

It's a Family Thing

By Lucy Ernst



Volunteering is something that comes naturally to Bob and Georgina Jonson. After all, they have learned by example, as volunteering was a significant part of both of their upbringings.

“My dad was always involved with coaching me as a child and I wanted to do the same. My brother Greg was on the fire department and it looked like fun so I thought I’d join the fire department too. You learn by example,” Bob said.

The same goes for Georgina, his wife. “My parents both did a lot of volunteer work when I was growing up. Volunteering became a family value, as we were all involved with some sort of volunteer work,” Georgina said.

Bob’s volunteer roles include the Camrose Fire Department, coaching minor soccer, high school volleyball and minor hockey. Georgina, too, has enjoyed a wide variety of volunteer service, including the Boys & Girls Club, Relay for Life, Preschool, Polar Park, Youth Emergency Shelter, various school events and the Camrose Family Resource Centre.

“So many people have helped us out that we wanted to find a way to give something back. We’ve learned that the more you give, the more you get back,” Bob suggests. “I’ve also learned the importance of time management and following through with commitments.

“I’ve learned that together we can accomplish tasks we cannot do alone. There is personal pride and a sense of accomplishment with volunteering,” Georgina adds.

“I have met so many people with similar ideas by volunteering, and we agree that, as volunteers, we are not only giving but receiving too.”

Volunteering is a value that Bob and Georgina want to instill in their children. In fact, when Georgina shared a story, there’s evidence that their children have already learned this value, and most likely from Bob and Georgina’s many volunteer examples.

“When asking our six-year-old son what he wants to be when he grows up, he said he wanted to be a firefighter, a police officer and a volunteer. When I asked him why, he said, ‘Because you are, Dad, and I want to help people too.’ It is memorable, because we have modeled for our children, if not anyone else, that volunteering is important,” Georgina said.

When reflecting upon why someone should consider volunteering Bob contends, “You live here. Volunteering will make this a better place to live and will enrich your life too.” For help in finding the right volunteer position for you or your family call the Volunteer Center of Camrose & District at 672-0141.