

Introduction of Isabel Isenhardt

Isabel Isenhardt was born in Trier, Germany, the oldest city in Germany. She studied in Munich, Germany earned a degree in chemistry and microbiology. She loves living in Oldham County because of the people, southern hospitality, rolling bluegrass hills and beautiful Thoroughbred horse farms. She has raised her 9 children here. Four are in college and the five youngest are still at home with her.

She and her family spend most of their free time volunteering in both local and world-wide communities, preferring to be hands-on and actively involved.

As a parent, she says it is touching to see each of her children develop into different people, and this is easily displayed in their volunteering preferences. Her children volunteer in different areas such as environmental activism, giving back as tutors for students with English as a Second Language, fostering abandoned animals in need, supporting local food banks and even firefighting and working in disaster response situations.

She believes “Nobody is perfect and we all do the best we can”, yet she hopes to raise her children how her family raised her, which is, to work for others more than for yourself, and to be a voice for those who go unheard.

This began in Germany when she was a little girl, listening to her grandmother, Oma Luzie, tell stories of the second world war. As a teenager, her grandmother’s best friend was pulled from her very arms to be loaded onto a truck, carted off like livestock to one of the many concentration camps and never heard from again. Her grandmother told how she once found a secret message – a letter sewn into the pocket of a coat she bought, that would soon start a chain of support much like the Underground Railroad. Her grandmother often told about her grandfather, Opa Jupp, who bravely held up illegal, secret supply lines to those who needed support during the Nazi regime’s persecution. Her grandmother would often talk about other friends she knew, who had been robbed of their freedoms and lives.

Isabell says that it was stories like these that shed light on her own privilege as a white person and it has strengthened her sympathy for people suffering from horrendous abuses.