

**ADVOCATE.**

- **United Way focuses on “Helping Children and Youth Achieve Their Potential”.**

In the fall of 2008, the north Rock County libraries partnered with United Way of North Rock County to bring a “Live United” message to area children, promoting community service. Live United means that all of us, no matter the age, can do our part to reach out, all working together to make our world better.

**ORFORDVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY – at Collinwood Nursing Residence**

In Orfordville, an intergenerational library program was held at Collinwood Nursing Residence. Books were read by local celebrities Jennie Krajek, an Orfordville resident and Projects Coordinator at KANDU; and John Abrahamson, a rural Footville/Orfordville resident and retired teacher and Junior High Principal in the Parkview district for 34 years. The books were read to the families who attended and the elderly residents at Collinwood.

Jennie Krajek, son Noah and grandpa John Abrahamson enjoy their snack



After the books were read, the Collinwood seniors walked with their walkers, wheeled in their wheelchairs or slowly made their way to the tables to do a craft project, assisted by the families who attended.

The faces of the residents lit up as they worked with a child or adult, making a scarecrow craft to hang on their door. Some seniors, when assisted, were able to help with the project. Some just watched the craft-making, and some were able to make it without any assistance. Some seniors made happy conversation, and some were silent. All Collinwood residents and staff appeared happy for the lively break in their usual steady routine. Cookies and punch were then served to the group.

It was a joy to see the Collinwood residents brighten when the children and families worked with them, showing an interest in their lives. That’s what living united is all about – all ages working together to make a brighter world.

Right: A Collinwood resident enjoys her newly completed project



Jenna, right, helps a Collinwood resident with her punch

Left: Collinwood resident, Grace, and program attendee, Nadia, show off the scarecrow they made together

