

# the blast

A PUBLICATION OF THE



## THIS MONTH:

**XMAS PARADE**  
**FROM THE PREZ**  
**EVENT RECAPS**  
**THANKSGIVING**  
**BASKET RECAP**  
**BOARD RECAPS**  
**JOURNEY TO NEPAL**

Have an idea for the  
next Blast?!?

Email Ashley and let  
her know!

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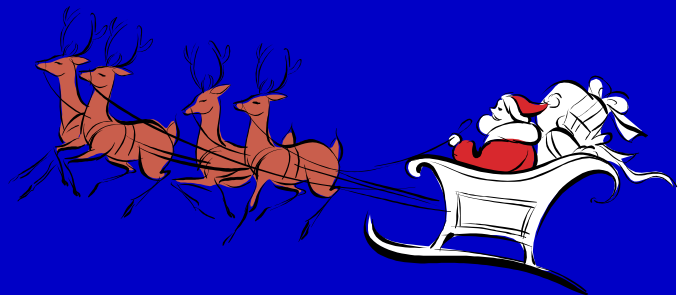
Membership Meetings:  
2nd Wednesday of every  
month at Station 220  
in Downtown  
Bloomington - 7pm

## Jaycees Christmas Parade

— Co-Chairs Seth and Megan Carter

The parade was on December 3<sup>rd</sup> which turned out to be a gorgeous day in the mid 40's. The parade kicked off at 10 a.m. from Kingsley Jr. High in Normal and went approximately two miles to downtown Bloomington. It was a splendid parade with 57 entries participating this year. There were many returning entries and some new and exciting participants. We also broke our 8 year dry spell and had two, yes count them TWO, bands participate - ISU's Big Red Marching Machine and the Hoopston Area High School Marching Band. This was the first year we had a professional Santa participate and we introduced what we hope will become a tradition of providing a fanfare as Santa exits the fire truck. Community and media reception for the parade was very positive. This year was a great rebuilding year and hopefully created some momentum

that can be used to  
continue revitalize the  
parade in the years  
to come.



# From the President

Seth Carter, 2012 Chapter President



Thank you for electing me to be this year's Bloomington-Normal Jaycee's president. I look forward to a great and exciting year volunteering and growing with all of you.

As the 2012 President I want to ask each of you - What do you want out of the Jaycees? Why did you join? What can I do to make this year enjoyable? What skills do you want to develop as a Jaycee?

What are you passionate about? How can we use this to invigorate our chapter? What support would you need to make you feel comfortable managing a project? What can I do to help motivate you to participate in and support events? I ask these questions in all sincerity and encourage you to think about your personal answers to each.

I hope this will be a year of revitalization, a year of strengthening core values and a year of redefining processes. Expect some things to be different. At the general meetings, I will be asking hard questions and we will break into small groups to discuss and define solutions. At the January meeting, we will be discussing what everyone thinks our main projects are. I'm looking for what the chapter thinks are the projects that get the Jaycee name into the community and define our core values. Furthermore, which projects are we simply doing out of tradition? Is there a project that you love? Is there a project that you hate? I'm looking for complete honesty here. These are tough questions. But I feel they need to be answered for us to continue growing and improving as a chapter.

I look forward to this coming year. Although it may be full of change and challenges, I also know we will run some amazing projects, do some volunteering, have a great time and make a difference.

It's hard to believe 2011 is almost over! Thank you for all your hard work this year. Being President was such a great experience, and I am thankful for everyone's support in making the year a success. Whether you volunteered to co-chair a project, went out of your way to attend a meeting when it conflicted with your schedule, volunteered for your favorite project, or welcomed a new member, it takes a team of Jaycees to make a difference. Being President allowed me to see every aspect of that team working together. I enjoyed being your President for 2011, and am thankful to the entire board for their dedication. I know Seth will do a fantastic job as President next year, as will our newly-elected 2012 Board. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President. I look forward to seeing what the Jaycees will do in 2012!

Joellyn Nauman



As PR Director, I've worked with the local media while helping our project chairs create awareness for their events. I've learned a lot during the last year and have developed skills that can help me in my career. I see PR as one of the main ways to support our chapter in creating a presence in the community. News coverage in the Pantagraph, radio stations and on TV can help us tell the Jaycees story as we make a difference in the lives of others. This can help us overcome one of our chapter's main challenges - recruiting new members.

-Brett Nauman

## Boys and Girls Club Toy Box - Megan Carter

The Jaycees have participated in this event for a number of years and were specifically invited back this year. The theme of this year's toy box was Dr. Seuss and included vignettes from many of his famous books including: The Cat in the Hat; One Fish, Two Fish...; The Lorax, and Hop on Pop. At the auction our toy box was very popular raising nearly \$300 for the Boys and Girls Club and being awarded the "People's Choice Award."



# [www.bnjaycees.org](http://www.bnjaycees.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Wednesday, January 11th  
Membership Meeting 7pm

Friday, January 20th  
Past President's Dinner



## **Megan Carter as Outgoing Secretary**

I really enjoyed being elected and serving on the board this past year. It's difficult for me to recap the year and point out everything I achieved – there are not projects I can tick off, amounts of money raised, or numbers of people that attended events. I just have stacks (and stacks) of paper. But I learned so much throughout the year - about how the board runs, Roberts Rules of Order, voting procedures and so much more. Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to play a role in the leadership of this wonderful organization.

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## **Megan Carter as Incoming Admin VP**

Well I left a position that deals with paperwork and traded it in for...more paperwork. But in all seriousness, I am honored to be this year's Administrative Vice President and am thrilled to be serving on the board again. My goal for this year is to get a Chairman's Planning Guide (otherwise known as the dreaded CPG) approved, completed and sent into state for every project that the chapter does this year. A lofty goal – I know. I realize for many people writing, editing and turning in a CPG is their least favorite part of running a project. Let's face it – it's hard to get excited about paperwork. But CPGs are nothing to stress over and do not have to take up a lot of time. But they are important. They are the written history of our chapter and our projects. Turning in CPGs is also how our chapter receives recognition and awards from State. I look forward to what I know will be a wonderful year and hope that together we can find a way to simplify and streamline the CPG process and meet my “lofty” goal.

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## **Seth Carter as exiting IDVP**

A little recap of the year from the Individual Development position - Talk about a great introductory way to get to know the Jaycees better and to see the inner workings of the board. We had several events under the Individual Development category: How to Rock Climb, How to Brew, and a session to get to know your Android phone better. We went to Merlot and a Masterpiece to develop our painting skills and had a Jaycee history lesson conducted by the State President, Joanna Colletti, and the JCI Senate President, Greg Hilleary. Overall, it was a year of people learning skills and having fun doing it. I would like to say thank you for participating and coming out to the events - it was a pleasure to be able to serve on the board and help fulfill the educational needs of the group.



## Thankful for Thanksgiving Baskets!

New member Allison Buss didn't skip a beat planning this project and it was a huge success! Family Video provided 40 turkeys this year and we received donations from local grocers such as Wal-Mart, Kroger, Jewel, Fresh Market, and Cubs! Target was a great addition to the team, they helped us with a location to put together our baskets, as well as some last minute food items for larger families, and a few employees to help us deliver. Names were provided by Center for Hope and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. We were able to help a total of 45 families in the community! Despite the rain and a few forgotten turkeys ;) everyone was done in about an hour – new record time! Thanks to all who helped with planning, shopping, assembly and delivery! We could not have done it without you!!

-Alicia L. and Allison



Please reserve Friday, January 20 for the Past President's Dinner. This year's event will be held at Eastland Suites from 5 - 7 p.m. We will celebrate 2011 accomplishments, and Seth will swear in the 2012 Board.



## Journey to Nepal, by Lisa Boehm

Lisa recently traveled to Nepal as a member of the Bloomington Rotary Club, here is an excerpt from her article written for the Rotary newsletter:

After two 8 hour flights, an 8 hour layover in New Delhi, and an hour and half flight to Kathmandu – we were finally in Nepal. We disembarked on the tarmac and were picked up by rusty old buses transporting us to the main airport building. Thus began our 17 days on the ground in Nepal. On the ride from the airport to our hotel, it was quite clear that “*we weren’t in Kansas anymore,*” so to speak. From the smell of the air, cows roaming the sides of the street, chaotic traffic, and piles of garbage – poverty was evident.

Nepal is one of the poorest countries, and 25% of the population lives below the poverty line. One study after another has shown that educating girls is one of the most effective ways to end poverty. Schooling is often a pre-condition for girls/women to stand up against injustice and for women to be integrated into the economy. Ketaaketi (*Nepalese word for children*) helps provide financial support for basic school education as a gentle aid offer to special needs children in Nepal. Ketaaketi works in conjunction with the SPOWC organization. SPOWC (*Social Protection of Women and Children*) offers free school. Therefore, Rotary is working with Ketaaketi, who is working with SPOWC.

Kathmandu is a major city, but there is a serious pollution problem. There are no mufflers on any of the cars or motorcycles, with no stable government there seems to be no trash/garbage pick-up, and much of it ends up in the Bagmati River. The same river where waste goes is the same river people drink water from and wash their clothes in. Miraculously, there is power and electricity at major businesses/hotels, but if you saw the mass jumble of wiring atop the poles you’d wonder how it’s possible. Clearly, their safety standards are not the same as we have in the U.S. We did have bathrooms and plumbing in the hotels, but out and about you could not be sure what you’d get.

One thing was apparent; there is a collision between old and new. Modernization is coming, many people have cell phones, music, and TV’s, but not modern plumbing. There is tradition still steeped in hand crafted artisan products, such as wood carvings, Thangka paintings, hand loomed carpets and pashminas, hand thrown ceramics/pottery, and handmade drums and lokta paper. You would easily see squares where artisans are selling their wares, then a banner above advertising video gaming...a strange juxtaposition between old and new.

Our first few days were spent in Kathmandu, where we saw many temples considered World Heritage sites in Durbar Square. In addition, we saw a Hindu temple (Pashupatinath) where you could observe live cremations. The holy men (known as Sadhus) were really visually interesting, with their long hair, painted bodies/faces and yoga type positions. If you take a picture or get a tika (red dot on the forehead signifying a blessing or good luck), then a donation is expected.

From Pashupatinath, we made our visit to the Tilganga school. We were greeted by the teachers and children in a combination of their traditional dress and school uniforms. They each gave us a kata (silk scarf) and tika (red dot on the forehead) and proceeded to put on a program of singing and dancing. This visit enabled us to not only meet the teachers and children, but see where/how the funds are being spent. Tilganga has a water well and filtration system. The children here are now being fed one meal a day, which has greatly increased their nutrition and ability to focus and learn in class. Over 500 kids are being served by this school, and this is one of six locations being served by Ketaaketi.



## 2011 B-N Jaycees Executive Board

Chairman of the Board.....Natalie McKee  
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President.....Joellyn Nauman  
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Management VP.....Eric England  
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Community Development VP.....Ashley Brennan  
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Membership VP.....Lynn Meuser  
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Secretary.....Megan Carter  
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PR Director.....Brett Nauman  
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Newsletter Director.....Ashley Coontz  
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### We Believe:

That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to  
human life;  
That the brotherhood of man transcends the  
Sovereignty of Nations;  
That economic justice can best be won by free men  
through free enterprise;  
That government should be of laws rather than of  
men;  
That Earth's great treasure lies in human personality;  
And that service to humanity is the best work of life.

**BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL JAYCEES**

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