



## Jessie's Beyer's Leadership is Growing By Oceans...

Jessie Beyer, a past participant of the Elizabeth Kearney Women's Leadership Development Program, will begin a month-long fellowship sponsored by the German Marshall Fund of the United States in June. As one of 54 fellows selected from across the United States, Jessie will visit five European cities including Berlin, Germany; Frankfurt, Germany; Bilbao, Spain; Skopje, Macedonia and Brussels, Belgium after a brief meeting in Washington, D.C. as part of her experience. The fellowship's objective is to provide a broad firsthand experience of institutions and societies across the Atlantic. Through extended travel, fellows gain a more thorough understanding of attitudes, politics, business, culture and society on the other side of the Atlantic by meeting a variety of people and participating in their way of life. Jessie is one of the younger people selected for this prestigious experience which provides her a unique opportunity as an emerging leader in our community. We met to talk about how the Elizabeth Kearney Women's Leadership Development Program influenced her decision to pursue this opportunity.

"The women's leadership program was the boost I needed to start thinking about my strengths and how to better use my skills in my role at work and in the community."

Jessie has always been committed to community and Blue Earth County where she serves as Public Information Specialist. She is looking forward learning as much as she can from the fellowship and plans to bring that knowledge home with her to share ideas and best practices that are used in the EU. For instance, she will be looking at public policy on multiple levels including meeting with EU government leaders, studying transportation systems, education systems, green technology, media relations, visiting local government agencies, seeing how areas have responded to large scale natural disasters to name a few examples.

She also plans to look for information and strategies related to the YWCA mission. In Macedonia, she will visit the Association for the Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women. Other plans include visiting financial institutions and speaking with philanthropic leaders which she can directly tie back to her newest role of being a member of the Mankato Area Foundation Board.

"I'm really excited about this opportunity," Jessie said and gave a bit of advice to other young leaders. "Never underestimate what you can accomplish. The Women's Leadership Program inspired me to think outside my realm of possibilities."

Applications for the Elizabeth Kearney Women's Leadership Development Program are now being accepted. The program develops leaders from all walks of life. Forms may be downloaded here <http://www.mankatoywca.org/womensleadership.php> or call Anne Ganey for more information.