



Wisconsin Singers Extends Thanks to Judy Novotny

By Melanie Helvick



Retiring Executive Board member Judy Novotny was first introduced to Wisconsin Singers as a parent of 93-94 troupe member Chris Novotny. Almost right away she began getting involved with costuming, helping with any

alterations needed at shows. As years went on, Judy's expertise with a sewing machine led her to head up all costuming needs for the organization.

Judy joined the Friends of Wisconsin Singers board in 2009. Acting as a member of the program committee, Judy has taken under her wing a huge amount of responsibility for the program in realms including interviews, hiring, communications, and contracts. Judy says her decision to join the board felt like a natural progression. She was already involved in costuming and ticketing, so being able to have a role where she could help with the planning behind the scenes just made sense for her and was very rewarding.

Even though she loved the work she did as a member of the program committee, Judy says her favorite aspect of being a part of the board goes beyond her desire to help Wisconsin Singers behind the scenes. What has made her stay so long, she says, are the relationships she has made. To her, relationships are what life is all about, and being involved in Wisconsin Singers and the FOWS board has given her so many strong and irreplaceable bonds.

Judy has countless memories as a parent, costumer, and board member for Wisconsin Singers, but a few really stand out. She says that sitting at the Friends and Family show each year is a very emotional experience. Despite her many years with the program, every single time she is blown away by how far the students in the troupe have come. She cherishes the long hours she gets to spend with the students during the weeks of production camp leading up to that moment and often thinks back to many special one-on-one moments that have created unspoken familial bonds.

As she steps away from her board position, Judy encourages parents and alumni of the program to get involved. She says it is so special to be able to be behind the scenes and interact with other people who have so much passion and so many new and creative ideas for the future of the program. She hopes that as the board moves forward, they are able to pursue some of these ideas and increase the reach of Wisconsin Singers. Judy also says that one of her hopes for the future would be to raise more money to increase the amount of scholarship dollars given to students as a thank you for spending their weekends singing and playing their hearts out.

While Judy will be stepping away from her position on the board, she will continue to be involved in Singers with costuming and ticketing for shows. She is dedicated to maintaining the relationships she has built through Wisconsin Singers as they are what she will miss most about being involved with the board. We cannot thank Judy enough for her dedication to Wisconsin Singers all these years and while we are sad to see her leave the board, we know she will be helping the program for years to come!