

FAMILY FOOTNOTES

FAMILIES CAN'T WAIT CAMPAIGN FINISHES 7TH YEAR!

December 2005

Back in 1999, Family Support & Resource Center's Board of Directors made an important decision to begin raising money to assist over 200 families who wait up to six years to get into the publicly funded Family Support & Respite Care programs offered by our agency. The resulting campaign, which was called "Families Can't Wait," has been a tremendous success. **In seven years, FSRC has raised more than \$562,000 and has provided direct financial assistance to more than 300 families during the years while they are waiting.**

The availability of Families Can't Wait grants has truly made a positive difference in the ability of families to care for their children at home. During the past seven years, parents on our waiting lists have applied for over 500 grants to help them with the extraordinary expenses of home & vehicle modifications, adapted equipment, in-home respite care, summer camps & child care, therapies and evaluations, and training and conference tuitions.

To continue providing grants to waiting list families, it is essential that FSRC replenish the "Families Can't Wait" fund each year. In 2005, for example, we approved new grants to 65 families, totaling over \$55,000. Obviously there is an ongoing need that we must strive to meet.

As part of the effort to ask the Dane County community to support us with "Families Can't Wait," our Board planned the first of what was to become an annual fund-raising event: **Dane County's Celebrity Dinner & Silent Auction.** This year's seventh Celebrity Dinner was held on November 7 and raised more than \$36,000—ensuring that Families Can't Wait grants can continue for another year.

Many generous individuals and businesses have supported our Celebrity Dinner. For those of you who want to help but can't afford to donate, there is something important you can do: please patronize and thank the many businesses who have supported our Celebrity Dinner each year! They are listed in the inside pages of this newsletter. Hearing from you that their financial support is appreciated makes a big difference.

If you can afford to donate to the Families Can't Wait campaign this holiday season, a contribution envelope is provided with this newsletter. You can also now easily donate on-line at our website: www.fsrcdane.org.



Musician Lucas Cates and UW Football players Brett Bell & Matt Bernstein, support Families Can't Wait. For more Celebrity Dinner photos, visit our website at www.fsrcdane.org

Inside this Issue:

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- ⇒ **Better Together:** FSRC's Inclusion page featuring "No Limits" by Dennis Granzen
- ⇒ **"FSRC's Calendar Page:** Dane County Area Events





FRIENDS OF OUR FAMILIES

Thanks to the hard work and generosity of our Board of Directors and many local businesses, our Families Can't Wait fund will be able to continue to provide assistance to families in 2006. Families Can't Wait funds go directly to families on our waiting lists to help them purchase respite care, home and vehicle modifications, specialized therapy and adaptive equipment, child care, recreation, and parent training.

Our Annual Celebrity Dinner and Silent Auction on November 7th raised more than **\$36,000** for the Families Can't Wait fund. **John Roach** as Master of Ceremonies, assisted by 31 celebrity waiters, made sure the evening was always lively and fun. We are grateful to FSRC Campaign Chair **Nancy Valentyn**, the businesses and individuals who sponsored tables at the event, the celebrity waiters, donors to our silent auction, and to the staff at **Nakoma Golf Club** for making the evening so successful!

2005 Celebrity Waiters

Jolene Anderson
Brett Bell
Bucky Badger
Matt Bernstein
Dr. John Bohn
Adam Burish
Lucas Cates
Coach Michael Eaves
Derek Engler
Suzy Favor Hamilton
Michael Feldman
Brad Fischer
Stephen Fleischman
Scott Foss
Ed Garvey
"Miss Madison" Greta Hafeman
Trent Jackson
Tammy Lee & John Flint
Peter Leidy
Matt Lepay
"Westside Andy" Linderman
Patty Loew
Truly Remarkable Loon
Kevin Reilly
Tarek Saleh
Leotha Stanley
Coach Lisa Stone
Pam Tauscher
Peter Waite
Charlie Wills
Randy Wright



Above, **Brad Fischer** and "Westside Andy" **Linderman** and below, **Suzy Favor Hamilton** were recognized for 5 years as Celebrity Waiters at this event.



Suzy's fun-loving personality came through on her signature apron which was one of over 150 items featured in the silent auction.

2005 Table Sponsors

The Attainment Company
CUNA Mutual Group
Findorff, Inc.
Hill Electric
Tim & Mary Ann McKenzie
Madison Down Syndrome Society
Madison Investment Advisors
Mortenson, Matzelle & Meldrum, Inc.
MTM, Inc.
Murphy Desmond SC
National Specialty Insurance
Pizza Hut of Southern Wisconsin
Smith & Gesteland LLP
TJK Design & Construction
Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities

2005 Partner Sponsors

American TV
Autism Resources Network
Coldwell Banker Sveum Realtors
Fairway Independent Mortgage Corp.
John & Susan Flickinger
Gingras, Cates & Luebke, S.C.
Goodman's Jewelers
Gordon Flesch Co.
Gorman & Company
Katz Family Foundation
M & I Bank
Mallatt Pharmacy
Piper Jaffray - Steve Hird
Virchow Krause & Co.

Better Together: FSRC's Inclusion Page

"No Limits" by Dennis Granzen

"Desire creates the power." - Raymond Hollingwell

In the new video "Caleb's Story," Pat Kelly talks about the necessity of getting comfortable with asking people to do things they may not be used to doing. Yet for many of us, more difficult than achieving something is asking for the help to do it. In fact, asking can be the obstacle that puts many great ideas, plans and potential accomplishments on a sort of never ending hold. While some people have no trouble asking for what they need or want, others of us are just uncomfortable with that sort of asking—especially when asking for ourselves rather than someone else. What is it about asking that can take us so far out of our comfort zone, and lead to a sort of paralysis? The answer varies with the situation and the people involved.

Certainly, it's easier to ask something of someone if that person has a responsibility to respond. Teachers, health care and human service workers have a defined role binding them to the people and families they serve, and a responsibility to follow through on requests made to them. While inequities in the power of these relationships can make asking difficult, especially when the request causes the person to do something outside what they consider the normal way of doing things, we at least can say that these people must respond.

In other situations, when the people we're requesting something of are not duty bound to respond, we may be concerned that the act of asking in itself could damage the relationship. We may fear we're placing too great a burden on a friend or acquaintance, or at least of being perceived as doing so.

The nature of the request itself may hinder us from being comfortable asking for help. We may fear a negative response to a sensitive area. This is often the case when asking about friendship issues regarding our children who struggle in this area. Asking another parent to get the children together can feel like a pretty high stakes proposition. An answer of "no" can be devastating, and even a non-committal response or a failure to follow up can be hurtful. Sometimes the "what if" in our own minds keeps us from asking.

What, then, can we do?

First off – as many of you have heard me remind you over the years – never forget that at the same time you're asking for something, you're also offering something as well. You're offering something of great value, namely your precious children. No matter the extent of their need for support, they also offer their own unique and valuable gifts, and the people around them need only be open to receive them in order to benefit.

Each of us also must be aware of our own style and comfort level in asking. If you're the type who isn't intimidated by asking others for their support regardless of who they are or what the situation is, go for it. Ask with respect and confidence. You may not get the response you want but you probably won't be any worse off than when you started. As the poet Carl Sandburg wrote, "This old anvil has seen many broken hammers."
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Better Together: No Limits (continued)

If you're less comfortable asking people directly, you may need to find someone who can do it for you. Do you have a friend or relative who is comfortable asking for you? Can you find someone to champion your cause? If you can, you need only ask that one person. If you find it hard to discover this one person, you may want to address your concerns to a more intimate group. This is the time to start either a formal or informal Circle of Support, a great mechanism for sharing the difficulty of asking for things.

Finally, think about how you ask. While there are times to lay things out and make a direct request, there are other times when you can be less direct. At these times, try to steer clear of putting someone in "yes or no" mode. Ask your question in a way that allows a response of "yes", but doesn't require one of "no". For example, rather than say, "Can your child get together and play with mine?" you can say, "I'm looking for a play partner for my child, can you think of anyone I might ask?" This allows the other parent to offer to get the children together, but also allows for her or him to come up with ideas, offer to find others for you, or gracefully bow out. Without the rejecting "no", you can keep connected and not damage the relationship. While this may seem manipulative to some, I see it more as respectful and accommodating.

As difficult as asking can be for some of us, in telling us Caleb's story Pat Kelly reminds us how important it is. Asking is also something that can get easier with practice. We also need to be brave for our children, and remember that bravery comes with fear. As Ambrose Redmoon wrote, "Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear."

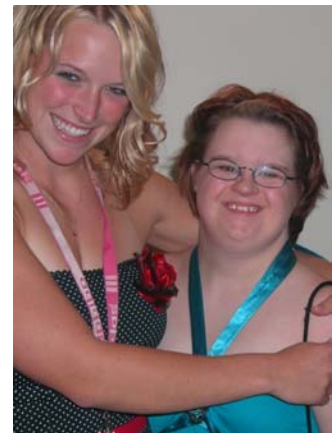
(Note: For information on ordering a copy of "Caleb's Story," contact the Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin - Madison or go to www.waisman.wisc.edu/wrc/pub.html.)

CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE!

Awards keep rolling in for **Jatanna Harden**. She rolled a high Score of 102 at the local Special Olympics Bowling Tournament. Jatanna went on to the regionals, bringing home a 2nd place, silver medal. **Way to go Jatanna!**



Homecoming 2005 was the Event of the season for Madison Memorial student **Hannah Kitzman**. Hannah and her date joined a group of good friends for an evening of dressing up and eating out, along with great partying and dancing. **Great smile Hannah! ->**



<-Randi Williams is a member of the Mad City Cheer Squad. The group can be seen and heard in local parades and celebrations. They are also busy showing off their moves in cheerleading competitions. **GO Randi!!**



Dane County Area Events Listing

JANUARY 2006

- January 7** **Great Lakes Cheer Championships- Alliant Energy Center** This is a great opportunity for kids to see All Star Cheerleading, which includes skilled gymnasts, stunts and dance.
- January 14** **Wild Wild West- The Pyle Center at UW-Madison** This event sponsored by the Madison Children's Museum is guaranteed to be a real wild time, with lots of food, games, and fun. Proceeds go to support Madison Children's Museum
- January 21-22** **Flake Out Festival- Downtown Wisconsin Dells** This event is Wisconsin's only state-sanctioned snow sculpting competition. There will be activities for kids of all ages including fireworks, food, music and more.
- January 22** **Celebrating Youth! Circus of Dreams- Monona Terrace** This event celebrates the youth of SW Wisconsin and the diversity of their cultures, talents, and interests.
- January 27-29** **Monster Truck and Thrill Show- Alliant Energy Center** Come see the power and awe of the monster trucks!

FEBRUARY 2006

- February 4-5** **Orchid Quest 2006- Exhibition Hall at Alliant Energy Center** Come and see one of the best orchid displays in the Midwest. Orchids and supplies on sale to the public.
- February 10-12** **WPT Garden Expo- Alliant Energy Center** Attend educational seminars, see prairie plants, vegetable garden tips, and much more.



Dane County Area Events Listing

- February 12** **International Festival- Overture Center for the Arts** Join this lively celebration of more than forty cultures represented in our community. Enjoy a full day of music, dance and storytelling. There will be an international bazaar where people can browse and shop for unique handcrafted items from around the world!
- February 17-19** **Zor Shrine Circus- Alliant Energy Center** Enjoy a day of fun under the big top! See amazing stunts and acts from death-defying performers from around the globe!
- February 18-19** **Mad City Model Railroad Show and Sale- Alliant Energy Center** 70,000 square feet of the Midwest's biggest and most beautiful train layouts in a variety of scales.
- February 24-26** **Madison Fishing Expo- Alliant Energy Center** For more information visit www.madfishexpo.com/
- March 12** **Madison Art Guild Exhibit- Olbrich Botanical Gardens** The Madison Art Guild is showing works from member artists who work in a wide variety of visual art forms. See ceramics, drawing jewelry, painting, sculpture, photography and much more.
- March 12** **St. Patrick's Day Parade- Capitol Square** 10:00am Prelude Music followed by 11:00 Mass with traditional Celtic music and song at St. Patrick's church. A 5K run will begin at the Monona Terrace, with a Flag of Ireland Ceremony with bagpipes at Noon. The parade begins at 1:30pm.

This events listing is gathered from information provided by www.visitmadison.com





FRIENDS OF OUR FAMILIES (continued)

FSRC Presents "Friends of the Families" Award to Unity Church

Since 1991, members of **Unity Church of Madison** have purchased holiday gifts and groceries for children and families served by Family Support & Resource Center.

In this 15th year of partnering on this holiday project, FSRC was pleased to present its annual "Friends of the Families" Award to Unity Church. As Executive Director Terri Johnson explained in presenting the award at the Celebrity Dinner on November 7, holiday gift-giving projects are not unusual. What distinguishes Unity Church is the scale and longevity of the project: in 15 years, Unity Church members have purchased over 1500 gifts and over 300 food baskets for children and families.

Church members select gifts, according to individual "wish lists," for both children who have disabilities as well as for their brothers and sisters. FSRC staff provide information to Unity Church and deliver the carefully selected and wrapped presents. We thank all of the members of Unity Church for their long-term commitment to supporting families.



Jan Loisel and Tracey Byrnes from Unity Church were present at the 2005 Celebrity Dinner to receive the Friends of the Families Award for Unity Church.

Photography courtesy of Jyothi Froemming & Teri Smith.



Sportscaster, Matt Lepay, Bucky Badger and many more well-known figures from Dane County's art, sports, media, and government communities welcomed guests and served up a fun-filled evening for all.

2005 Celebrity Dinner Event Donors

A-1 Furniture
Amy's Attic Treasures
Beauty Blossoms
Bellini Italian Restaurant
Bergmann Pharmacy
Blue Bird Services
Britt Interiors
Buddy Squirrel
Cambridge Jewelry
Cambridge Wood Fired Pottery
Capitol Bank
Carol Thompson Cosmetics
Chet's American Car Care Center
Sue Cohen
Concourse Hotel & Governor's Club
Copps Food Center-Monona
Copps Food Center-Whitney Way
Copps Food Center-University
Curves on Monroe Street
Denman, May & Associates
Down to Earth Pottery
Suzy Favor Hamilton
Michael Feldman
First Choice Dental
Fiskars
Flagstad Flower & Gift
Flower Gallery
The Front Pew
Garment Shop
Green Bay Packers
Hanson House Bed & Breakfast

Kevin Henkes
House of Flowers
Sharron Hubbard-Moyer
J. Kinney Florist
Jan Byce
Johannsen's Greenhouse & Gifts
Kehl School of Dance
Frank Kuhrasch
Larsen Photography
Inky Lau
Lavish Lily
Leisure Threads
Peter Leidy
Westside Andy Linderman
Patty Loew
Truly Remarkable Loon
Mad City Music Exchange
Madison Lighting
Matt Kenseth Fan Club
Meisa Contracting
Milwaukee Bucks
Jacquelyn Mitchard
Nakoma Golf Club
New Leaf
Andrew & Lori Olson
Ann Olson
Rick & Mary Sue Olson
Oriental Specialties
Park Printing
The Parsonage Bed & Breakfast
Patty's Flower & Gifts
Pizza Hut of Southern Wisconsin

Potter's Garden
Prairie Flower & Gift
Princeton Club
Purple Goose
RZ & Company
John Roach
Rowe Pottery Works
Ryan's Hair Designs
Saris Cycle Group
Serendipity
John Shaw
Mary Alice Sicard
Slumberland Furniture
Erving Smith
Teri Smith
Sub-Zero Freezer Company
Sunrise Glassworks
Suzen Sez
Swedee's
Sweet Gift Express
Terry Tuschen
Uniquely Yours
Utschig Chiropractic
UW Men's Football
UW Men's Basketball
UW Men's Hockey
UW Women's Volleyball
UW Women's Basketball
Nancy Valentyn
Wegner LLP
William Thomas Designs
Wisconsin Flooring
Woodworks Furniture
Yost's Bridal & Formal



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Inclusion Facilitators:

Dennis Granzen Fil Clissa

Website: www.fsrgdane.org

FAMILY FOOTNOTES-BACK PAGE

A reminder about deadlines for end-of-year requests, due at FSRC by noon:

12/5 for checks mailed 12/9
 12/19 for checks mailed 12/22
 1/4 for last 2005 checks mailed 1/10
 1/10 for first 2006 checks mailed 1/13

Deadlines for last 2004 fiscal agent forms are: 12/4 & 12/15

LINK, a coalition of organizations serving children with disabilities in Dane County, has released its most recent report on the **“State of the System.”** To read the report and learn about the status of local programs and the issues affecting them, visit LINK’s website at **www.linkdane.org**.

Family Footnotes is a quarterly publication of the Family Support and Resource Center, a non-profit organization serving Dane County families who have members at home with developmental disabilities. For more information, call us at 608/221-4611 or email us at fsrg@fsrgdane.org