

Leadership In Action

Beginning with this issue, Leadership Racine will be acknowledging individual graduates of the Leadership Racine program. Not only will you learn more about the individual, you'll have a greater sense of the economic impact community leadership brings to Greater Racine. We often think of community engagement only as service to our community, yet it has equal economic impact.

So, let's begin! This month we'd like to introduce you to Art Howell. Art currently serves as Deputy Chief of Police, currently assigned to the investigative division of the



Racine Police Department. Art has been married for 26 years (April Johnson-Howell), and he and his wife have two children, Bianca, a senior at St. Louis University, and Corbin, a senior at Racine Lutheran High.. Art was a member of the first LR Class, the class of 1999. We asked Art how the time he benefited from the LR program. In his own words,

"The time spent in the LR program was invaluable for many reasons. The program by its very nature and design is structured to bring people from many different disciplines together for a common purpose, community building. The relationships and connections that are forged when people of different political, cultural and economic backgrounds come together is priceless!"

Art was born and raised in Racine and as such, he knows how it feels to be a member of our community at all stages

of life. He attended Franklin Elementary School (now Walden III), Gifford Middle School and graduated in 1980 from J.I. Case High School.

Art came to Leadership Racine via his work with the Racine Police Department. In the late 1990's, under the direction of Chief Richard Polzin (retired), the Racine Police Department was recognized nationally in the late 1990's for reducing crime and disorder under the Community Policing Philosophy. While serving as the planning sergeant during the mid 1990's, Art regularly worked with residents at the neighborhood level, business groups, church organizations and local government officials. Collectively, the various groups worked to form problem-solving networks to address the specific needs of different neighborhoods.

Art also previously served on the Board of Directors for the George Bray Neighborhood Center and Taylor Homes. For Art, applying to Leadership Racine was one more step in his commitment both personally and professionally to community service.

Currently, Art serves as or on:

- Board President - Homeless Leadership Assistance Organization (HALO)
- Grants committee - Racine Community Foundation
- Resource Board - Southeastern WI Youth for Christ
- Executive Board - Racine Police Athletic Association
- Advisory Committee - Carroll University/ Racine Unified Bridges Program

Art knows the value of education. Not just what we consider school education, but life education that helps prepare one for rewarding careers and successful lives. Although Art places great value on non-formal life-learning experiences, he recently took on the

challenge of going back to school to complete a Masters degree program (College of Business Management, Cardinal Stritch University). Art is also a recent graduate of the FBI National Academy (235th Session).

As a major advocate for education, Art is concerned with current statistics that show many at-risk students are underachieving. Racine Unified School District is challenged not only in its graduation rates, but in life competency skills for far too many students who fall into an "at-risk" category.

Using a model similar to how HALO was established, Art believes that, through connecting the various community organizations and resources together for a common purpose, Racine's leaders will be able to develop working solutions to address our educational challenges. Art's ultimate goal is to increase college and technical school enrollment. And not just enrollment – but to graduate students who will choose to stay in Racine and help us increase and sustain our community.

The challenge is huge – but Art believes in tackling the huge challenges and finding the solutions we need. We've learned today that solutions are multi-faceted, not singular in need. Art knows what networking all aspects of a community can do....

Want to know more about Art or his visions? You can find more information on the Leadership Racine web site: www.Leadershipracine.org.

