



# *Kim Margherio*

AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF  
'TEAM ROGERS CITY.'  
KIM MARGHERIO HAS  
RALLIED HER  
COMMUNITY AROUND  
REVITALIZATION

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Photos and Story by Phil Eich,  
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Michigan Main Street Story  
Series

I lived in St. Louis, Missouri for over 30 years, but moved to Rogers City because I fell in love with the community. I visited once, sat on the beach, and had a tug at my heart. I could tell that this was the place I wanted to be. Mind you, I had previously lost a bunch of money on a house in St. Louis, so I was like 'Nope, nope, nope! Not going to do that again!'

But three weeks later, I came back and bought a house.

I've now lived here for ten years, and haven't regretted it for a minute. The community is just amazing: the natural resources, the beauty, the people. I love the people! I have never felt that I wasn't accepted. I joined various projects when I first moved here and became more and more involved, and now I feel

like I'm from here, even though I'm not, because I have ownership here. I have been able to build trust by raising funds for the Friday night concerts, becoming chairman of the Nautical Festival and of the promotion committee for the Main Street program. I like to be a background person. I don't need the attention, but I'm a do-er and we make things happen.

Doing is important, because if you don't do it, it's not going to happen. 'Doing' takes a village. Tons of people have ideas, but we also have to say, 'Okay, but you have to drive that bus.' Or people will ask, 'Why don't we have this business or that business here?' and then blame the city, but the city isn't responsible for opening businesses. It takes work, from everybody, to attract the

people who want to invest in those things and to build the community you want to have.

Seven years ago, our mayor Scott McLennan started a community group here after going to a Team Boyne meeting over in Boyne City. Five of us would meet once a month, and we called the "SuperPos" group; you were only allowed to come in if you were positive. Check your negativity at the door! After our Nautical Festival, we started by looking at all the things we did: What were our successes? What could we be better at? What direction do we want to take?

Then, as it grew, this group turned into Team Rogers City, and we still meet once a month. Scott will have a speaker come in most of the time to do a presentation with a Q&A. Then we do an update from the city. I do updates with events. Then it goes into a two-minute lightning round where we go around the room and try to get everyone to share more information so that we are all on the same page, and not just a bunch of silos not knowing what's going on.

Building a community takes a village, and we can be so much better and more powerful together than we can as our little pieces. That's what I find exciting and that's what I hope continues. The more that continues, the more awesome this community will be.

- Kim Margherio, Volunteer with Rogers City Main Street



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# Michigan Main Street Story Series



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