

# THE PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS

**SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE 2005**  
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## “RELATIONSHIPS”

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Entre Nous means “between us” and serves as the official publication for members of the Wisconsin Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals.

Articles should be submitted via e-mail, either in the body or in an attached Microsoft Word document. The e-mail should be addressed to Michelle Batterman at michelle.batterman@ces.uwex.edu

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The Fall Issue of *Entre Nous* will focus on “Quest” (See Editor’s Comments for details), so start writing your articles now. The due date will be October 1. You don’t have to limit your articles to the focus theme. The *Entre Nous* is your newsletter. Express yourself! Share personal and professional concerns and triumphs.

## A Word from the Editor...

*Michelle Batterman, Entre Nous Editor, Fond du Lac County 4-H Staff Assistant*

As I began to think about relationships, I realized that there were many approaches to this subject. I was not sure how to begin this article and then I found the perfect fit to our daily lives, how stress affects us each and every day. A long time ago, I did a research paper on how stress can affect our relationships.

How many times have you snapped at someone because your day has been filled with frustrations and you don't even realize it?

Stress can affect our relationships without even knowing it. How many times have you snapped at someone because your day has been filled with frustration and you don't even realize it? If your day has been filled with questions and no answers, you are trying to get your newsletters completed and the phone keeps ringing, that one project keeps haunting you, and you're trying to complete the end of the year reports or trying to finish your portfolios, you more than likely are overwhelmed with stress. So how does this affect your daily routine?

If you don't take time to recognize the stress levels in your day, your relationships with co-workers, volunteers, youth, family and friends will be in jeopardy, and so will you! When you are feeling the stress of the day, you begin by closing your office door that you always have open, because you want to be left alone and secluded from the world. By closing that door, co-workers and others begin to form a separation from you and your friendly ways. This starts to make you more stressed because you don't realize what is taking place due to the fact that you haven't taken that step back to look at what is happening in your daily routine.

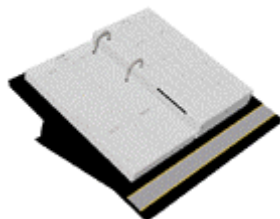
Finally, you start to nag at staff over the little things that don't really matter. Due to the stress, you start to feel those little things are more important than they really are. Stress leads to many failures in relationships. Below you will find five steps that will help you to have less stress in your daily routine and build strong relationships with those that are important to you.

### 1. Recognize stress is taking over.

When you are feeling negative about everything, make sure that you are really feeling emotions and not letting the stress rule your actions. The last thing you want is to offend your co-workers or volunteers because they don't understand what your day or even your week has involved. And if you do react to something in a harsh manner, take the time to step back and explain to the party that you have been dealing with a lot of issues in your day to day life. People are more likely to understand if you explain the "whys".

### 2. Learn to balance the work loads.

Easier said than done, but it can take make your life happier. Make sure each area of your life is receiving the appropriate amount of time. Don't spend your whole day at work or even filling every hour with activities. It is very important to take time for yourself and smell the roses.



When you plan your schedule and goals, be realistic on how long it will take to achieve them.

Look at your calendar. If yours is anything like mine, it is your bible and you will be lost without it. If you find that you can't make time for yourself, take the time to mark it in your calendar, that way you will be guaranteed that personal time. And if that special person asks you to do something during "your time", ask them if it can wait because you already have something planned! How many times have you snapped at someone because your day has been filled with frustration and you don't even realize it?

3. Be realistic in setting goals or time management.

So many times we expect too much of ourselves. When you plan your schedule and goals, be realistic on how long it will take to achieve them. Remember to always give yourself extra time to complete your goals as we all know that unexpected situations always enter our lives.

4. Make time to reconnect with the world that surrounds you.

When you reconnect with the world around you, include the things that make you happy, such as family, friends, nature, hobbies, etc. Always ask yourself "When was the last time I did that?" Make sure you take at least two days each month to reconnect with your interests. This will make a healthier lifestyle for you and those relationships that sometimes suffer from your stress.

And Finally,

5. Don't worry, be happy!

In the real world, it doesn't matter what you accomplished but how you felt when the mission was over. What matters most when you accomplish any mission is that you are happy with the result. And when you feel the stress creeping into your life, take that step back and relax. Remember the old saying, "What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger."



I hope these few steps will help you next time when you are feeling stress. I know that the steps help me and that's important because having a positive relationship is very important to me. If you don't know me, in the Color Matrixx, I am classified as "Blue" and we all know what that means.

I have really enjoyed being the editor of the 2004-2005 editions of the *Entre Nous*. I have been an editor for other publications over the years, but I must say, this was the most rewarding position for me, to date. I really enjoyed your articles and the time you have put into the articles and I look forward to participating with the future editions. I wish Dawn and Dawn the best with the future editions.

I have found that building strong relationship is essential in my success as a 4-H Youth Development Agent.

## President's Message...Relationships

*Barb Barker, WAE4-HYDP President and Waushara County 4-H Youth Development Agent*

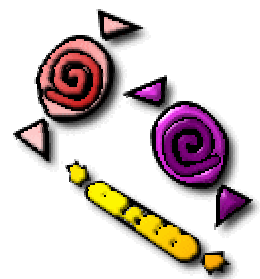
I have found that building strong relationship is essential in my success as a 4-H Youth Development Agent. Many times when my level of frustration has mounted and I begin reading the want ads, it is the relationships, which have

resulted in many special friendships that have made me think twice about leaving this job.

As some of you know, I returned to the county that I grew up in. Many of my friends from childhood are no longer in the community or the few that still live here have developed different interests and have different circles of friendships based on those interests so this meant developing some new relationships. Through being the Waushara County 4-H Youth Development Agent, I have met many caring people that are now my friends and help me be a part of the community. Sometimes that can present a challenge because some people may see them as being favored families, clubs or favored in whatever way they are connected. Fortunately, my volunteer leader friends have not asked for any special favors. Instead, many times I see those discussions leading to a broader sense of how can we involve more people who may not know about something. When working with the President of the 4-H Leaders Association, we spend some time together talking about what goals they would like to pursue in the next year and then developing strategies to do this. This has been done in a number of settings; over lunch, in my office, at their home or via email. Those leaders I was able to plan agendas with over lunch, continue to still call up once in awhile to go to lunch. Many times the conversation ultimately includes 4-H, but for the most part is spent talking about what is new with one another or our families. The one challenge though that I do deal with is when my friends call me at home and put their volunteer leader hat on to talk 4-H instead of quilting or other fun stuff during most of the conversation. I need personal space and try to be patient when this happens but need to work on ways to circumvent this from happening too often!

As few people outside of our profession understand what we do each day, this has become a very safe and supportive environment to ask those questions and seek advice from someone who truly understands.

Another group of people that I have developed some great relationships with are my colleagues. I have spent time with different groups of colleagues doing work related things, like going to national conferences and car pooling to statewide meetings. I also have spent time learning how to make candy, trying to figure how to make stuffed greeting cards (with limited success!) and making a quilt for another colleague in the beautiful settings of Door County, Turtle Lake or at a friend's house. Good or bad, some of that time was also spent talking about work and some of the relationships established through work. As few people outside of our profession understand what we do each day, this has become a very safe and supportive environment to ask those questions and seek advice from someone who truly understands. It is also an opportunity to share successes that sometimes we don't take the time to do!



Being in a people-oriented profession, among the many benefits of our role is the opportunity to get to know people and develop some life long friendships. I still keep in touch with some of our former colleagues and need to find more time in my schedule to continue to nurture those relationships. I find I need the support of my colleagues as friends because they truly understand what a

day in the life of a 4-H Youth Development Agent is all about and sometimes those days can be long and challenging.

## WAE4-HYDP Plans for the “Quest for Spirit and Imagination” Conference: 2006 Conference Builds Relationships

*Merry Klemme, Calumet County 4-H Youth Development Agent  
2006 National Conference Tri-Chair*

The 2006 NAE4-HA Conference is busy building relationships. It will take a lot of teamwork to create a successful conference and teamwork takes strong relationships. Here are examples of the relationships being built.

It will take a lot of teamwork to create a successful conference and teamwork takes strong relationships.

Tri-Chairs – We have found that it takes a unique set of dynamics to form a tri-relationship. When the concept was first conceived – in the bid process – this seemed like a fascinating way to divide the workload – six oversight committees – two for each Tri-chair. Perfect, right? We did not think about the dynamics of three. Ladies, do you remember when you were a young girl or teenager? Three friends trying to do something together was always hell. One tended to be left out at any given time. It is difficult for three people to talk to each other. It takes extra effort to be sure each are being heard.

Well, that is what we found in trying to form a working Tri-Chair leadership team. But, as soon as we recognized it, we sat down to be honest and frank about our frustration and things have improved greatly.

The other thing that the Tri-Chairs recognized about our relationship was the diversity in personality styles that we have. From the Color Matrixx System temperaments rainbow, Tamie is Gold, I am Blue/Gold, and Kim is Orange/Green. This is a good thing! Teams need diversity of styles. But it is



good to know that we are diverse when working together. I have to often remind myself of that when we talk and plan. Guess what, Kim and Tamie doesn't always think exactly like me! They help me to think “outside the box”. Tamie keeps us on task, I want to “fix” everything, and Kim likes to try new ideas.

Leadership Team – The Leadership Team is made up of seventeen 4-H Youth Development professionals from all areas of the program, from the State Associate Program Leader, to county-based staff, to state specialists, plus all of the other hats we all wear. Have you ever heard the adage about “too many cooks can spoil the broth?” Well this team doesn't have too many cooks, but every one of us has positions where we are expected and able to work quite independently everyday. When we get together to work as a team, it is always a challenge (opportunity/privilege) to put on our teamwork hats and work together for the good of the conference.

Things haven't always gone smoothly, but the Leadership Team is a strong, experienced, hardworking group. They are all my heroes!

The Oversight Committees – The Oversight Committees are made up of hardworking, dedicated 4-H Youth Development professionals, retirees, and volunteers. Here's where the really difficult, frontline work is getting done. Most of the Committees have divided into work teams for various aspects of their committee. Each of those work teams has a chair or co-chairs with committee members to work with them. It appears that the relationships are strong. The biggest obstacle we still have is stumbling through deciding who does what. But by October 2006, we will all know and the work will get done.

2006 Conference and NAE4-HA – Here is a relationship that is hard to get a handle on, but it is important to try. It is NOT “us” and “them”, but all of us working together. Though the Wisconsin Conference Committees are doing the work for the conference, we are only the hosts for this conference. The conference belongs to the NAE4-HA, of which we (at least most of us) are members. The Tri-Chairs are on the board of Directors for the NAE4-HA and have found that the Board really does want to help us succeed. They also do try to make things easier for the Conference planners.

The NAE4-HA Vision is “NAE4-HA is the first choice of the youth development professional for building professional and personal competencies.”

The Conference is the NAE4-HA's annual meeting. We have business we need to conduct and the objective is to be sure every member is heard when decisions are made that affect all of us. The NAE4-HA Vision is “NAE4-HA is the first choice of the youth development professional for building professional and personal competencies.” The mission is “NAE4-HA offers youth development professionals the best in:



- Professional development
- An inclusive and supportive network
- Integration of scholarship, research & practice.”

The Conference Participants – This relationship is the most important for all of us. We have all been conference participants at some time. We know what we want to get out of a conference. It is our job as conference hosts, to help make our conference meaningful for the conference participants. We hope they will leave our Wisconsin NAE4-HA Conference with new information, enthusiasm for their work, and a better understanding of their role in NAE4-HA.

Over the next 1 ½ years, all of those involved in planning and helping at the NAE4-HA Conference will develop relationships with all sorts of people. I haven't even talked about the generous funders, the volunteers, the Milwaukee Visitors Bureau, the Conference Center and Hilton Hotel contacts, and many more. It will be an exciting experience for everyone involved. Many of the relationships will last the rest of your life. I know that I hope to meet and work with you all.

## The Quest Begins in Entre Nous!

By: Dawn Schneider, Langlade County 4-H Youth Development Agent  
Assistant Editor Entre Nous

I am excited to once again take on the position of editor for this newsletter later this year! I would like to take this chance to give you a preview of the 2005-2006 Entre Nous.

Going along with the theme of the 2006 National Conference being hosted in Wisconsin, we will be taking a piece of the theme for each issue this year. The themes and deadlines will be:

- October 1, 2005 (*this is one month earlier than last year!*) – “Quest”. Your article could delve into a quest that you are on – the quest to continually improve professionally, the quest to improve your community, the quest to find balance between work and home, the quest to have a strong 4-H program – the possibilities are endless!
- February 1, 2006 – “Spirit”. Once again there are a variety of possibilities for this theme. You could write about 4-H spirit, how you refresh and rekindle your own spirit, or how to best capture the spirit and the energy of our youth.
- May 1, 2006 – “Imagination”. This topic can literally stretch your imagination. What do you do creatively in your work? What do you imagine your “ultimate 4-H program” would look like? Use your imagination!

If you do not feel comfortable writing something up on yourself, contact me or another member of the Entre Nous staff and we would be happy to conduct an interview.

The Communications Committee of WAE4-HYDP hopes that these themes strike a cord with you. If they don't, we welcome any stories, ideas, or research that you would like to share with us, your colleagues.

There are several other areas that we are hoping to develop. We have enjoyed the “Message from the President” and the 2006 Conference Tri-Chair Updates and would like to continue those. We would like to urge new colleagues to introduce themselves via a short biographical article. If you do not feel comfortable writing something up on yourself, contact me or another member of the Entre Nous staff and we would be happy to conduct an interview. It is a large state and we do not get together as often as we would like and this will help more established staff get to know a little about you. We would invite retirees to do the same. This could be a synopsis of your Extension career or a “Life-After Extension” update. Once again, Entre Nous staff is very willing to write this up in the form of an interview if you are interested. We look forward to reports from our First Timer Scholarship Award Winners from the Seattle Conference.

Finally, we receive excellent comments when we include great photos and we hope this year to get some photos with new and familiar faces in them. We are suggesting that new staff include their photograph with their biographical sketch and that retirees include their photograph with their updates. The Awards and Recognition Committee is urged to share their photographs from the Banquet as well.



As the next editor of this newsletter, I want to formally welcome our newest Communications Committee members – Dawn Kuelz (incoming Chair-Elect), Jill Tingey, Roseanne Schleif, and Amanda Kostman. We look forward to your input and your fresh take on the newsletter! I would like to recognize Michelle Batterman for her hard work and dedication to this newsletter over the last year.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year of stories and insights from many of our 4-H Youth Development colleagues as we explore our own, “Quest for Spirit and Imagination”.

## Some people.....

*By: René L. Mehlberg, Winnebago County 4-H Youth Development Educator*

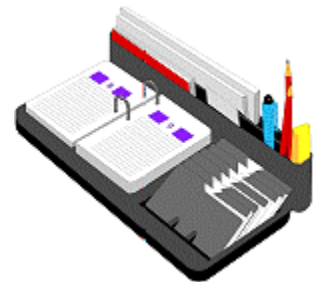
“Some people come into our lives, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same.”

I have been blessed by the relationships along the way.

This saying by the artist Flavia is one that is near and dear to my heart. I have moved quite often since high school – college, summer jobs, jobs since college, and even moves within my six years in Extension.

At each place I have had an address, I have encountered people who became friends and an adoptive family away from home. I have been blessed by the relationships along the way. Some recent events have proven the Flavia saying true.

At Easter, I sent out cards to friends and family. As I was going through my address book, I came across the address of a secretary where I used to teach high school. As both avid readers, she and I shared the love of a certain author who just came out with a new book. When I saw her name, I decided to drop a card and tell her about the book. I hadn't been in contact with her in a couple of years. Shortly after Easter I received a card in return. Even though years have passed, there was still a connection between us.



UW-Eau Claire was my “home” for six years. During that time I was quite active in the theatre department primarily working in the costume shop and utilizing the clothing skills I learned in 4-H. I was also very active in the church on campus, University Lutheran. It has been years since I was last at UWEC. Recently, I did return, as I took my younger brother, Rusty, there for transfer orientation. While there, I visited the college professor, Cheryl, who I worked for in the costume shop. She wasn't just a professor and supervisor; she was also a mentor. I also baby-sat her girls, who become younger sisters to me. Cheryl and her family adopted me even giving me a college graduation party. As we caught-up over lunch, we realized it had been almost 3 years since we last saw each other. However, the bond of friendship that was formed so long ago was still there.

For those who have returned to their college campus years after graduation, it can be a little freaky. You aren't always sure who you will run into. You may run into people you don't want to run into and if you run into people you

want to, the thought crosses your mind: “Will they remember who I am?” Those were all of my thoughts as I stopped at University Lutheran. I spent many hours in that building having a part-time job there, serving as an assistant minister, and attending Wednesday Evening Prayer and Sunday worship. I decided to be the “good big sister” and show my brother where he could go to church. As we walked in, Paster Don happened to be walking by. He did recognize me and gave me a big hug. He invited my brother and I back for the Wednesday evening meal that preceded Evening Prayer. We stayed. Rusty was able to meet some people to start making relationships prior to starting school, and I was able to rekindle some – even if just for a brief time.

Throughout my lifetime of moving, meeting people, and making friends, it has been very rare that I have become close friends with someone on the first meeting. This happened to me the first time I was part of the 4-H Arts Camp staff in 1999. There was another newer agent there, Katie Wagner from Adams County. As the “new kids” there, we started talking and had lots in common. Katie and I kept in touch and the following spring, I volunteered to help her with a project. I went over to her house on a Saturday and sometime on Sunday, we finally got to work. We were busy talking. Katie has been one of those friends that we just clicked. Since Katie moved to Illinois in 2000, our time together has been slim. However, each time we are together, we are just able to pick up where we left off. We recently met for breakfast. We sat down about 10:00, ate, and talked, and talked, and talked. I had a clock in my view and saw how much time was passing. When the waitress stopped to ask us to pay the bill as her shift was done, Katie looked at the time. It was a little after 1:00. She couldn’t believe how much time had passed.

These are just a few examples of the people who have come into my life, touched my heart, and have made a lasting impression. There are many more examples that could be shared. Each person we encounter does have an impression on us. Through the many relationships in our life of sharing our time, thoughts, and feelings with others, our hearts have been changed and we are never the same.

## Staking My Claim in Oklahoma City

*By Kevin A. Palmer, 4-H Youth Development Educator Manitowoc County*



When Marathon County 4-H Youth Development Educator, Jean Berger, contacted me and told me I had won the scholarship for a trip to Oklahoma City I was quite surprised – I never win anything! I knew I would miss Halloween and Haunted Camp at Camp TaPaWingo, but having a chance to attend my first national conference was exciting. I attended quite a number of seminars and poster sessions that included everything from parliamentary procedure to cowboy poetry. Now, six months later, I look back on that conference experience and reflect on how it has benefited me as a professional educator. For me, one of the things that really stands out was that the conference enabled me to gain a new perspective on 4-H that I didn’t have before. I met colleagues from around the country, and I had a chance to learn about their challenges and triumphs. I met educators from Oregon, Oklahoma, Colorado, Arizona, Montana, and Ohio, and I

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For me, one of the things that really stands out was that the conference enabled me to gain a new perspective on 4-H that I didn’t have before.

learned about 4-H in their states. I learned that although the 4-H program may “look” different in other states, the emphasis is still on youth development. I was impressed by the energy and enthusiasm that the Wisconsin delegation displayed to attract educators from around the nation to the 2006 conference. It was truly a team effort to promote the 2006 conference, and I actually got to wear a cheese head for the first time! I attended the new attendee’s breakfast and I learned about the structure and mission of NAE4-HA. I learned about parliamentary procedure from a poster session, and it enabled me to try a different approach to our club officer training this year. I attended a session on marketing 4-H, and we are now developing a new marketing plan for our county 4-H program. I learned more about the 4-H shooting sports program, and it has helped me to begin to build the shooting sports program in our county. I was introduced to some potential new projects for our county: Cowboy Poetry, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) robotics project, and the Cooperative Extension Supports Youth Environmental Stewardship (CESYES) project to name a few. I have a stack of resources that I brought back from the conference, some I have already used and some I know I will put into use in the near future. All in all the conference was a very successful experience for me, and I look forward to attending my next national conference in 2006. I would like to thank WAE4-HYDP for a first timer scholarship that gave me the impetus to go to the national conference, and UW-Extension Eastern District for also sponsoring a portion of the cost.

## It’s All About the Relationship

*By Dawn Kuelz, Door County 4-H Youth Development Agent*

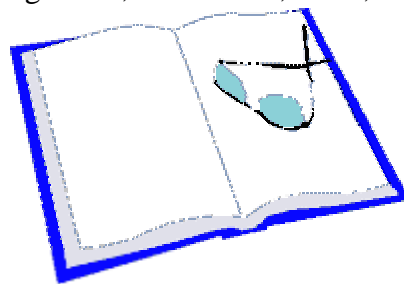
One of my Counselor professors in Graduate School had a quote that he used constantly as the “take home message” from our Counseling Techniques class. “It’s all about the relationship.” That was his personal mantra, and he wanted all of his students to remember that when they went out into practice.

Focusing on my place in the community and how I could strengthen the relationship between 4-H, Extension and the many community groups that work to benefit youth was my key job.

After deciding to venture outside of the counseling circles, I never stopped thinking about that piece of advice. When I started almost a year ago here in Door County, I took special care to make it all about the relationship. Looking back and thinking about my first year has been a really interesting experience. I realized that I focused a lot on the relationships here in my county.

Paging back through my calendar, I noticed tons of appointments with agencies, individuals, clubs, families, committees and other things. Focusing on my place in the community and how I could strengthen the relationship between 4-H, Extension and the many community groups that work to benefit youth was my key job. It seems like I spent some time each and every day thinking about or meeting with someone to discuss that relationship.

Another goal of mine was to build the relationship with my clubs. Granted, here in Door County, I only have 8 community clubs, which would still prove to be a challenge at first. Taking



the time to visit club meetings, attend special club activities and be present at the fair to meet everyone was a big part of strengthening the relationship.

Having a relationship with my community has been a big part of life here. I have found time to get involved in local groups and organizations so that I feel a part of the community. By building relationships with those groups, I have become a real community supporter. By attending and supporting school concerts, plays and sports events, I have really been able to build a relationship with others outside my 4-H population.

Participating in JCEP at the end of March was a great way for me to work on the collegial type of relationships. I really enjoyed my first conference and it was great to put faces with the many voices I have heard on the Wislines. I had a great time networking and meeting many colleagues that will hopefully turn into great working relationships in the future.

I admit I was really worried when I first started here a year ago. I was a bit nervous about how I would meet other key contacts in the community. It's amazing to think of how many people I have met in the first year and how many contacts I have made that may eventually benefit from Extension resources and the 4-H program. My professor was right when he said it's all about the relationship. Thanks to that piece of advice, I have learned how to build a strong foundation to continue my work in Youth Development here in Door County.

### **“Sticks”**

*Susan Marino, Professor Emeritus*



Boom, boom (base drum). Tap, tap (snare drum). Ping-ping (cymbal). Imagine...those are the sounds I'm making as I play the drums—in church, no less—recently! I have wanted to play the drums since I was 9 years old and found a snare drum under the Christmas tree.

“What?” I thought. “Where is the rest of the set?” Well, I come from the era that children should be seen, not heard, and I guess that meant the drums,

too. Two years ago one of my 4-Her's was going off to college and heard I was interested in a drum set. A real deal—5 drums, 2 cymbals, a pair of sticks, and a drum key. I got them home, called a teen, and he set them up for me. THEN I moved them from room to room in my house until I made a decision in January, 2004. I am going to start lessons!

At first I took lessons at Drums 'n Moore in Madison, using vacation time each Tuesday afternoon to take a lesson. I asked if there was an acceptable reason to skip a lesson one week. “Yes, however, the only excuse not acceptable is ‘I didn't have time to practice.’” “No problem,” I thought. (It later turned out that once in awhile I was just like the kids—taking off early to

Two years ago one of my 4-Her's was going off to college and heard I was interested in a drum set. A real deal—5 drums, 2 cymbals, a pair of sticks, and a drum key.

practice before my lesson.) My second drum teacher comes to my home in Richland Center and is teaching me improvisation.

I wish I had pursued my dream years ago. I always put it off because I thought I didn't have enough time. However, I've discovered that taking the drums has taught me to focus, to listen to my teacher and to all kinds of music, to discipline myself to practice, to put lots of time in to do a decent drum roll, to relax, and to unstress. I've always thought myself too uncoordinated to play with my right foot, my left foot, and my sticks and call that music. I never could imagine how much I would enjoy it, since as a junior in high school I was asked to mouth the words in the church choir. I haven't been asked to accompany the church choir, but maybe that's on the horizon.

The point of sharing this with you is that it's part of having a relationship with yourself—not putting off until retirement something that you've always wanted to do. I think I would have been a better agent, if only I would have stepped out of that role 15 minutes a day to practice. Don't let years go by, dreaming of a time when you'll have more time. Do it now. (Myth: Retirement is an endless amount of time to fill.)

Maybe some day someone will even pay me to be part of their gig. Then I'll know that I can support myself in the nursing home, being a substitute drummer on Friday and Saturday nights.

And my neighbor even gave me a new nickname—"Sticks". It's OK!

## **Welcome to Extension, Amanda**

*By Amanda Kostman, Lincoln County 4-H Youth Development Agent*

Amanda Kostman is the new Lincoln County 4-H Youth Development Program Advisor. She is working with the Ambassadors Program and the Board of Directors. She will serve as the Teen Court Coordinator and she is anticipating seeing the wonderful effects.

She recently moved to Merrill from Raymond, WI a very small community in Racine County. Amanda graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Parkside with a Bachelors Degree in Psychology with a focus on Youth Development, but her experience in Youth Development did not begin there.

4-H is very much a part of who she is and she loves everything about it! She is a third generation 4-Her! Amanda participated in 4-H as a member for 14 years and was an adult leader for 6 years. She enjoyed all that 4-H has had to offer in Racine County, including being the general leader of the Raymond 4-H Club and a member of the Racine County 4-H Board of Directors where she also served as Treasurer. She held various internships with the Racine County 4-H and helped with many other activities. She has also had the pleasure of working with the Wisconsin State 4-H Youth Leader Council as their Advisor. Amanda has been employed at the Wisconsin State Fair in the Rabbit and

4-H is very much a part of who she is and she loves everything about it! She is a third generation 4-Her!



Poultry Department. Amanda hopes to use those experiences to the best of her abilities in Lincoln County.

## “The Five People You Meet in Heaven”

*By: Mich Albom*

*Book Review By: René L. Mehlberg, Winnebago County 4-H Youth Development Educator*

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Five out of five stars is what I give this book.

Before he can complete his journey to heaven, he meets five people who have played an important role in his life. Some people he was very close to; others, merely acquaintances.

Do you ever wonder what impact a chance meeting with someone may have in your life? Or what your life would have been like without a long term relationship with family or friends?

These are some of the questions that you consider while reading, “The Five People You Meet in Heaven.” The main character, Eddie, dies tragically on his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Before he can complete his journey to heaven, he meets five people who have played an important role in his life. Some people he was very close to; others, merely acquaintances. The common bond in each was that Eddie’s life or the life of the other was impacted because of the meeting.

We often never know the importance a chance meeting, acquaintance, or relationship has in our life. Or if we do, we find out years later. This quick read and hard to put down book of 196-pages, makes one stop and think of people who have come, gone, and stayed in our lives. Eddie has the opportunity to look back and learn about five people in his life.

What five people do you think you’d meet in heaven?



## 2004-2005 WAE4-HYDP Board of Directors

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### Fast Fact

WAE4-HYPD works in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin-Extension – an EEO/Affirmative Action employer. WAE4-HYPD provides equal opportunities in programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements.

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