



## BRIGADE NEWSLETTER

### HAPPY 123RD BIRTHDAY, BRIGADE!



January 22nd marked Brigade's 123rd year in the Neenah community. To celebrate, Building Leaders program participants enjoyed delicious Dilly Bars.

Thank you to Neenah Dairy Queen for helping us celebrate our birthday, and thank you to this wonderful community that has supported Brigade for so many years.



#### Leader Spotlight: *Megan Gunderson*

A first-year volunteer, Megan was nominated for the spotlight because of how intentional she is making sure kids in her group feel seen and supported.

**Favorite Part of Brigade:** Watching the girls in my group try new things and be proud of their accomplishments!

**What I'm Looking Forward To:** Continuing to get to know the girls and learning more about Brigade!

**Fun Fact:** I'm learning computer coding as a new hobby.



#### Youth Spotlight: *Ellie Hammerschmidt*

**Favorite Part of Brigade:** Getting to spend time with a variety of people I don't always get to see at school. The bond I've created with my group over the last few months is awesome and they make the activities 10x more fun!

**What I'm Looking Forward To:** The fun activities we get to do. We've done scavenger hunts, games in the gym, pottery for "pick a shop", and we get to go ice skating at the Plaza soon!

**Fun Fact:** My favorite singer is Taylor Swift, and I get to see her in concert this summer!



#### **BRIGADE FAMILY NIGHT**

March 1st 5pm-8pm @  
Downtown Neenah Plaza

#### **PASTA FOR PASSPORTS**

March 10th 6pm-9pm @  
Brigade Gymnasium

#### **AWARDS NIGHT**

March 19th 5:30pm @  
Best Western  
Bridgewood Resort  
Hotel and Conference  
Center





**WELCOME, LLAHOMA!**

**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT &  
ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT**

Llahoma discovered her passion for the nonprofit sector when she was asked to join animal rescue efforts for Hurricane Katrina in 2005. A certified volunteer manager and nonprofit management professional with extensive strategic partnership experience, she has supported hundreds of individuals and corporations in identifying meaningful roles to best serve the missions they care about most with their time, talent, and treasure. Passionate about animal welfare and empowering youth, Llahoma has raised millions of dollars for meaningful causes and works to build a culture of philanthropy wherever she goes.

**A Little More About Llahoma...**

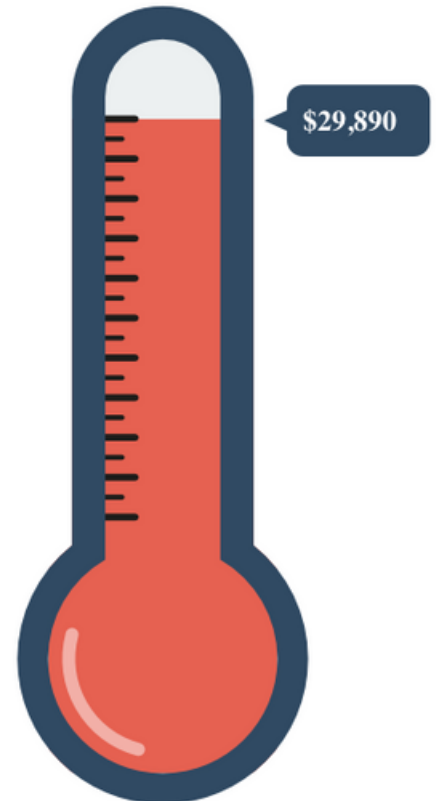
A recent transplant from Arkansas, she enjoys road trips, sushi, and kayaking – not necessarily exclusive of one another. She made the move to Wisconsin with her bubbly tween daughter, an energetic Boxer puppy and an elusive tabby cat, aptly named Shadow.

*Creating Moments  
That Matter*

**WE'RE RAISING \$30K TO SEND AS  
MANY YOUTH TO CAMP ONAWAY NEXT  
SUMMER AS POSSIBLE**



**GOAL: \$30,000**



**Despite competitively low registration costs,  
the need for scholarships for youth to attend  
has more than doubled in the last few years.**

**\$29,890 of our \$30k goal!**

**DONATE**



## What's Up At Brigade?

### PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: 9TH GRADE ETIQUETTE DINNER

Last month at Bridgewood, the 9th graders in the Building Leaders program dressed up and attended an 'Etiquette Dinner' led by long-time volunteer Sue Vine. They learned good manners and how to properly set a table. After setting their tables, leaders and kids enjoyed a lovely meal and great music.



### DISCOVER BREAKOUTS

Stay connected with your friends after the Building Leaders program ends. Choose from a variety of fun, engaging activities to participate in from our Discover Breakouts!



[LEARN MORE](#)

### CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Youth can now register for summer camp at Onaway. Sign up today!

[REGISTER NOW >](#)



### VOLUNTEERS, MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Volunteer registration for summer camp at Onaway opens Tuesday, March 21st.

Stay up to date by following our socials!



## A Message From The Executive Director

We feel pretty good about 2022 overall—especially coming out of a pandemic—a few numerical highlights appear below. It is really important to celebrate what *was* accomplished in the way of engaging youth last year—our numbers in the downtown program and summer camps were up over 10% from 2021 levels—many thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who helped make these gains possible. We are also pleased with how Music/Tech and Discover got off the ground in year one—creating even more opportunities for youth to try new things was a priority for us.



It was great to see our annual Awards Banquet return to form with Leaders able to join us after a pandemic-driven hiatus—25 extraordinary youth received awards (some more than one!) and several spoke about the impact of their Brigade experience—hearing their stories was inspiring and we wish them the best going forward. Last, and certainly not least, the S.F. Shattuck Award was presented to Linda Ahles and Jody Hoppe for their extraordinary service to Brigade over a span of decades. Thanks again to everyone who gave their time, talent and/or treasure in 2022 to the Brigade cause!

-Executive Director, John Benberg

## 2022 In Review



Served **480** kids during the 2022-23 Building Leaders Program



Onaway Island hosted **1,093** kids for summer camp



**50** aspiring musicians and tech gurus practiced their craft in our new Music/Tech studio



**202** kids explored a new activity with our Discover Breakouts and Discover Mini Series



**914** kids in the community received toys and other presents through Christmas Giving



**19** kids were selected to attend the 2023 International Trip that includes Scotland, Ireland, and the UK