

The Community Within Each of Us

by Nancy Pierce '05

As I write this, it is a day after a historical event in our nation's capital; an event for which each of us can be proud, regardless of political affiliation. Reading the Inauguration speech allows one the opportunity to hear the call to our individual community, to serve, to support and to build.

Leadership Racine is in its 11th year of developing individuals in our community who have answered the call to enhance and build their ability to support the needs and accomplishments of Racine.

Racine has struggled over the last number of years, as have many similar communities across America. Yet, this community has never lost sight of the depth of passion, the commitment to knowing ourselves and the ability to roll

up our sleeves and get the job done.

We are still struggling and more challenges are in our future. Yet, the future is not bleak. Rather it offers us opportunities to find new ways to move forward, to be flexible in finding solutions and to show just how much we value the humanity and community here.

Those who come to the Leadership Racine program arrive from all types of personal, economic and business backgrounds. They come to answer that call to community. The business executive, the teacher, the municipal worker, the small business person, the individuals; they all come.

These are not "do-gooders" who do not recognize the requirement for economic stability. Rather, what they learn in the program year is how to keep the conversations and actions moving

forward that support our economic development as a way of addressing our community needs, our gaps, and our challenges.

Leadership Racine has historically had the outstanding support of our major local employers. At the same time, our local small business community has participated. Each is critical to community success, and we are grateful for their support.

So let us continue to roll up our sleeves, clearly see what and who we are and continue to take those steps that create and support the best community for all of us to live in – Racine.



Leadership Racine Alumni Association members participating in the July 4th parade



2009 team #2 United Colors of Racine posing on their City Scoping adventure.

