

Mary (and Carl) Noren

Out of the Gates at a Full On Sprint

In the course of any given day there are 1000+ residents from all around the world that you can run into as you walk around Jardine, but there are few that you will run into that will have taken as active role in the course of the year as Mary Noren. Something to recognize as this bid is being wrote is the fact that whenever Mary's name is mentioned it automatically implies that her husband, Carl, is there as well. The two have brought such great joy and servants hearts to Jardine.

Being American citizens who grew up in Africa Mary and Carl have had to adjust to American culture, yet they have a different feel to them than most. Part of this can be attributed to the cultural difference in their upbringing, or to their love and faith in God, or in their love for each other. Though not always clear where it comes from, it is still there and all those around them can feel it.

Mary (and Carl) took on something that no one else in Jardine would take on at the start of this year, heading up the Jardine Resident's Council. As well as heading it up they have at times ended up being the only council members who will actually implement and follow through with programming. Making all of the games, decorations, and 30 cakes for the Jardine New Year's party was no small feat, but it was pulled off without any complaining or as much as a frown. In fact even though they had little help they just smiled and laughed and joked through out the whole preparation process and then on into the next evening when they ran the program. Kelly Thacker, a Jardine Assistant Coordinator had this to say.

“It is difficult to find hard-working, dedicated volunteers who can be visionaries and leaders of an organization. Over the past few years the Jardine Resident's Council has struggled to find such a leader. Mary has graciously and enthusiastically offered to lead

the Jardine Resident's Council and strives to provide programming opportunities for all Jardine residents to become involved with. This winter Mary and her husband together sponsored the Snowman Winter Festival Program. The afternoon of the program Mary and Karl spent making cakes in the shape of snowmen and transformed the Frith Community Center into a winter wonderland. Additionally, Mary has taken initiative on several projects and improvements including helping to purchase toys for the children and a new piano for the Frith Community Center. It has been a pleasure to see Mary grow into this leadership role and I look forward to the opportunity to work with Mary and the Jardine Resident's Council in the coming year.”

They also meet with the Residents Council advisor outside of normal meeting times, pushed through and bought a new piano for Jardine, continually support every program that they can, and make an all out effort to help the people that are around them on a daily basis.

Perhaps this bid doesn't contain all the flashy example of other bids, but one thing that it does contain is the thanks and appreciation of the Jardine staff and community. There is an impression that has been left on people about Jardine because of the things that have been done by “the Noren's” as they are lovingly referred to. They make the lives of Jardine residents easier and better on a daily basis, and for that we all owe them our thanks.