

## Community PROFILE



STAFF PHOTO / TRACY STEPP

### Diane Bays

*"I look forward to Willamette becoming a vibrant business community that celebrates wellness, arts and sustainability."*

**AGE:** 52

**RESIDENCE:** Mike and I and our four children have lived in West Linn for nine years.

**OCCUPATION:** Owner, along with my husband, Mike, of Healthy Spaces in the historic Willamette District of West Linn.

**WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT YOUR JOB?**

The opportunity to create community and make things happen! I've been privileged to be part of the group that created the Willamette Wellness Community and First Wednesday. With the advent of the Farmers and Artists Market it is gratifying to see people enjoying their time here: strolling along the wide sidewalks, visiting with neighbors and "shopping local."

My business philosophy in a nutshell is that people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. A 25-year journey through chronic pain brought me to this time and place where I can share with others some of the solutions I have discovered.

**IS THERE ANYPLACE IN THE WORLD YOU'D LIKE TO TRAVEL TO THAT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN?**

I look forward to visiting the Holy Lands when it feels a bit safer to travel.

**FAVORITE VACATION DESTINATION AND WHY:**

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. My family all live on the East Coast and it is the one time each year that we gather. We rent a big house on the beach and talk for hours as we stand chest-deep in the warm ocean water and jump the waves.

**FAVORITE GROUP OR TYPE OF MUSIC:**

James Taylor, Barbara Streisand and the Beatles.

**FAVORITE LOCAL RESTAURANT:**

Of course all the restaurants in Willamette are wonderful but my latest favorite is the brisket sandwich that I carry out for lunch from The True Value Hardware and General Store. (A side of coleslaw to throw on top makes it even better!)

**WHAT BOOK ARE YOU CURRENTLY READING?**

Nine Hills to Nambokaha. Sarah Erdman writes about her two years living in a village in the Ivory Coast as a Peace Corps volunteer.

**DO YOU HAVE A HERO?**

My husband, Mike, served in Vietnam and sustained injuries that affect him to this day. He then spent 30 years serving his fellow veterans as a VA hospital administrator, inspiring others to move forward with a positive spirit.

**WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING OR UNUSUAL JOB YOU'VE HAD AND WHAT MADE IT SO?**

I taught school in Baltimore's inner city during the early '70s in a school that was not racially integrated. Being the one who was different taught me lessons that will stay with me always.

**WHAT DOES SUCCESS MEAN TO YOU?**

I look forward to Willamette becoming a vibrant business community that celebrates wellness, arts and sustainability. Financial success means reaching out to others beyond our comfortable life in West Linn to make a difference in their world.

*Community Profile is a regular feature in the West Linn Tidings. If you have suggestions on who you would like to see featured here, send us an e-mail at: [email@westlinntidings.com](mailto:email@westlinntidings.com).*