

That's How It's "Dun" – Margo Hansen Recognized for Her Service to Dunlap

Margo Hansen is this quarter's recipient of DCDC's "That's How It's Dun" Award. This award is part of a community service recognition program created to honor those who go above and beyond in their volunteer service contributions to the Dunlap community.

Hansen grew up on a farm east of Manilla, Iowa. She and her husband, Ben, moved to Dunlap in 2013 from Des Moines when Ben took a job with the Brad R. Gross CPA firm. Margo is also a CPA who works for both Gross and Company as well as NuStyle Development.

Hansen invests her time and energy in the Dunlap community in numerous ways. The new flooring and corresponding renovations to the Dunlap Pool bath house would not have transpired this year had it not been for her. Last fall, as part of a Gross and Co. community service initiative, she helped paint the interior of the bath house. She saw the need for new flooring and lounge chairs and applied for a grant to fund the project.

Hansen also had a vision and sought funding for the new playground at Pleasant View Park. She and her husband organized the dirt work, landscaping, shipping and installation of the equipment.

"Margo has the 'Midas touch,'" said Jill Schaben, DCDC Executive Director. "When Margo sees a need in our town, she runs at it, investing a great deal of time and energy to see it through. She is methodical in her process as she is always careful to ensure that the efforts are being done the right way so that the investments in improving our community stand the test of time. Our community is so fortunate to have her and her vision."

Hansen plays an integral role in community activities, single-handedly fundraising for and organizing Dunlap's 4th of July Fun Run each summer as well as the Santa visit each winter. She also commits time to collecting donations for online/live auctions as a member of the St. Patrick church.

She is an important part of Dunlap's mural crew and she assists with summer basketball programs for high school girls.

She even finds time to serve on the:

- Dunlap Visioning Committee
- Buena Vista University Alumni Board
- St. Patrick Parish Design Committee, and the
- Iowa Society of CPAs Month of Service.

"I never imagined life would lead me to Dunlap, Iowa," Hansen shared. "But the community has far exceeded my expectations. Ben and I have lived here for nine years now and are excited to watch our kids grow up here. Dunlap has a strong sense of community and time after time they pull together to help organizations succeed. What Dunlap lacks in size, it makes up for in the people who live here."

The Hansens have two young sons: Abe, age five and Ike, age two.

"As a parent, you want your child to have better than what you had," Hansen said. "I believe volunteering not only benefits them but shows them the importance of giving back to others. I have always volunteered with no expectation of recognition – to me the end product in what you achieve as a team is its own reward.

Not being from this community, volunteering has been a great avenue for me to meet new people and build new relationships. Working together with a group of people is not only fun but rewarding. It doesn't get much better than to see a project emerge from a simple idea or vision and come full circle for others to enjoy. Go out and find something you are passionate about and make a wave in our community. It takes a lot of time and effort to see a project through, but the pain and agony are always worth it!"



Know someone who deserves recognition for their service to Dunlap? Visit dunlapia.com and click the Resources tab to access the "That's How It's Dun" nomination form. Four Dunlap area residents will be recognized annually. Contact Jill Schaben with questions at dunlapdcdc@gmail.com