



## *De's Dazzles – 4 Lessons from the Birds*

I love to watch the birds at our bird feeder and koi pond. I have learned some valuable lessons! This frigid morning there were juncos and cardinals eating off the ground, chickadees on the bird feeder, blue birds on the waterfall, and yellow shafted flicker on the pond ice, all getting along even though they are different! Lessons I've learned:

1. When the birds are on the feeder or ground their wings are tucked in, protecting their small bodies. But then they spread their wings to soar. I can choose to stay on the ground or bravely spread my wings and **rise to new heights!**
2. I used to think birds are messy, they sit on the feeder, throwing food to the ground. But I discovered they are generous and share their food with their community. Just like the birds, I can **share my gifts with others.**
3. As the various birds go about their day, they are constantly chirping happy tunes, unlike the barking dog. No matter the weather, it is possible to be cheerful, even when the rain clouds gather and storms come, let's **sing in the rain!**
4. The robins flock together and migrate. The starling's murmuration is magical! Why do they do this? Are they **strengthening relationships**, finding friends, or making new ones?

I have been working with a group of business owners, who are reaching new heights, sharing their unique individual gifts with others, singing praises about our Main Street Corning district. Our goal is to strengthen and communicate bonds between businesses. I am excited to share what we have been working on in the next couple months! There's a great opportunity in our community, about doing something together that makes belonging matter. We have 365 opportunities to put the Unity in commUNITY! Wouldn't it be fun if this was our superpower? To soar to new heights, move forward and remain a constant source of joy for others.!

Sincerely,  
De Heaton  
Executive Director  
2/28/24