

# Chalkboard gets Stateline Area thinking about life and death

By RYAN SILVOLA Staff writer | Posted: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 4:00 pm

BELOIT — One local resident is asking people to think about what they want out of life by asking them what they want to do before death.

Stationed on State Street in downtown Beloit is a 20 foot by 8 foot chalkboard with 58 slots, each with a blank space after the statement “before I die I want to.” Katie Lentes, a volunteer at Beloit Regional Hospice, created the community art project for her Americorps membership in Project 16:49, a Rock County non-profit that serves homeless teens.

All of the slots are currently filled with the aspirations of the community, which was the goal for Lentes.

The one that stood out the most to her was one person that wrote “to get ice cream from Dairy Haus.”

“It was so easy and simple,” said Lentes. “It says: ‘I’ve really accomplished everything in my life, and I want to do something easy.’”

Lentes said Adena Dutter, Beloit Regional Hospice development manager, approached her with the idea.

Dutter said she loves how the project fosters community support.

“You bare your soul with members of the community,” Dutter said. “It also shows that worries are not as important as they should be, and we all need to live life to the fullest.”

Lentes said the chalkboard will remain on the corner of State Street and East Grand Avenue until late July or early August, with the exception of the board appearing in Riverside Park on June 17 for the Music and More concert starting at 7 p.m. The board was erased for the first time on Saturday and will continue to be erased every week until it is taken down.

The concept for the Before I Die chalkboard wall was originally created by University of Columbia graduate Candy Chang.

After thinking about it, Lentes said she finally wrote “to travel abroad” on the board since she has never left the country. However, she would also write “to make an impact in someone’s life.”



## Before I die...

Katie Lentes, the creator behind the Before I Die project, writes "love more" on the chalkboard. Lentes erases the chalkboard every week so new people can share their aspirations.