

## Volunteer of the Month – Josie Reilly

For those of you who have been to the AHNA website most anytime in the past few years you have no doubt noticed that the basic design hasn't changed in a lot of years, and also that it's not the most modern or user friendly. It's not that we are ignoring it; it's just that we really haven't had the bandwidth or skills to fix it.

This began to change when our Executive Director, David MacDonald found a company called on the web called Catchafire. Their purpose is to match nonprofits with skilled volunteers to help them both. David went on looking for help redesigning our website, and very quickly got several interested volunteers. After reviewing sample work and a short interview, we chose Josie.

Her background included a degree in Art history and painting, after which she started looking for work and did some website work at the University of Minnesota, building online courses.

This led her to UX design short for user experience. She was in Sweden studying it when COVID struck. She knew she had to make a quick decision, and she decided to return to Minnesota while she still could. On the advice of a friend she listed with Catchafire, and got connected to us. Her skills are exactly what we needed. She was able to see what we're trying to communicate, but as an outsider, also able to see what's missing or confusing, in short, how it looks to someone who's not us.

She's been able to dedicate a lot of time and attention to this project, and us and we should have a new site for everyone to see very soon. We now need her designs to be translated into the website itself which will be hosted by Flipcause.

In talking to Josie for this column, I found someone whose just beginning to find her place in the world. She wants to go on to get a masters degree in UX, and is really passionate about helping nonprofits like AHNA succeed by being more efficient and user friendly. There don't seem to be many good things that have come from this pandemic, but this connection may be one. In times like these we need to cherish the blessings that come our way.

For more information on Catchafire, go to <https://www.catchafire.org>

