



## Waunakee Rotary Club

May 22, 2008  
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Genna Eaton spoke to the Waunakee Rotary Club on May 15 about Waunakee Neighborhood Connection (WNC) and its needs and wants going into the future.

Eaton, the group's president, explained that WNC looks to help provide for the needy in the community.

"Waunakee Neighborhood Connection is similar to a food pantry, but we do everything but food," she said.

Eaton said the number of those using any social services in the Waunakee area rose from about 75 a year and a half ago to about 150 now.

WNC gives people a place to make donations without having a specific recipient in mind, Eaton said. The charity facilitates the movement of goods to those in need.

As an all-volunteer organization, WNC also provides an opportunity for community members to volunteer. Eaton said the group's volunteers share the same serving attitude as Rotary.

"We all do it because we feel the passion," she said.

Eaton said WNC has received great support from the school district, allowing young people to experience service.

Providing needed goods is not the only service WNC offers. Eaton said she talks to families every month or so to see how they are doing. That connection helps "let these families know that they are part of the community and we care about them," Eaton said.

Eaton shared the success story of a young couple who came to

Waunakee without a home. She said with a little help, just over two years later the pair hold steady jobs and are off welfare and housing assistance.

They told Eaton that having people who didn't give up on them helped them get to where they are now.

Looking to the future, Eaton said she hopes to be able to replicate the success of Middleton Outreach Ministry or Sunshine Place in Sun Prairie. She said creating a one-stop shop for those in need would be a great benefit for the community.

Not only would a single destination be beneficial for those in need, but it would be easier for donors too, Eaton said. She said it would also prevent a duplication of services. All of the entities, such as the food pantry, social workers, and public health nurses would remain separate, but they would be easier for those in need to access.

Eaton also said having a central location would provide a great place for those looking to volunteer. It could serve as a volunteerism hub of sorts for local service and church groups, she said.

There are a lot of families in need in the area and that number will only likely increase with the economy struggling, Eaton said. So the need is definitely there; now she just needs some people to jump on board to get the proverbial ball rolling.

Eaton said there really is nothing in the works yet, but before a campaign really gets going, she would like to have a building or a location to build set up. She added that the Waunakee Ecumenical Board, who

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runs the food pantry, is behind the idea.

Guests: Sharon Kruschek, guest of Neil Kruschek; Ben Ballweg, guest of Ken Ballweg.

Visiting Rotarians: Stan Kruger, Lexington, Va., Sunrise.

Birthdays: May 25, Joyce Maly; May 26, Bob Lenz.

Anniversaries: May 23, Greg and Heidi Garton; May 24, Bob and Joyce Kase; May 25, Jon and Barbara Townley; May 25, Mike and Dena Lawrence; May 28, DuWayne Statz and Roberta Valle-Statz.

Prayers: May 22, Msgr. Kramer; May 29, Susan Vergeront; June 5, Leonard Allen.

Programs: May 22, JB Van Hollen, Attorney General; May 29, Randy Sproule, Polio Plus Challenge; June 5, Club Assembly.

Greeters: May 22, Rich Wipperfurth and Henry Zander; May 29, Peggy Acker-Farber and Leonard Allen.

### Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is [www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org). Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.