



NEIGHBORHOOD GEM AWARD

Presented to:

MELISSA CHRISTENSEN

The Neighborhood Gem Award recognizes individuals who are the heart and soul of their neighborhood. These individuals are known for their generosity and willingness to lend a helping hand. They embody the spirit of community and unity, making their neighborhood a brighter, more welcoming place for everyone.

Nominated by: Jessica Finn

Summary of Nomination:

Melissa Christensen is a shining example of altruism. Always ready to ask, "How can I help?" she consistently supports those in need within our community. During COVID, Melissa founded the Itasca Sprinklers to spread joy and ensure her neighbors felt cared for. What began as simple gift reminders has blossomed into a broad support network.

Through the Sprinkle with Love & Care group, Melissa has spearheaded cancer fundraisers, baked desserts for holiday dinners, and delivered Christmas trees for the SADS Foundation. Her clothing drives for abused women are particularly impactful, providing essential clothing and accessories that help them secure jobs and rebuild their lives. Melissa also coordinates Senior Sprinkles, ensuring seniors receive thoughtful gifts and feel valued and connected to the community.

On behalf of the community, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Melissa for her dedication and kindness. Her contributions make our neighborhood a better place, and her selfless acts of service inspire us all.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jeff Pruyn

September 8, 2024