

Delphia Halle Memorial Endowment

“Kids need education, they really do.”

Delphia Marie Halle, 100 years old, a life-long Devils Lake resident

Delphia was born to Hans and Hilma (Hedlund) Hansen, Danish and Swedish immigrants, on February 21, 1911, at her parents' home in Devils Lake, North Dakota. Her father was a craftsman and helped to build the community's library and grand theater. Shortly before Delphia reached school age, her family moved to a homestead in northern Montana near Chinook. After completing the homestead period, they moved back to Devils Lake where Delphia would spend the rest of her life, becoming a valued member of the community.

She graduated from Devils Lake Central high school in 1930 and, after graduation, worked as a dental assistant to Dr. W. C. Follet for nine years. During World War II, she began working as a secretary at the Willard Greenleaf Agency and retired from that position in 1981 when the agency was sold.

Delphia married Cecil Halle on June 18, 1944. The newly married couple lived on a farm east of Devils Lake during the summer and moved into Devils Lake for the winter months. They adopted their son, Norman, when he was four years old. Norman served in Vietnam and was later married in California. Sadly, Norman died in 2004. His wife, Marilyn, lives in Rugby, North Dakota. Delphia's husband Cecil died in a tragic automobile accident on August 25, 1962.

Delphia was a member of the First Methodist

Church where she was a Sunday school teacher and treasurer for many years. She was an active member of the United Methodist Women and Marion Circle and was chosen *Woman in Mission*. Delphia was also involved in Rebekah Lodge, serving as their financial secretary for many years and as Past Noble Grand. Other community involvement

included membership with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). She volunteered at the Heartland Care Center feeding residents for over twenty-four years, assisted with bowling at the Good Samaritan Center, and called bingo at the Odd Fellows Home until her eyesight began to fail.

Delphia rang the Salvation Army bell for many years outside the Old Main Street Café. After ringing for ten years, she was given her own Salvation Army apron and bell which she used proudly until she was ninety-eight years old.

Delphia last rang the Salvation Army bell in 2009.

In 1983, she was named a Ramsey County Centennial Queen runner-up and was named an Unsung Hero in 1999.

Delphia wanted to do something that would contribute to the community. Determined that kids really do need education, she decided to leave a legacy gift to provide financial help for college students. The Delphia Halle Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to an exemplary student attending Lake Region State College. ❧

