk for long periods of time each week when I came to work.. Eventually, our times of conversation became longer than the time it took me to mow her yard.

As we became closer friends, we were able to share with one another the joys and sorrows of our lives. Thelma, an elderly woman

living by herself, had quite a different daily life than I, an involved, active middle schooler at the time. She shared her experiences with me, including sickness, physical falls and girls' nights out. As I shared of my activities in sports and student leadership, Thelma gave me advice and shared personal stories from her childhood.

As the months rolled by I began to look forward to the days that I went down to Thelma's to work on her yard. I would bring my dog with me and Thelma and I would talk as we watched our dogs play in the freshly cut grass. My time spent with her no longer seemed like a job, but just time spent with a friend. Although I don't get to see Thelma very often anymore, as I reflect back on those years and my friendship with her, it is clear that Thelma was helping me



more than I was helping her. Through my time “working” for Thelma, I developed the work ethic that I have today. As a young girl I took on a physical job and learned how to work hard and gained an unexpected friend in the process.

My friendship with Thelma taught me so much and I was constantly learning from her life experiences. I grew in my compassion towards others and discovered through her life experiences that everyone has a story to tell and everyone wants to be loved and accepted. Through my time spent with her I have come to have more patience and am a much better listener. I am understanding and now know that sometimes all people need is a friend and someone to talk to.”

I think you will agree with your board that this is a wonderful example of how two people from different backgrounds and age groups forged a friendship and mutual respect towards each other. We wish you the best Shaylyn in your educational endeavors and hope you have great success in your chosen field of study. Thelma would be proud!

In other news, “The friends in Need” project has begun and you will find the application/donation box in the foyer of the Senior Center on the wall. Again this program has been set up for anyone who is a member of the Friends in good standing (dues paid). If you have an unexpected expense or need (up to \$100) you can fill out an application form and drop it in the box. The board will review the requests and act on them accordingly.

I leave you this month with a quote from Yoko Ono, “Some people are old at 18 and some people are young at 90. Time is a concept that humans created.” And just for laughs, here’s another. “At weddings, old people poke me and say, ‘You’re next’. So I started doing the same thing to them at funerals.”

Summer Activities to Remember

The Summer BBQ on Saturday July 23 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm will be open to all members. The last day to sign up at the front desk is July 18, 2016. The BBQ will include your choice of hamburger, hot dogs, or brats. Give your preference when signing up. Also included will be baked beans, potato salad, and all the fixings. Price is \$5.00.

The Ice Cream Social on Wednesday August 24 from 3 – 4:30 is open to all members at no charge. Friends and family of members are welcome but there will be a \$2.00 charge. Please sign up at the front desk by Monday August 22. Music will be by **The Occasional Quartet**. **This will be a real treat!** There will be ice cream, toppings, and root beer floats.

The next board meeting will be at 11:00AM on Friday, July 8, 2016. All are welcome.