

The Rainbow Girls: A Gift to the Community



As an affiliate of the local Masonic Lodge, the primary purpose of the Rainbow for Girls is to promote self-esteem, leadership, public speaking skills, and service in the community. From my recent interview with Shayna Uffelman, Worthy Advisor (like the president) of the Hardin “Assembly” of Rainbow Girls, it is clearly obvious that she embodies everything positive about this organization. A sophomore at Hardin High School, Shayna has been a member of Rainbow Girls since she was eleven (girls from 11 to 20 years of age are eligible for membership in Rainbow) and she has now served 41/2 consecutive years within the organization.

From a personal standpoint, Shayna said the experience of being a Rainbow Girl has allowed her to sharpen her interpersonal skills, develop new professional abilities, and travel to meet with others who have like interests. But, when asked what really spurred her interest in Rainbow, Shayna said, “I was very interested in Rainbow because of the important service they provide in the community. And, because of Rainbow I am able to

help people in need and do little things they really appreciate.” Along with helping others locally, Shayna is particularly pleased with their annual summer fundraiser at the KOA that the Rainbow Girls are involved in from June 1 to August 31 that typically raises 2 – 4 thousand dollars that will go directly toward providing local community services.

Shayna said that another event she always looks forward to is the Annual Rainbow Girls Breast Cancer Walk. According to Shayna, “One thing that impressed me about the Rainbow Girls is their work to fight breast cancer. The money we raise helps provide support for the early detection and prevention of breast cancer and this year all the monies we raise will go to the Big Horn County Memorial Hospital Mammography Department here in Hardin.” This year, the Annual Rainbow Girls Breast Cancer Walk will be on October 15, 2011. The walk will start at 8:30 am at Mojoes and the course of the walk (which also ends back at Mojoes) is 2 miles.

Shayna is the daughter of Steve and Penny Uffelman and has one sibling, younger sister, Shelby. Shayna said all of the work she and the Rainbow Girls do is on their personal time in the evenings and weekends so she really appreciates all the support she receives from her family and the community. A longer term plan for the local Assembly is to plan a project with the Neo-Natal ICU at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Billings and the Rainbow Girls will be making blankets for the March of Dimes newborns

The local Rainbow Girls Assembly (No. 33) has 12 girls and Rene Uffelman and Carrie McCleary serve as the Mother Advisor and Assistant Mother Advisor respectively. For more information about the Rainbow Girls or upcoming Breast Cancer Walk, you may contact Shayna at: 406-665-2908.