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Lakeside DIC

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**Annette French**

Born in Appleton, I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse in 1981 with a degree in Art Education. I applied this knowledge to my job at the Coulee Region Humane Society where I developed and implemented a newly funded Humane Education program; visiting schools, leading tours and coordinating special events and programs for children and adults on pet care and environmental issues.

In 1984 I moved to Massachusetts to take a job in the same field at the Animal Rescue League of Boston and 2 years later became the Humane Education Coordinator for the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

During this time I was striving for a sense of community in the City of Cambridge, where I lived. I became involved in local politics by attending City Council meetings and eventually joined several other concerned citizens to form the much-needed Cambridge Recycling Committee. I was one of two site coordinators for the monthly recyclable drop off program which was so successful that within a year, the drop-off sites were replaced by curbside pick up which is still thriving to this day.

In 1991 I left the Humane Society field to open a small retail shop which I operated for 9 years until the fall of 2000 when I decided to move back to Wisconsin and chose to settle in Milwaukee where many of my family members now live.

In the months preceding my move, I visited here several times scouting a location for my shop and a new home. When I walked down Brady Street for the first time, there was no question in my mind that this is where my shop had to be! I was extremely fortunate to find an available space at 1117 East Brady Street, and then beyond my highest hopes, I found and purchased a home just around the corner from my shop.

I soon began attending meetings of the Brady Street Area Association and was eventually asked to become a board member which has been both fun and rewarding, as has been my experience with the Brady Area Merchants. I have been involved in coordinating several special events such as "A Taste of Brady", the "Holiday Walk" and the "Best Dog-gone Brady Street Parade" and I look forward to many more years of participating in these and other events and projects.

I have found the Brady Street neighborhood a wonderful place to live and work and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. It's the type of community I have always hoped to be a part of but had lost hope of finding in an urban environment.

I am honored to be considered for a BID #11 board position and hope that you will find my experience and commitment suitable for this appointment.