



THURSDAY'S CHILD Newsletter

Volume XXIX

Founded in 1984

November 2016

Dorothy Mueller Ferguson



March 10, 1926 ~ February 4, 2016

Dorothy Leone was born March 10, 1926 in Platteville, Wisconsin, the daughter of William Mueller and Clara Trankle Mueller. In 1936, the family moved from Rewey to Mt. Hope. She was proud to remember that she was the Grant County 8th grade Spelling Bee Champion. She graduated as class salutatorian from Mount Hope High School and Madison Business College and worked for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture for one year, returning home to marry the boy next door, Edward Ferguson on September 20, 1944. Together they farmed the land that has been in the Ferguson Family for over 100 years. Dorothy continued to live on the farm until her death.

Dorothy was a member of the Mount Hope United Methodist church for 79 years, serving the church in many capacities. She was particularly kind and attentive to the older members of her community, a bright light in their lives who could always be counted on to make any occasion special. Family and friends remember a gracious hostess who happily prepared meals for everyone to enjoy.

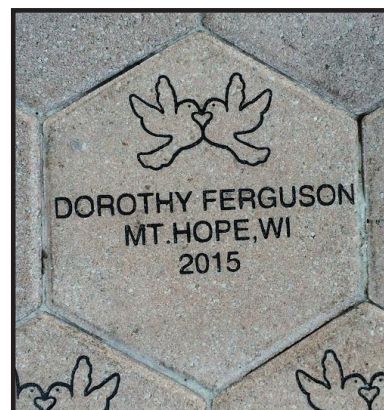
Dorothy was an agent for the Rural Companies for several years. She was a founding member of Thursday's Child, Inc., devoting countless hours to making wishes come true for thousands of children,

both as a board member and as an executive director. Whether arranging special trips, meetings with celebrities or more practical wishes like winter clothes or a playground set, Dorothy made it happen for over 30 years. She especially enjoyed working with the staff at Give Kids the World, Inc. when making arrangements for families to visit Disney World. A paving stone near the chapel inscribed with her name is one of many on of the Avenue of Angels, a path connecting the Village's magical venues. In 2010 she was honored by the Tri-State Red Cross, DuPaco and KWVL-TV with their annual "Heroes of the Tri-States Award" for her volunteer community impact.

Dorothy was diagnosed with Lewy Body Disease seven years ago at Mayo Clinic. She lived those seven years with grace and dignity.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Edward on Jan. 25, 1994, and twin daughters Nancy Jane and Kathryn Marie. She is survived by her daughter, Noël, Mt. Hope, her daughter and son-in-law Rosalie and John Everson, Brighton, CO, her son, Eric, Spring Green; grandchildren Sommer Everson, Leesburg, VA., Alexandria and husband Ryan Agustin, Commerce City, CO, Bryant Everson, Denver, CO, brother Lloyd Mueller, Crystal Lake, IL, treasured nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Dorothy requested memorials in her name be given to Research to Prevent Blindness, 360 Lexington Ave. Floor 22, NY, NY 10017-6502 (www.rpbusa.org).



Dorothy's paving stone located on the Avenue of Angels, Give Kids the World Village, Kissimmee, FL

25 Years Ago...



"Thursday's Child," Dorothy speaking, "is, for many of you, your introduction to Thursday's Child, a unique organization that grants wishes to very special children. Our most unpretentious office is located in the farm home my husband

and I share in beautiful Grant County in Southwest Wisconsin. We are not far from the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers.

When I answer the phone, in the background you may hear the whir of the washing machine or the buzz of the dryer or I may say "please hold a minute" while I dash to the stove to rescue a burning meal or answer my personal phone which invariably rings when I'm on the Thursday's Child phone. If this does not convince you we are all volunteers, I can be even more convincing by a brief pause while I change from a homemaker to a member of the Thursday's Child Board of Directors.

The thought I wish to convey is that we are all volunteers; we come from many walks of life and geographical locations and we have one common goal--to bring happiness and beautiful memories to as many children as we can. Because I visit with so many of you and I do arrange most of the trips and help with others, I have met many wonderful people via telephone. You are my friends. The rewards are many.

Some of you call and want to help or to ask for more information about our organization. Your fundraising ideas are so clever and full of love and never cease to amaze me. Truly, you are great people. There is no way this organization could be such a success without your help. As Tiny Tim would say, "Bless you, everyone."

**--Dorothy
Ferguson
December,
1991**



Gifts In Their Memory

from their loving friends & family

Sally Adrian

Cassville, Wisconsin

...

Mary "Cookie" Blake

Silver Spring, Maryland

...

Dorothy Ferguson

Mt. Hope, Wisconsin

...

Harriet Jacobs-White

Los Angeles, California

...

Kelly Meier

Potosi, Wisconsin

...

Nicolas Seta Ratsimihah

Madison, Wisconsin

...

Patrick William Ryan

Janesville, Wisconsin

(Patrick's mother, Diana Ryan, was a member of Thursday's Child Board of Directors 1987-1995)



A Sample of Christmas Joys



Once again, Sue Hefty will be on Santa's team to help make Christmas wishes come true for area children who have been referred to us by area social workers and doctors. Last year, 191 children were on Santa's list. Their parents received \$50 JCPenney gift cards for each child in their family, with a \$200 limit per family.

you and your donors for helping make our family's Christmas a happy one. Thank you."



"Thank you for the gift card. I enjoyed shopping today after my visit to the doctor. Have a very Merry Christmas. God Bless you and your family."

"Thank you for everything. Thanks to Joyce, the social worker from the hospital. May peace and joy warm your heart this holiday season."



"May we express our deep appreciation for this generous gift offer...It means even more this year with two new diagnoses in our family: cancer and epilepsy. We have a saying, 'This is what love looks like' in our family. Thank you for being a beautiful example of 'what love looks like' to us! May God bless you all."



"First off, I would like to congratulate you and all of your staff for all the humanitarian work that you do, and the help you give to families in need like ours. As well as all the generous donators that participate in this noble cause. Thank you for your help and God bless you all. From the bottom of my heart, thanks so much for the help. Thank you for making this Christmas a great one for our children by giving them these presents...Merry Christmas and I thank you once again for making ours a bit merrier. Today, and always, on behalf of my children"



"Thank you so much for the gift card. It was very helpful during this holiday season while our son is still going through treatment. We hope you all have a good holiday. Thank you again."



"Thank you so much for the gift card to JCPenney. We used it to purchase bedding for our son's first 'big boy bed.' Thank you for helping defray the cost."



"Thank you on behalf of myself and my children for once again supporting our family through the donation of JCPenney gift cards. We appreciate the generosity of Thursday's Child. It is the cumulative effect of many offerings of kindness and support that help pediatric cancer patients and their families survive the devastation brought on by this terrible disease. Again, many thanks!"

Dear Thursday's Child...

"Our family is so grateful for the generous gift card to JCPenney's. To think of us is so very kind of you! We were able to get the kids some great Disney clothes, toys, and ornaments! Thank you!"



"Thank you for the thoughtful offer. Please accept this check to use for some other children. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

Merry Christmas, Parents"



"I am grateful for the gift offer, but I feel I do not need it. Thank you, though. Here is some money to go towards another child that can use it. I appreciate the offer. I don't need the gift, but keep praying for me.

Sincerely, their son"



"Thank you to you and your generous donors for the gift cards to JCPenney. Having a child with cancer is difficult, but through charitable foundations like yours the financial burden is lifted for our family this holiday season. With your kind donation we were able to purchase our children some much needed items and a few fun items for under the tree. We combined great sales, with some coupons and were able to get a lot of useful and fun gifts for our kids. We purchased shoes for three of the kids, winter gloves for all four, pants, socks, and a nice shirt. We were also able to get a needed Toy Story backpack for my four year old, as he was outgrowing his toddler one, and a game that will promote creativity and hours of entertainment. My daughter has been begging for an Anna or Elsa dress for a few years now and we were able to get her a nice one with the gift cards. She will now be so happy when she opens it Christmas morning!

We can never thank you enough for helping us through this season. We are so very appreciative to

Thank You, Thursday's Child

"At 18 years old, halfway through my senior year of high school, I was diagnosed with cancer. I had been having health problems and went to several different doctors before the tumor behind my sinus area was found. In December, I underwent surgery to remove the tumor that left me in the ICU for nearly two weeks. I don't remember much of the two weeks but I am told that it was very hard on everyone.

Shortly after I was released from the hospital, I started a very long year of chemotherapy and radiation. I am now in remission and beginning to get back to my old self. Throughout the course of treatment, I did my best to remain positive but at times it was very difficult. When my request for a trip to Hawaii was accepted I was filled with excitement. In March, a few months after finishing treatments, my mom, dad, girlfriend, sister, brother-in-law, and I left for Hawaii. We stayed on the island of Oahu for two days where we were able to tour the Pearl Harbor Memorial, something I have always wanted to do.



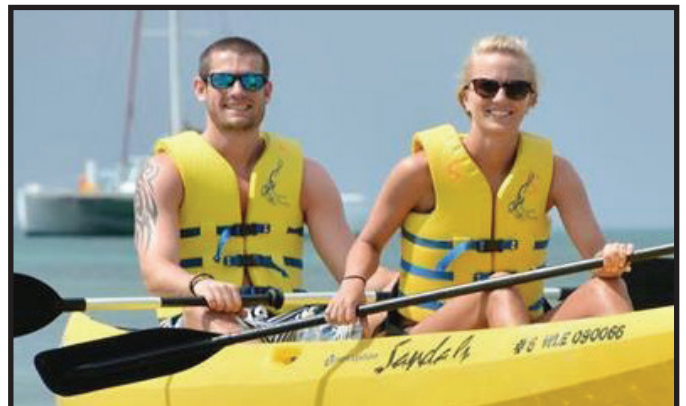
After Oahu we stayed on Kauai in a house on the beach for the remainder of our trip. On the island we were able to see amazing scenery and tour many beautiful landmarks. We enjoyed snorkeling, relaxing on the beach, and spending time together. I also had the opportunity to propose to my girlfriend Krista making the trip even more memorable.

My family and I want to say thank you to Thursday's Child and all their supporters for helping to send my family and me on a trip we will never forget. The trip wouldn't have been possible without your generosity."

--Matthew Heng
Ashton, IL

Thursday's Child has a financial limit for each wish. We were able to pay half of Matthew's trip.

"I didn't want to come back home from Jamaica! I was literally able to do everything I wanted. Parasailing up over 850 ft was always on my bucket list, snorkeling was unbelievable we even did it 3 times. After everything I went through during my treatment to get to that point I was not going to take this once in a lifetime trip for granted. We took a boat cruise to Ricks Cafe, note I am terrified of heights, but I had to take the jump off of the world famous cliff they have (can't say I would be able to do it again though) The resort was stunning and the people made it even better.



This experience has taught me one thing, there is an amazing world out there and I need to get out there and enjoy it while I am young! I can't thank Thursday's Child enough for one of the greatest experiences of my life, it was exactly what I needed in my life!"

--Cashton Laufenberg
Madison, WI



**Alliant Energy
employees'
contributions are
matched by the Alliant
Energy Foundation,
Princeton, NJ.**

Giving Life to Dreams

On September 8th, eighteen-year-old Jessica Thompson and her family were seated in the VIP section of the ELLEN show at the Warner Brother's Studio in Burbank, California. Because of Jessica's medical condition, she could not fly. It was a long drive from Janesville, Wisconsin, but well worth it. Not only did she get to meet someone she greatly admires, Ellen DeGeneres, but the family also had some beach time and a day at the San Diego Zoo.



"On November 16th, 2014, we were blessed with receiving a generous gift from Thursday's Child for our son, Jacob Walsh. We had such a great time at the Green Bay Packers game that we wanted to pay it forward in any way we can to another child who has been through as much as Jacob has. Please use the enclosed check to help fulfill a wish for a child who deserves as much fun as we had with Jacob. Thank you Thursday's Child for bringing smiles to all of our faces!"

--The Walsh Family
McFarland, WI

Upcoming Dream...

Grace Frances Peterson, three years old, and her parents, will travel to Disneyland in January. Grace dreams of being "shrunk" to fairy size and meeting Tinkerbell and her sister, Periwinkle and turn into a fairy and cross the winter border. A tall order for a little girl from Mt. Horeb. We will have to brush off our magic wand for this one, Grace!



Above is a photo of Grace and her chicken, Periwinkle.

Jordan Hoffman, 16, Mosinee, his family and his best friend enjoyed a trip to Disney World last summer.

On Tuesday, October 10th, little Lyndsey Blaschko, from Wisconsin Dells, stepped outside to see the playset of her dreams. Tim Steffens of Rainbow Play Systems in Madison worked with Lyndsey's parents to design a playset appropriate for her needs. We hope she will enjoy it every season. I'm happy to be involved in something special," said Mr. Steffens. "Thank you for letting us be a part of it."



Sandy's Trail Ride

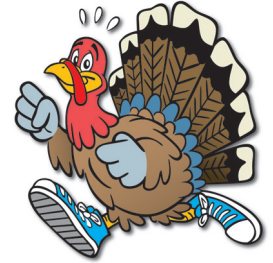
It was a picture perfect day for the 23rd annual Kelly Meier Memorial Ride this year. More than 50 riders signed up to enjoy a day with friends and ride through some of the area's most picturesque hills and valleys.

It's a four generation family affair that takes months of planning and lots of help in the days leading up to the actual event. From Sandy's mother, Shirley Woolf Cowles, all the way down to Sandy's grandson three-year-old Memphis, friends, and neighbors; everyone pitches in to get the barn ready, the trails marked, the food prepared, and the raffle prizes gathered.

This year, more than \$2,000 was raised to benefit Thursday's Child and the popular 4-H horse riding camp scholarships. Kelly was in 6th Grade when she died in a car accident. Although the Trail Ride is a very busy day, it provides an opportunity to remember a talented and beautiful young lady who loved her horses. Next year's Trail Ride is scheduled for September 2017.

Madison College Turkey Trot 2016

The ever popular MATC TURKEY TROT was held on Sunday, November 6th, at Warner Park in Madison, Wisconsin. Proceeds benefited Thursday's Child and the Madison College Foundation. You can find information about next year's event at madisonturkeytrot.com.



Cassville Lioness Club Member, Sue Kirschbaum, presents a \$500 check to Board members, Sandy Meier and Angele Walsh.

"We wish to thank you for your support for the Chaffie Hollow Country Club 23rd Annual Trail Ride in Memory of Kelly Meier. We are blessed by wonderful people who allow us to ride through some of the most beautiful country. Thank you for everyone who attends, donates and all my helpers so that we can help others in Memory of Kelly. God Bless you all!"

**Happy Trails,
Doug & Sandy Meier
Family**



Postcard by: Wolf's Grantland Graphics, Lancaster, WI.

Sharing Our Story!

On November 17, 2015, Board members Dr. Diane Puccetti, Dr. Paul Dvorak and Susan Hefty were Dani Maxwell's early morning guests on *Wake Up Wisconsin*, WKOW-TV, Madison.



Our three spokespersons did a great job introducing Thursday's Child to viewers.

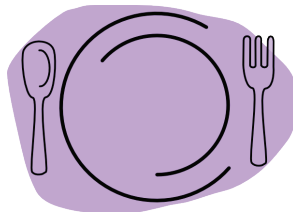
Thank you, News Anchors Amber Noggle and Dani Maxwell. You made it possible for us to share our story.



Thank you to Culver's of Grafton (Here's the Scoop) and Culver's of Dodgeville for continuing to support Thursday's Child. Both restaurants have donation boxes on their counters, and proceeds are sent to us several times a year.

Hospital Meals

For the 14th year, Thursday's Child is funding one meal every month for parents of seriously ill children who are patients at American Family Children's Hospital in Madison. Each evening meal serves 50-60 people. Thursday's Child donates \$3,000 each year to provide these meals. The hospital itself, through money donated by NFL Alumni, funds one meal per week. Other meals come from organizations like ours.



WEST BEND
TRICOR INC.
 INSURANCE

THURSDAY'S CHILD

Bring you the...

3rd Annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk

Saturday, December 3
 9 a.m.

Platteville Middle School
 40 E. Madison Street
 8 a.m. Registration

\$20 Early Group
 5 or more registrations due
 November 10, 2015
 (Guarantees a t-shirt)

\$30 Day of
 Registration Fee

\$25 Early
 Individual
 Registration due
 November 10, 2016
 (Guarantees a t-shirt)

To register, please visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/WI/Platteville/JingleBellFunRun>
 All Proceeds Go To Thursday's Child. www.thursdayschildwisconsin.org

Recap of last year's Jingle Bell Run...

Thank you to TriCor Insurance and West Bend, along with all the sponsors and supporters of our Jingle Bell Run 2015. A check was presented to Thursday's Child for \$4,391.00. A huge thank you to all who made this event possible. We hope to see all of you for our 3rd Jingle Bell Run on December 3rd, 2016.

For more information on the Jingle Bell Run go to:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/WI/Platteville/JingleBellFunRun>



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About Thursday's Child

*Thursday's Child makes wishes come true for
seriously ill children and young adults living
within and/or treated within southwest and south
central Wisconsin.*

*There is no salaried staff and administrative
expenses are less than 10% of all donations
received.*

*Contributions are tax deductible and
can be sent to:*

THURSDAY'S CHILD, INC

P.O. Box 95, Mt. Hope, WI 53816
608-988-4423 • www.thursdayschildwisconsin.org

Thank You From Thursday's Child

*Generous checks come to us from friends and
neighbors who raise money for Thursday's Child in
a variety of ways. With special thanks to:*

Jackie Ley
Lazy L Ranch Tack Swap

Platteville Optimist Club "Friend of Youth"

Cassville Lioness Club

**St. Charles NCCW Foreign Relief
Cassville**

**Also thank you, Lori Velte, owner of Memories
Travel in Platteville, for all your extra time
and effort you spend to make sure that our
traveling dreamers and their families have
a safe and happy adventure. You are a
dedicated friend of Thursday's Child.**

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