

## John O'Hara Essay

In Greene County, we spend every July 29th celebrating the rain as a community called Rain Day. During the annual Rain Day festival we listen to live music, eat lots of food, have an umbrella decoration contest, play many games, and celebrate that it might rain. One of the special things about Rain Day is that everyone from the different small towns in Greene County all come together as one to celebrate this special day.

I have been attending and celebrating Rain Day since I was 4 months old. My family never misses the celebration. It's one of our summer highlights. I remember getting up early when I was younger to go downtown to shop and watch the entertainment and competitions. I also have many memories of the kid activities, like face painting, petting zoo, taking all my parents money for games, and of course the fantastic food. It would always amaze me how many people I would see, how much laughter I could hear and how many smiles were on the faces that I passed. Everyone seems so happy on July 29th.

My memories of Rain Day as a younger child are nothing short of amazing, but as a teenager I see Rain Day a little differently now. Yes, I still love hanging out with my friends and family, watching the entertainment, eating the delicious food, and of course, keeping my "eye on the sky" for rain, but something else has come from this yearly small town event. I now notice the coming together of a community. Our world can be so confusing and scary sometimes. Days like this where differences are put away and the community can come together to celebrate something as simple as rain, is the most important thing to me. I love our small, but mighty community. I love to see us together having a good time (if it rains or not). I love the sense of family within the community, I love the "love" I see and feel, I love the laughter I hear, but above all, I love the one community unit we have created with this celebration.

On that day, July 29th, we might be small rain watchers in a corner of Pennsylvania who were intrigued by a farmer many years ago, but for those 24 hours, we turn the small town of Waynesburg into

one mighty community unit that I am so proud to call my home. I will forever love the feeling of a true community that this celebration of many years has created.