

# Neighbors

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Cover photo by  
Natalie Helen Photography

## Leading With Heart





We would like to thank Prosthetic Orthotic Center for bringing you this month's cover story

## Leading With Heart

By Brian Otten; photo credit: Natalie Helen Photography & by Lori Berry

Meet Lori Berry.

Lori Berry has been a fixture at Brokaw Credit Union since 1989.

When Lori started at the credit union, she was hired to do computer operations on the new in house computer system.

"I came to help with computer systems, get more job experience, then move on to bigger and better things," said Lori. "Little did I know, I was at the beginning stages of bigger and better!"

When the credit union's vice president left in 1994, Lori assumed the managing responsibilities of technology along with daily operations. From that moment forward, Lori took advantage of every opportunity and learning experience she was given.

During this time, the institution saw record

growth in the loan portfolio, one of Lori's proudest achievements.

"I remained as the lead for lending and technology until 2006, when a computer conversion was coming," said Lori. "I then became the Vice President of Technology."

In 2011, when Mary Zillman became the Interim President, she asked Lori to step forward and be her second in command and Lori again assumed the responsibility for lending and technology.

"The last ten years I have learned so much," said Lori. "I've been a part of every decision and have actively worked with our staff."

"When I get down to the base of why I wanted to be the President of Brokaw Credit Union, I truly believe the main reason I embraced this opportunity was because of the credit union community which I get to interact with every

day," said Lori. "The people I work with and our members have my heart, and I look forward to the opportunity to lead the credit union into the future."

Before joining the credit union as an employee, Lori had graduated from Medford High School and went on to get an Associates degree in data processing at Northcentral Technical College. Later, she would earn a Bachelor's degree in business management from Upper Iowa University.

In her personal life, Lori has three godchildren who have been like children to her.

"Scott is my oldest godson," she said. "He is currently living in Dallas and is the Director of Finance and Accounting for Daisy Brand."

Jenny is Lori's second godchild. She lives in Medford with her husband, Jim, and is a stay-at-home mom. The couple has a daughter, Wyllow.

"And my youngest godchild is Samantha," said Lori. "She lives in Stetsonville with her fiancé Ryan and works for Rib Lake Health Services and is working towards her nursing degree. They have a daughter, Ashlyn, and are expecting a new arrival in November."

"I am excited for Samantha and Ryan as they will get married next July, and I am honored to be the officiant," said Lori.

"My parents raised us to be a part of each other's lives," said Lori. "We learned early that family was important and no matter what you needed to take time to be with each other."

Lori also has a pair of cats in her home. Otto, 5, is gray tabby, while Brighton, w4, is orange.

"My friends call me the crazy cat lady," said Lori. "I have had a cat for 20 years, and in my house they are the center of my world."

"Otto is my serious one and is always close by. Brighton is my crazy cat, with a lot of energy and always testing the boundaries," said Lori.

"Sometimes I worry that I will become the cat lady with all kinds of cats when it is time to retire," said Lori.

Lori has lived in the the Weston Park Terrace Subdivision since 1998. She enjoys the great location and her great neighbors.

"Although Weston has grown, it still feels like that small town that I was looking for when I started my career," said Lori. "From the moment I moved to Weston it has always felt like home."



Do you know a neighbor who has a story to share? Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at [botten@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:botten@bestversionmedia.com)



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Fax: 715-845-6310

