

## Spotlight on Apron Strings Marathon County HCE Club submitted by President LouAnn Muranyi



Apron Stings had a very busy, fun and productive 2023. Our club consists of eight members. The President is LouAnn Muranyi, Treasurer is LuAnn Hanke, and the Secretary is Shirley Uekert. Starting in January our new secretary will be Diane Durst. The rest of our members are Elaine Hanke, Jackie Hanke, Sue Miller and Margo Placketka.

We have made donations to a variety of Marathon County agencies. We donated cleaning supplies, bedding, baby items and personal care items to the Women's Community. Cleaning supplies were donated to Aspirus Family House. We gave a gift card to Stable Hands Equine Therapy Center: The last two years we gave money to Haley Ellenbecker to purchase gifts from the giving tree at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Town of Stettin.

In February for our meeting we all wear red for Valentine's day and have a \$5.00 gift exchange. Then in March, we wear green for St Patrick's day and have another \$5.00 gift exchange. In April, a couple of us attended the Marathon County HCE Crafty Learning Day at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. What a wonderful day! I encourage everyone to attend that. We did Mosaic glass and glass etching. Those are the projects we chose. But there are so many projects to choose from it is hard to make up your mind. We also do crafts at our club meetings.



In April we decoupage clay pots that you could put plants in. They turned out very pretty. Then in May we toured all the Greenhouses out in the Thorp and Withee area and ended up having lunch at the Thorpedo family restaurant, which the food by the way was very good. Then we did another tour of the Clark County Art galleries. That was absolutely wonderful. We drove all over Clark County and visited different kinds of buildings full of beautiful handcrafted furniture, hand blown glass, handmade rugs, paintings, pottery and so much more I can't even think of everything. It was worth the trip and we will go again this coming spring.

Then in June we end the club for the summer with a potluck which is always fun to see what everyone brings to eat. We also provided dinner for the Warming Center. We made Tater tot casserole, salad, dinner rolls and dessert. We start club again in September with lunch and our meeting at the Filling Station.

In November we surprised Luann Hanke with a birthday cake and had a little party because the club happened to fall on her birthday. It was a surprise! That day we made a snowman face out of a pizza pan. I buy all supplies at the Dollar store so the cost for our crafts are a very reasonable \$6 each.



Members pictured (from left) holding their pizza pan snowmen are LouAnn Muranyi, Diane Durst, Luann Hanke, Jackie Hanke, Elaine Hanke, Shirley Uekert, and Sue Miller.

We will end 2023 with a Christmas party at Edgar Family restaurant with our significant others. We each bring two \$5.00 wrapped gifts. Then we played a game with them. We all draw numbers. Number 1 gets to pick first, then number 2, if number 2 likes number 1's then he or she can take it away from that person, then that person can pick a new gift and so on. You can only take away that gift 3 times. The game goes on till the gifts are gone and everyone is happy! It's a lot of fun.

Then just our club members meet on our normal meeting date. We reveal our secret pal and open our gifts. We have dessert, coffee and discuss our plans for 2024. In December we also provided breakfast at the Open Door. We made a breakfast bake, cinnamon rolls, and juice. Apron Strings wishes you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

