



Director's Report—Debbie Bird

Team Player

Being a team player is as important as good publicity for an event or being the first to own the next best seller or providing the latest innovative technology. It is being a friend. We have formed a great deal of partnerships in the last five years. I feel that those partnerships are developing levels of trust, commitment and elevating our importance within the community.

In the Children's Services Department, Ann works closely to involve the school systems, public and private—St. Mary's, Lewiston, Bartels and John Muir schools. The interaction between the school librarians, Eileen Marshall and Kristy Bovre, is an integral effort to keep lines of communication open with the school system and to share resources. Changes to the library card application, allow parents to authorize their child their very own library card without coming into the library; it has opened doors for children on school visiting days. Parents communicate with staff through emails, texts, posts and phone calls, on everything from inquiries regarding deadlines for events, times of upcoming activities, requests, suggestions and appreciation.

The Adult Services Department is working side-by-side with the social services network of not-for-profit organizations, mutually assisting and supporting each other with information, handouts, ideas and offers. PAWSC is the epitome of cooperation and assistance. City departments share resources and bring the community together through the City Newsletter, Euchre and Pickle ball and advertisement. Volunteer services allow the library to utilize the talents in the community, providing value-added services. Friends fund raising events highlight the library and the community.

Circulation Services Department is always the friendly, "hi, how are you doing?" greeter to a large library "family." The Portage Public Library maintains that small town, neighborhood feeling. We recommend books for our library users, ask patrons about their weekends, remind them about programs that may be right up their alley and handle their requests, their concerns and their problems as we would a member of our family.

The library offers the possibility—the look and feel of what we ideally want a society to be—a well-meaning friend.