



## Waseca Area Foundation

111 NE 2nd Ave, Suite 1, Waseca, MN 56093 (507) 835-5990

### **Dear Community Members of the New Richland/Waseca Area:**

When asked to write New Richland's letter for the Waseca Area Foundation 2011 Annual Report, I immediately wondered how I could possibly write a letter that would adequately describe the success and excitement of this new opportunity that New Richland has been given. It became clear that I could not. With that in mind, my purpose is two-fold. One is to give you a brief summary of what we have accomplished since the formation of the New Richland Area Foundation Fund and two, the attempt to describe the type of people needed to have this kind of success.

Because of an anonymous donation of \$13,900 in 2008, I was approached in 2009 by Karen Boom, Waseca Area Foundation's Executive Director, to represent New Richland as part of the Waseca Area Foundation Board. I was filled with hesitation, fear and even some doubt. Could I be the leader needed in the development of the newly formed Foundation? Could I really understand and educate the community about the opportunity given to the New Richland area. It didn't take long for me to realize that it was not about what I could do for the community, but that it was just simply what these communities can do for themselves. My job as representative suddenly became easier.

In 2010, the New Richland Lions Club gave needed support when they sponsored a pancake breakfast. Those proceeds, along with the miscellaneous memorial donations from various individuals were added to the growth of the New Richland Area Foundation Fund as well. More excitement on the growth of our foundation came in the year 2010 when the By-The-Grace-Of-God Fund was created anonymously. This fund was set up as a Donor Advised Fund and has been credited for 16 grants totaling \$14,100 in 2011.

The growth continued in 2011 as well with a "Gift of Grain" from a local farmer that brought over \$26,000 to the NRAFF Fund. The impact that this gift has, will more than double the fund's granting dollars starting in 2012.

The generosity shown from our first anonymous donor was the seed that sparked the opportunity for New Richland. Little did we know at the time that kind of generosity was abundant in our area. It takes a special make up of people to cause something like this to happen and flourish so quickly in a small community. Of course our success has not come without the support and guidance of Karen Boom and the Waseca Area Foundation's Board Members. Karen and each one of the board members have brought the experience and expertise needed to make the Waseca Area Foundation a strong leader for our foundation. The quality collaboration efforts shown by their grants to our community are indication that New Richland truly is a part of the Waseca Area.

In closing I would like to quote something Karen Boom said last year. "Life is about being and acting in a way that is a bold expression of who you are at your core." Like Waseca, the New Richland area's "core" is caring and compassionate people. Many people are making an impact and having a significant effect in our communities. May our Foundations continue to flourish so that we can continue to make an impact on our communities.

**Gail Schmidt, NRAFF Representative**