

## What the Moose Means to Me

by Sandra Tolson – Mooseheart Student

I first came into this world on September 27, 1990 and ever since then the Moose has been a part of my life. I have been to the family outings, the elderly bingos, the conventions, the dances, and everything else you could possibly think of, I've been there too.

I have seen Moosehaven and I get the enjoyment of waking up everyday with my address being 300 Fellowship Lane, Mooseheart, Illinois. That is correct, I am a student at Mooseheart. I still remember saying the 9 O'clock prayer in the Lodges and Chapters and I remember collecting money for the endowment fund, but I never really understood what this whole Moose Fraternity was all about. I learned most of it from one of the most active members I know, my Dad.

I completely understand the term "I'm going down to the lodge, I'll be back in 20 minutes." However, in Administrator talk, that means, "I'll see you in a couple of hours". I know how much time and dedication moose members put into their Lodges and Chapters. Although, I never really understood why my Father or any other member would work so hard. I mean Mooseheart and Moosehaven were just distant places to me that meant absolutely nothing.

But, now that I have been living here for three years, I thank my Dad and every one of you for what you do! I have met so many wonderful people that have been through so much and some awesome moose members who give so much of their lives to help others. I live with nine girls and each one of their stories is different. Whether they are here because they needed a safer environment or they didn't have a financially stable home, or they could be simply like me, just wanting they wanted to learn more and get a better education.

I can honestly say that I have never met students anywhere else like the ones I have met here. They are young and strong; quiet, yet powerful; and very thankful for what they have.

Growing up, I was envious, and perhaps somewhat resentful, of the fraternity for stealing all of my Dad's time away from home, because he was always at the Moose Lodge. But, if I could go back in time, I wouldn't change a thing. I've adapted to the fact that all the doors in my residence home may not have handles and maybe the fence will never go fully around my house, but at least these children, my friends, will get to live in a safe and educational environment. I too was like some out you sitting in this room, confused about what the Moose had to offer or what good could come out of it. But every day, you are helping so many teens and children who need it and so many elderly citizens looking for some care. You are allowing others to build memories, get an education, and make friends. You are our heroes and I thank you for all that you do.

I am proof that what you do as Moose members does make a difference in the life of a child.

Never stop believing.

## **Safe Surfin' Foundation**

by Shawn Baile, Director of Fraternal Programs

When you examine the mission of our fraternity, one of our primary goals is to care for children in need. Our units constantly respond to medical emergencies, death to family members and even situations requiring the services of Mooseheart. In these cases, our actions are reactive. Now, we have found an opportunity for the efforts of our fraternity and our members to be pro-active.

The Loyal Order of Moose has formed a partnership with the Safe Surfin' Foundation, a non-profit organization focused on ensuring safe use of the Internet. The foundation was formed to address Internet Crimes Against Children. The Safe Surfin' Foundation has three areas of focus: criminal enforcement, advocating legislation and educating kids and adults on how to use the Internet safely.

The criminal enforcement element is handled by the Bedford County Sheriff's Department. Officers of the department pursue suspected predators on the Internet by monitoring electronic correspondence and chat sessions, even posing as young children or teenagers in chat rooms to apprehend offenders.

There are opportunities for our fraternity to get involved in this program by advocating mandatory Internet safety education laws in our home states and provinces. Our goal is to mirror the program implemented in Virginia that made Internet safety education mandatory for grades K-12 in all public schools in the commonwealth. The Department of Fraternal Programs will be developing materials that our Government Relations chairmen and committee members can take in front of legislators. The brochures will provide background on the Safe Surfin' Foundation, explain the program enacted in Virginia and state the goal of our partnership. We are going to work together to make Internet safety education mandatory in all public schools in the 50 United States and the provinces of Canada.

There are also opportunities for us to provide educational materials to our public schools, including NetSmartz, an instructional computer software program. We will work to assist the Safe Surfin' Foundation in its goal to provide audio, video and printed materials to students and parents that are factual, interactive and non-threatening. We will explore opening our Moose homes for training sessions and public awareness seminars. And, we will utilize our community service program to raise funds to help the foundation provide all this at no cost to participants, schools or residents of the school districts.

Through this partnership, our organization has an opportunity to affect the futures of both legislation in the countries we serve and the education and safety of millions of children throughout North America. If we perform up to our capabilities, this community service effort could define our fraternity as the leading organization in caring for children in need.

## "Hands"

by Past Grand Council member Wendy Matthew

One day while visiting my favorite spa, I watched as the manicurist massaged my hands ... such a talent ... and it felt soooooo good! I began to think about how important my hands are and all the things we do in our life using our hands.

Every day we use our hands to communicate with others ... waving hello or bye-bye, writing a card or letter to a friend, dialing a telephone, shaking hands, clicking the mouse to send an email, and isn't it fascinating to watch a person communicate through sign language? Is there anything better than lifting up a child, braiding her hair, brushing his ... or simply holding on to their little hands while taking that first step? We use our hands to wipe the brow of a sick friend, fluff our hair, pick a bouquet of flowers.

We feed ourselves, tie our shoes, wipe a tear, then applaud our favorite team or show appreciation for a great performance. Have you ever visited a clairvoyant and had her read your palm? Oh the tales they can tell from just looking at your hands.

We need everyone's hands in our Chapters to help prepare the meals for our hungry members and their families, clean up, wash and dry the dishes. Many talented co-workers knit or crochet baby sweaters, tablecloths and afghans for our bazaars or make cakes, cookies and pies for our bake sales. As co-workers of the Women of the Moose, we lend a helping hand in our communities by volunteering our time and efforts with Meals on Wheels, Special Olympics, the local blood bank or Big Sisters.

We should use our hands more often to look up information in the General Laws booklet, Meeting Procedures and Agendas book, Officers or Recorder Audit handbooks first ... instead of picking up the phone or clicking the mouse to contact the International Office for those answers!

We can all help our Chapters and the Moose fraternity by explaining our program to family and friends then handing them a membership application and a pen!

Always greet your co-workers with a smile and a handshake or better yet ... reach out your hands and give them a hug.

A basketball in my hands is worth about \$20. A basketball in the hands of Michael Jordan is worth millions. Put that basketball in the hands of Mooseheart student Mike Tovar and he is able to participate in the Illinois State Slam dunk competition and do a great job! It depends whose hands it's in!

A pen and paper in my hands is worth about \$5. A pen and paper in the hands of Harry Potter author JK Rowling is worth millions. Put that pen and paper in the hands of Moosehaven resident Dan Bramblett and he will write a newsletter which will be posted on the Moosehaven website for millions to read and learn what's happening on campus. It depends whose hands it's in!

A clarinet in my hands is worth about \$200. A clarinet in the hands of Benny Goodman was worth millions. Put that clarinet in the hands of Mooseheart student Marco Namowicz and he will entertain at special events on campus and be given the opportunity to attend Interlochen Center for the Arts because of his talent. It depends whose hands it's in!

As you can see, it does depend whose hands it's in! Our children at Mooseheart need our help and support so they can continue to receive the education and skills they will need in future years and our Moosehaven residents will be provided with a safe, secure home to live in. How can we do this? With our hands, of course! Pick up your phone and call Moose Charities, click your mouse and go to the website or write a check. Your hand ... my hand ... the symbol for our Gimme 5 campaign!! Co-workers ... the future of Mooseheart is in our hands!

## TEAMWORK

by Linda Baltzer, Academy of Friendship Board member

Andrew Carnegie said, "Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. It's the fuel that allows common people to obtain uncommon results."

In our society today there are many kinds of teams, in the world of business, sports and even in the Women of the Moose.

With teams being prevalent, how is it that teamwork is so misunderstood? Primarily because of the all-too common belief that forming a group-and giving them a title-equates to creating a team. Not so! The fact is that while all teams are groups, not all groups are teams. What separates the two is interdependence. A group becomes a true team only when its members support and enhance each other's performance and contributions...When they work together to achieve results that are bigger and better than those that could be realized individually. It's what people do that makes them a team-not the mere fact that they've been assembled.

Envision the ideal team. How do team members behave? How do they interact with each other? What kinds of things do they say? What do they believe? Do you think it might be a group of people who care about each other, help each other, and cover for one another? There is no "me first" – OR – "we're all in this alone" – OR – "Every woman for herself" thing in your vision, right? Of course not! The members of your ideal team are more likely to say (and believe) things like, "you can count on me," "I've got your back," and "we're all in this, together." Undoubtedly, your group exhibits the first and most important characteristic of five-star teamwork: a commitment to EACH OTHER.

What kind of a team player are you? Here are some questions to think about:

Do you respect every member of your chapter?

Do you willingly pitch in without being asked?

When you have a problem with a co-worker, do you express your concern quickly and tactfully-rather than letting it fester?

Do you sincerely apologize when you do something that may hurt or disturb one of your co-workers?

Do you look for ways to "do it even better the next time" and help your co-workers do the same?

All of us are ordinary people. We are individuals who have hopes and dreams, disappointments and frustrations, joy and sorrows, family and friends, good days and bad.

Finally, please remember this: In order to feel like a vital member of your chapter, you must be a vital member. Do your part to make your teamwork a reality and you will experience firsthand, that "Together - Everyone Achieves More!"

## CONVOCATION ADDRESS

### ***"MAKING A DIFFERENCE"***

We are gathered here this morning to congratulate and honor these Junior Graduate Regents who, through their efforts and those of their chapters, qualified for the Green Cap - the symbol of successful service to the Women of the Moose. As we recognize them for their contributions to our program, we also extend our thanks to all others who give of their time and effort to further the cause we have adopted – that of caring for children and seniors in need of our assistance. Through dedication and commitment, our members have enabled our Mooseheart students to live in a safe and healthy environment - to achieve their goals – that of graduating and having the skills and knowledge to enjoy more success, both in their personal and professional lives. Junior Graduate Regents, you have the same opportunity as our Mooseheart Graduates – to go forward and help yourselves and others achieve continued success.

This year, through your endeavors, we provided 21 students the opportunity to graduate. The Mooseheart High School Graduation always takes place on the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend. This is a very special weekend in the lives of both students and members. Members of the Loyal Order of Moose who, because of their years of meritorious service to our fraternity, were chosen to receive the Pilgrim Degree of Merit and travel to The Child City to be conferred with the degree in the House of God. Their excitement and pleasure is intensified by the opportunity to witness the Mooseheart High School Graduation.

All present at the graduation were touched with the music of "Pomp and Circumstance" as 21 Seniors slowly made their way through the NJROTC Honor Guard, under raised swords, to take their places on stage. Emotion in the room ran the gamut from tears of pride to laughter and joy. And pride in the accomplishments of the young men and women in the graduating class remained constant – especially when those in attendance listened to the addresses by the Salutatorian and Valedictorian.

They listened as Executive Director of Mooseheart Scott Hart said, "It's been an exciting year at Mooseheart. These youngsters who came in here as children, are walking out today as young men and young women because of what the Moose fraternity has provided in this very special place called Mooseheart.

Without your tireless efforts and your dedication and the ability to be selfless and to think of others, this day would not be possible for these kids." And he went on to say to the graduates, "God has created you for a purpose. He has placed you here at Mooseheart for a special reason. That reason may sometimes seem confusing to you and you may not understand the reason. But someday in your life, you will. I believe that purpose for you is to reach your full potential in life."

These words can also be applied to each of you and to our members not in attendance today. You have given these fine young men and women an opportunity they would not have had if not for the men and women of the Moose.

And, Valedictorian Jake Stegeman said, "Mooseheart wrapped me in its wings, crystallizing me in hope and passion, easing me into a cocoon of which I have been bursting from day by day, learning life and learning to love, shedding the layers of hate under the sunlight of happiness Mooseheart has provided me. Mooseheart, more than I could every comprehend it, has become a home for me," he said. "Even as I leave through those gates for the last time, while even though I have left, my heart shall never leave, remaining as steadfast as the love that made Mooseheart possible. We made it."

Junior Graduate Regents, today you have received the honor of the Green Cap and you have the opportunity now to qualify for the College of Regents Degree – the highest degree in the Women of the Moose. Wear the Green Cap with pride – but always remember – the truest recognition of a job well done must always be the satisfaction of knowing – "You Made The Difference In The Life Of A Child."

**Children Learn What They Live – So Can We**  
**by Dorothy Law Nolte**

**When we come together to conduct our meetings, to assist at our fundraising functions, to honor those who have attained degrees, to welcome new members or simply to enjoy the benefits of membership, we sometimes forget that our thoughts, words and actions touch and influence the thoughts, words and actions of others. We sometimes forget that what we say and do, or don't do, also affects the lives of the children in our care.**

**The Mooseheart staff is very much aware of how one thought, one word or one action affects the life of a child. We, as adults, can also learn that we can be affected in the same way. For instance, here are facts that we must understand about children and, in fact, may also apply to adults:**

**If children live with criticism, They learn to condemn.**

**If children live with hostility, They learn to fight.**

**If children live with ridicule, They learn to be shy.**

**If children live with shame, They learn to feel guilty.**

**If children live with encouragement, They learn confidence.**

**If children live with tolerance, They learn to be patient.**

**If children live with praise, They learn to appreciate.**

**If children live with acceptance, They learn to love.**

**If children live with approval, They learn to like themselves.**

**If children live with honesty, They learn truthfulness.**

**If children live with security, They learn to have faith in themselves and others.**

**If children live with friendliness, They learn the world is a nice place in which to live.**

**Co-workers, if we apply these same thoughts to our interactions with other members, attendance and participation at our meetings and our functions will surely increase. And, with that increase, our chapters will enjoy membership growth and financial success.**