

# Spotlight on Community Companions



Community Companions formed in 2014. The staff at Opportunity, Inc in Wausau wanted an activity that would include their clients in a community organization. We also invited other members of the community with disabilities to join by advertising in the newspaper and other newsletters for people with disabilities. We run our meetings like a 4-H meeting and the members call it 4-H. Jackie Carittini, former Family Living Educator and Jean Burger, former 4-H educator were instrumental in forming this club.



We currently have 14 members and with parents and advisors there are often 20 people at our meetings. We meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at Opportunity Inc. on River Drive. The meetings begin at 3:30 and end at 4:30. Current projects have included speakers like from the fire department and Habitat for Humanity, Craft projects which the students can enter in the fair, community service projects like valentines for vets and for local nursing homes.

Members enjoy a Christmas craft night with delicious treats. Some members submit items for

the fair. They have a choice between entering in open class, or in a special judging just for our members.

Holly Luerssen and Jasmine Carbajal from the Marathon County 4-H office have been very supportive and have offered projects for our meetings and have been the judges at our special fair judging. Holly requested a banner for our club to be displayed in the East Gate Hall. The picture shows the banner we finished at our June meeting.



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