



Anniversary Story

“The Best Decision”

By Jennifer Wemhoff, *The Groundwater Foundation*

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While searching for an internship my junior year at Doane College, I came across an opening at The Groundwater Foundation in Lincoln. I knew nothing about the organization, but connected with Doane alum and Foundation staff member Jonna Jackson (now Jonna Hernandez), went in for an interview, and started soon after, in January 2000. Little did I know the decision to take this internship would affect the course of my life.

I interned at the Foundation the remainder of my junior year and all of my senior year. Jonna was returning to school to pursue a Master’s degree, so I stepped in to her position as Groundwater Guardian Assistant Director when I graduated from Doane in 2001. The rest, as they say, is history; 15 years later, here I am.

Over the years at The Groundwater Foundation, I grew personally and professionally. I met my husband through an employee of The Groundwater Foundation at the time (Jonathan Mohr), who convinced me to go on a canoe trip down the Niobrara River in Nebraska (a beautiful, groundwater-fed river), where Mark and I met. I made lifelong friendships with people I met and worked with through the Foundation. My daughters were both born during Groundwater Awareness Weeks (in 2011 and 2014) and have been to many groundwater events. I’ve learned about the precious resource of groundwater and fostered a passion for protecting it, while educating others about what they can do. I love seeing the “aha moment” in people when they understand a groundwater concept or see how their actions can make a difference. I’ve traveled from coast to coast, gotten wet and muddy, spoken at large conferences and in small town halls.



2002 Annual Conference in Las Vegas. Susan Seacrest, Catherine Chertudi, me, Cindy Kreifels.

The Foundation and I have seen each other through some tough times. Financial hardships, major life events, new homes. I wouldn’t trade the experiences I’ve had at The Groundwater Foundation for anything, because they have made me the person I am today, both at home and at work. That day in January 2000 when I accepted the internship was the best decision of my life.

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