

## Oles Helping Oles

Volunteers for Partners in Annual Giving serve as part of a class fundraising team who reconnect with former classmates by e-mail, letter and phone, and encourage them to support students through a gift to the college's annual fund. This is the gift from alumni to current students that says, "We are your family and we support you. We believe in you and want you to have the resources to become the next generation of thinkers, doers and leaders."

St. Olaf students are busy and involved as they learn to engage in a life of worthwhile service. They know that juggling commitments isn't always easy. That's why they deeply appreciate the extended, world-wide family of Ole volunteers who give generously of their time for them. They appreciate you.

Please consider sharing your gift of time. Make the St. Olaf experience possible for current and future Oles. Please volunteer.



Kari Berge Kilbride '88 with her husband, John Kilbride '87, and their son, J.P., age 7.



Kate Bollman Pearce '01

A triple major in nursing, biology and family studies, Kari Berge Kilbride '88 has been a St. Olaf volunteer since she graduated in 1988, beginning with the Career Resources area of the Career Advising Network. Kari has assisted with fundraising and has been involved in planning most of the Class of 1988 reunions.

"St. Olaf gave me four wonderful years," says Kilbride, who also is an active volunteer in her St. Paul community and church. "It was the place where my lifelong friendships began to blossom, and for these special people, I am eternally grateful. I grew up thinking I would attend St. Olaf . . . both of my parents and my paternal grandmother all graduated from this Lutheran legend! The reputation that preceded St. Olaf in my mind was this: excellence in education, upholding the Lutheran tradition, and providing an environment for students to begin to discover their unique gifts and talents. St. Olaf has been all of this and more!"

**"There are many students and educational programs that depend on the generosity of St. Olaf donors. Without the additional funds that Partners in Annual Giving provides, many of these opportunities would be lost. In many ways philanthropy is very similar to volunteering, in that they are both avenues by which one can support an organization that is near and dear to them. I believe that it is a blessing to be able to support St. Olaf financially, and it is another way to give back to the college."**

— KARI BERGE KILBRIDE '88

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH RN, HENNEPIN COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER

Majoring in speech, theater and Nordic studies, Kate Bollman Pearce '01 says St. Olaf is special because of its strong sense of community, both on campus as a student and after graduation. "You still feel a connection when you meet another Ole, even if they are a perfect stranger."

Pearce began volunteering at St. Olaf in 2005 to help plan the Class of 2001 five-year reunion. "That got me into the gift campaign and writing thank you notes," she says. "I've been writing thank you notes as a Class Fund Agent ever since." For the past three years, Pearce has helped plan the St. Olaf National Day of Service for and the Twin Cities Ole Women's Network (T.O.W.N.) monthly meetings. She enjoys getting her fellow theater alumni involved with an event now and then, and she also serves on the St. Olaf Alumni Board.

**"Volunteering keeps people connected: connected to others with whom we have less in common and connected to what we care about. Few of us are fortunate or brave enough to spend our careers doing what we feel passionate about — work that makes an impact in our community. Volunteering is how every one of us can take our time, our energy, our actions to make statements about matters close to our hearts."**

— KATE BOLLMAN PEARCE '01

MARKETING DIRECTOR, GATEWAY MUSIC TOURS

**vol-un-teen:** one who enters into or offers himself for any service of his own free will. — Merriam-Webster

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