

## **That's How It's "Dun" – Molly Franken Recognized for her Service to Dunlap**

Molly Franken is this quarter's recipient of DCDC's "That's How It's Dun" Award. This award is part of a community service recognition program created to honor those who go above and beyond in their volunteer service contributions to the Dunlap community.

Molly grew up in Hudson, IA, a town of about 2,000 people, south of Waterloo and Cedar Falls. She is currently a Social Work Supervisor in the Harrison County office for the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. In this position, she oversees child well-being in Crawford, Shelby and Harrison Counties.

She has served as the President of the Dunlap Community Food Pantry for many years. The goal of the food pantry is to eliminate hunger in the Dunlap area by providing residents in need with programs that provide food, promote the value of nutrition, increase self-sufficiency, and instill hope.

Molly also currently serves as the Secretary of Boyer Valley TeamMates. The TeamMates Mentoring program began in 1991 with the vision of University of Nebraska Head Football Coach Tom Osborne and his wife Nancy. The mission is to positively impact the world by inspiring students to reach their full potential through mentoring. The program has grown through the years to exist in schools like Boyer Valley, and now serves thousands of boys and girls across the Midwest.

Prior to her current job position, Molly was the Activity Director at Dunlap Specialty Care. It was in this role that she served on the local Auxiliary Board.

Molly has also served on the Committee for the Dunlap Main Street Market, a farmers'-market style event that's been hosted in Dunlap for the last few summers. At this event, various vendors host booths on Main Street to encourage a fun and exciting local shopping experience.

More recently, she joined a group of women who are working to create a "Ladies Stag Night" in Dunlap. The goal of this event is to revive and grow "Ladies Night" at the Dunlap Golf Course with proceeds going to the golf course.

Molly is also a regular blood donor in town, doing her part to help medical facilities maintain a sufficient blood supply for medical procedures and emergencies.

On a county level, she serves on the Harrison County Opioid Committee and the HMS HUB (Harrison, Monona, Shelby County Hub), which is a collaborative effort dedicated to

improving the well-being of children and families in those three Iowa counties by connecting resources and reducing trauma.

“It was no surprise to me that Molly was nominated as an award recipient, and what a great choice,” said Jill Schaben, DCDC Executive Director. “Molly always seems to be where a helping hand is needed, and she donates her time and energy in such important and meaningful ways.”

When asked what she loved about Dunlap, Molly said, “It feels like home. Many are shocked to know I’m not originally from Dunlap as it seems I’ve been around forever.”

“Rural Iowa feels so comforting to me and being in a town where everyone is supportive of one another really gave me an opportunity to learn and grow here,” she continued. “Seems like everywhere I go, I get greeted with a smile and a ‘Hi, Molly’ that makes me feel special and important like I truly belong.”

It’s apparent that Molly finds value in serving the community.

“Helping others is a passion of mine,” she said. “In spending six years at the Care Center, I saw firsthand how a simple act of service could change a person’s whole day.”

“Dunlap is home to so many great people and we have great pride in being independent and self-sufficient. When the going gets tough, we band together and make the tough a little easier. It is easy to say ‘yes’ when you’re asked to help by those you respect that trust – they would do the same for you. It brings me pride to know I’m relied upon by others.”

Through her experiences, Molly encourages others to find the benefits in volunteering regularly in Dunlap.

“Volunteering offers an opportunity to not only give one increased self-worth but opens your eyes to the needs of our community. I think anyone that is willing to give volunteering a try would be amazed at the connections and friendships that come along with it. Believe it or not, you can even volunteer doing things you enjoy, whether that be chatting with others at the nursing home and/or school, helping to beautify the area, or even sharing your knowledge with others through teaching.”

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Know someone who deserves recognition for their service to Dunlap? Visit [dunlapia.com](http://dunlapia.com) and click the Resources tab to access the "That's How It's Dun" nomination form. Four Dunlap area residents will be recognized annually. Contact Jill Schaben with questions at [dunlapdcdc@gmail.com](mailto:dunlapdcdc@gmail.com)

