NEWS

Maas, Kadish: Go where helping hands are welcome

The power of place through volunteering

LINDA DOYLE

Every day, hundreds of volunteers make our community a better place to live, work, and play. This column features volunteers whose energy and commitment promote a sense of community and inspire us. They found a connection; they used their gifts, abilities, and hard work; and they give back to their community.

Submitted photo

Josh Kadish and Lisa Maas

Lisa Maas and Josh Kadish moved to Hillsdale in 1980. Their three sons graduated from Wilson High School.

Maas started volunteering in middle school working with blind and developmentally delayed students, an experience that changed her life and led to her career as a psychologist. She has volunteered with IRCO (Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization), in school classrooms, with Meals on Wheels, and has co-taught a course to Robert Gray Middle School students, about the lives of children in other cultures. Maas volunteers at Wilson, working with immigrant students who she says, "have been unbelievably challenged by war, poverty, health problems and loss." She also helps Wilson students explore creative ideas that can lead to compelling essays for their college applications. She co-leads a Dining for Women (DFW) chapter with a friend, Lynn McClennahan, in which members learn about and sponsor a project each month focusing on women and children in a developing nation.

If you are concerned about something in the world, "Do something about it," Maas adds. "The one-on-one relationships I have with immigrant kids are warm, funny, profound, and thought provoking- mutually and enormously enriching."

She believes it is important to find volunteer activities that fit with your beliefs and what you love. It makes you feel good to contribute, anywhere that helping hands are welcome.

Kadish has volunteered on numerous local boards, including Chamber Music Northwest, Oregon Family Institute, the Casey Family Program, Hillsdale Farmers' Market, Oregon Mediation Association, Young Musicians & Artists, the Oregon Board of Licensed Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists, and represents many nonprofit organizations through his law practice at Wyse Kadish LLP. The Multnomah Bar Association named him Volunteer Lawyer of the Year in 1991 for his pro bono work with struggling families facing divorce. He has received the Oregon Mediation Association Award of Excellence, the Oregon State Bar Sid Lezak Award, and a Daily Journal of Commerce Leadership in the Law award.

As a Hillsdale Main Street board member and officer, Kadish is dedicated to revitalizing our community. For his 60th birthday, he commissioned author Laura Foster to write a special Hillsdale walk, "Roaming Hillsdale".

A staunch supporter of the Hillsdale Farmers' Market, he volunteers rain or shine every Sunday morning, setting-up the market and playing music. "There is something magical about transforming a parking lot into a Farmers Market in about a two-hour period," reflects Kadish.

He also picks up garbage around Hillsdale every month with a group called The Usual Suspects. This simple, direct volunteer effort he says yields immediate results and connects everyone as community members.

"Volunteering is a rewarding way of meeting people and feeling that you are making a difference," states Kadish. Best yet, "It feels so good to volunteer!" adds Maas.

Do you know a volunteer who deserves some recognition? Send the name and contact information for the volunteer with details about their work and send to Linda Doyle at: Lsdoyle@earthlink.net.