

DONOR

Spotlight

WATKINS FAMILY

— INTERVIEW BY ROSANNE MCGUIRE

JENNA, JAMIE & SHERI – VOLUNTEERING IS A FAMILY AFFAIR.

A summer job as a high school student, led to life-long interest in history, and a passion for Old World Wisconsin for Old World Foundation donor Sheri Watkins.

Watkins worked as an interpreter in the Finn-Dane area at Old World during high school and college. She pursued a degree in the medical field and has worked for Aurora Health Care for almost 40 years. She has volunteered at Old World Wisconsin for almost as many years.

“Weaving my way through the pine trees took me away from the modern world of medicine. What could be better than combining my love of history and the outdoors?” said Watkins.

Watkins fondly remembers those years as an interpreter in the early 80’s, and the employees during that time still have reunions. “It was a wonderful time—we all worked hard and had the same work ethic—even though we were sweating to death in our costumes you still had your stove lit—if you could get it going!” said Watkins.

Watkins loved the Eagle Diamond games—the old-time baseball games held in the Norwegian area. Her job was to watch the gate and only let athletes in off of Hwy 67, and then shag the large baseballs when the players would hit the ball out of the playing field.

Watkins who lives in nearby Mukwonago, finds it fascinating that a small town like Eagle, has this “world-class historical museum” right in her backyard.

Watkins volunteers and donates to Old World Foundation because she wants to support Old World Wisconsin “I want to see improvements to draw more people in and keep it afloat and alive.” She doubts if today’s kids would survive—hauling water in bucket after bucket, to heat it up on the stove just to take a bath. Watkins says volunteering with the Old World Foundation has made it easy to be a part of Old World, while leading a busy life, and raising two daughters. Watkins and her daughters Jamie and Jenna still volunteer with her—and Jenna is interested in learning more about the historic brewing done in the new Brewhouse.



**OUR THANKS TO THE WATKINS FOR
THEIR MANY YEARS OF
VOLUNTEERING & FINANCIAL SUPPORT!**



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