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Lisa O'Leary, "It's all good!"

by *Charity Winters*



"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose," Romans 8:28 . Or as Lisa O'Leary would say, "It's all good!" This simple motto has played a significant part in Lisa's life, encompassing a Scripture verse that has seen her through all of the things that she does in our community. As if raising her 5 kids (she even homeschools the two youngest) wasn't enough, Lisa helps her family run the Sweet 'n Clean, is the Seldovia EMS chief, helps out with school Booster club and other activities, and has recently taken a new job as a VISTA Volunteer. When I asked her how she is able to manage everything successfully, she answered, "My faith. I have to realize that God is sovereign, He knows what I need and gives me the patience or strength, or whatever is needed for that moment. And every once in a while, He smoothes over the stupid stuff I do!"

But oh, no. "They came and found me!" she exclaimed. Now she has volunteered as the EMS chief for the past year and half. She manages the paperwork, keeps the ambulance ready for the next emergency, and makes sure the volunteers are certified by teaching the needed classes. She is currently prepping some students to take the EMT II class this April. During the fall semester at Susan B. English, Lisa taught an ETT class, which certified 11 students in the first step to becoming an EMT. Because of the hard work volunteered by Lisa and others, Seldovia is able to offer BLS (Basic Life Service) with available ALS (Advanced Life Support).

Lisa's most recent commitment to Seldovia has been her acceptance of the new VISTA Volunteer position.

Lisa and her family moved here in June of 2000 from Wasilla , AK . Although the family had lived in Wasilla for the past 18 years, they disliked the rapid growth of the area and decided that a change of pace with small town Seldovia would be a more positive choice for their family. Since then, they have been running the Sweet n' Clean ice cream and laundromat business. That aspect of their lives is soon to change, however. Lisa and Tim decided that their growing children need them more and more and wanted to have time to spend with them before they head off on their own. So, the Sweet n' Clean is up for sale!

In Wasilla, Lisa had been part of the EMS services. Her experiences as a young mother convinced her that she needed to know what to do in an emergency. After her first class, she decided she liked what she was doing and began to volunteer her services. Once she came to Seldovia, she felt that the smaller town would probably have their bases covered all ready.

Under AmeriCorp, VISTA Volunteer offers indirect services to communities. Lisa's job consists of several components: grant writing, project administration, data collection and public buy-in. These terms merely communicate the broadest sense of what her job entails. For Lisa, she feels that her goal is to, "Create a consolidated effort among all of Seldovia's many resources for the purposes of economic development." Lisa took the job because she always had an interest in grant writing due to her heavy involvement in public safety. She thinks she will enjoy the work, that it will be challenging and a learning experience.

All in all, Lisa has done a lot for Seldovia and continues to keep doing! Although life in Seldovia isn't quite what Lisa said she expected, she works hard to take each day in stride falling back on her faith in God and her simple, "It's all good!"



In her "spare time", Lisa also teaches EMT training at the high school.



Lisa and her husband Tim own the Sweet n' Clean