

Remembering Heather Makechnie

Heather Makechnie was a very active, valued member of our community. Here are some thoughts that people shared with the Beacon on her passing.

The Best EMT She Could Be

John Kinney, Andover EMS Chief

Heather Makechnie threw herself into being an EMT wholeheartedly. I never asked her what prompted her to pursue that particular endeavor, but whatever the catalyst was, it drove her to be the best EMT she could possibly be. Perhaps that was just her nature and was how she tackled everything worth doing.

There were countless 911 calls we went on together in the eight years she was an EMT. After almost every call, Heather would break out the New Hampshire EMS Protocols manual we have in the ambulance and use it to review what we did to see if we missed anything or if we could or should have done anything differently. Every opportunity to learn was clearly an honored behavior for Heather.

The outcome for many of our 911 calls were happy, others quite tragic, and some just plain benign. Regardless of the nature or the outcome of a call, foremost for Heather was the compassion she brought to the care we render. It has been an honor to know and work with Heather Makechnie, and her contributions will be sorely missed, but never forgotten.

People Who Build Community

Posted by Scott Allenby on the Proctor Academy Web site

It is through examples like Heather that we are reminded that community doesn't simply 'happen'; not in a neighborhood, not in a school, and certainly not in a town. Instead, community is built through hard work, commitment, and selfless service of its members. We each have a responsibility to steward the communities in which we live and work, and as we mourn with the Makechnie family, we challenge ourselves to follow Heather's example of service and commit to making our community as strong as it can be.

Concerned About Others

Ellie and Howard George, Andover Lions Club

Heather was an associate member of the Andover Lions Club and was always ready to serve. She did a wonderful job shopping for the Andover Food Pantry that the Lions sponsors. Every two weeks she would go to Franklin, Tilton, and Concord to get everything the Pantry needed at the best prices possible. She was always very concerned about others.

Passion for Helping People

Charlie Darling, The Andover Beacon

I was very privileged to work with Heather on a number of projects in the community. Her energy and passion for helping people were always an inspiration and wonderfully contagious. But more than anything, I'll always remember how her smile could light up any room and any situation. She is already very missed!

A Community Connector

Tina Cotton, Andover Cable TV

One of Heather's roles in the early days of Andover's public access TV station was videotaping and producing weekly TV programs of local events. Heather tried very hard to get the various organizations, schools, and Town boards to record happenings they were involved in. She even donated a camcorder to the Andover Elementary/Middle School and publicized that the station had a camcorder for borrowing. She also managed to find a variety of other interesting programs available on videotape ... something for everyone. Her passion for video spilled over into her renewed college education by taking courses in video production. Today, Andover's TV station carries on with her vision as a community connector.

Service to God and Her Fellow Man

Steven D. Foley, Bishop, Canterbury Ward, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

When I called the president of our Relief Society and told her about Heather, she said; "I am not ready for this. I can't do this without her." The interesting thing is that Heather did not have a specific role in the Relief Society at this time. She was the troubleshooter, the fill-in person, the watchman on the tower, and the one ready to go wherever she was needed.

My son e-mailed, "I had Sister Makechnie in Primary (Sunday School for children), and she made it fun!" My wife always said that our boys wouldn't have survived the last few years of Primary if Heather hadn't been the Primary President at that time.

Heather believed that "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27)

Heather's shoes will be impossible to fill.

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