

Young adults serving community in big ways

Young Corydon adults are tackling huge community issues as part of their participation in Horizons and Welcome, We Help Inc. – the group formed by Horizons participants to empower citizens by connecting them with available community resources and support for financial issues.

Horizons is a program directed by Iowa State University Extension with funding from the Northwest Area Foundation for communities of less than 5,000 with a poverty level of at least 10 percent. The program guides communities in the exploration and understanding of local poverty issues and establishment of goals that move the community towards prosperity for all.

Cody Morgan, a recent high school graduate and leadership plenty graduate, has identified a need in his community and is taking action to mobilize community members to get on board. During the past school year several staff members were released from their contracts because of budget problems. Community meetings suggested that other ways might be available to address the budget short fall. Cody organized classmates to investigate ways to cut energy costs at the school. He gathered information from other school districts who have built wind turbans to generate energy for their buildings. He met with the Wayne Community School Board to present his findings and received their endorsement to continue determining the feasibility of adopting this and other conservation efforts. Cody is currently recruiting members of the community to serve as a committee for further investigation.

A severe winter ice storm activated another group of Corydon youth under the direction of Welcome, We Help committee member, Chad Wilson, an English instructor at Wayne Community School. He organized a group of about 30 high school student volunteers affectionately known as “Snow Angels.” On days when weather forced cancellation of classes, Wilson’s students met at the high school anyway—shovels in hand—then canvassed the town in small groups, clearing snow from sidewalks, driveways, outdoor steps and porches.



Among those targeted for the free services were senior citizens and shut-in recipients of “Meals on Wheels” in the community. “The ‘Snow Angels’ came to my house and I offered to pay them,” said Corydon resident, Martha Hughes. “They said it was all volunteer and I didn’t owe them a thing. I think it’s great what they did.”

“We have caring students here willing to give back to the community. I think it’s important we give them a chance to volunteer whenever possible.”

—Chad Wilson, Welcome, We Help committee member

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