

2013 Unsung Hero

There are many people who are given the same opportunities, the same type of jobs, the same family structure, the same community. But what they do with those things is what separates them, what sets them apart.

This is certainly true of this year's Unsung Hero, Skip August. Yes, Skip had successful educational experiences; first in his hometown of Chilton, WI, and then earning an engineering degree at UW-Madison. Yes, Skip has had successful careers in the Army, in the private sector at Northrop Defense Systems, at Cray Research, and SGI. Most recently, he served as the president of the then Chippewa Area Catholic Schools. And yes, Skip and his wife Rose have been blessed with three sons and one, almost two, grandchildren.

When asked about his hobbies, it is interesting to note that the first thing that he listed was Volunteering! As his sons Ryan, Kevin, and Jason grew, Skip's involvement went from Cubmaster to Scoutmaster to the Boy Scout Council. Then throw in YMCA Board, Little League Coach, Music Boosters Education committee,,,,,and that was just as his sons were growing.

Skip continues to serve the Chippewa community with these activities: Chippewa County Historical Society Board, Heyde Center Board President, Chippewa Valley Boy Scouts Board, Boys and Girls Club Founding Committee, Museum of Industry and Technology Board, St. Joseph Hospital Advisory Council, Holy Ghost Parish Facilities Committee, MACS Technical Director, UWEC Viennese Ball Organizing Committee, Rotary Club member, and in his spare time he is a volunteer driver for Chippewa County Senior Meals.

Communities such as ours rely on volunteer service. Skip August is a prime example of a citizen making a difference in the community in which he lives. One of the special attributes that Skip possesses is the ability to share all of his gifts and talents no matter how important or how big the job is. He is just as comfortable splicing wires together or working on an \$80,000 renovation in the school auditorium. Both projects are important to him and he brings his "A" game to all situations.

Please join me in recognizing Skip August as the 2013 Unsung Hero.

- Principal Brother Roger Betzold