

# FAMILY FOOTNOTES

September 2005

## What's New at FSRC

### www.FSRCdane.org: Our Website has More than a New Look!

Family Support and Resource Center is proud to announce the launch of our new website [www.fsrcdane.org](http://www.fsrcdane.org)! It's more interactive, easier to download documents and easier to contact us. The staff are excited about the new design because they can keep information on the website current, upload documents and make changes easily.

Just ask Executive Director, Terri Johnson, who'll tell you: "This is a single place where you can find all of the information related to FSRC's services that is available in the form of documents or web-based links. Together with [www.linkdaneconomy.org](http://www.linkdaneconomy.org), which provides information on the larger service system of which we are a part, this website provides many valuable time-saving tools."

#### Here are some pages you will definitely want to visit:

##### Home

The Home page will host the new FSRC Newsdesk, a place where you can look for important links and timely information such as upcoming FSRC events, media alerts, and the latest FSRC publications.

##### Newsletter

You will find the four latest issues of our newsletter "Family Footnotes" on this page. Our newsletter is filled with stories and news that appeal to families, respite care providers and donors alike. They are now published in PDF format which means you can look forward to seeing great photos along with the stories.

##### Resource Center

As the name implies, this page will be a huge resource for families and advocates of children with disabilities. We are really excited about this page! FSRC has assembled an invaluable catalog of website links and downloadable documents for families of children with disabilities. You have access to the latest information in a variety of categories including: FSRC policies, Education and Transition, Housing, Inclusion, Respite Care, and Support and Advocacy. The new web design will allow staff to easily upload new information and keep this page current. We would love this page to expand, so please feel free to recommend additional resources to us at the link provided.

##### Online Donations

The donations page now allows you to give donations to FSRC's programs and make payments for fundraising events online! The other options are still there if you prefer to mail us a check or phone in your credit card number, but now you also have the option to pay by credit card online. It's fast, easy and secure.

##### Equipment Exchange

It's interactive! In the past, you had to contact us about posting the equipment you needed for your child or what you wanted to give away or sell. Now on the new Equipment Exchange web page you can post and manage that item yourself! Just fill out the short form on the web page and give a "secret word" so you can go back in and manage it. Keep in mind that all postings expire after 30 days.

##### Providing or Finding Care

People interested in providing care for children with disabilities and their families in the Dane County area can now go to this page on our website to get started on the application process. There they can fill out a short form that will provide us with the necessary information to determine if we have a care opportunity that matches their experience and availability.

Families who are eligible for our Respite Care Program and who are seeking in-home providers are linked to an on-line provider search located at LINK's website, [www.linkdaneconomy.org](http://www.linkdaneconomy.org).

FSRC thanks Firefly Web Development for their excellent work in developing our new website.

#### Inside this Issue:

- ◆ **Neat Ways to Find Support**, by Becky Ziemba
- ◆ **Better Together: FSRC's Inclusion page**, featuring "Reflections on Circles" by Fil Clissa, "Celebrations," & a review of a new book, *Waddie Welcome & the Beloved Community*
- ◆ **Respite News**: "What is Respite?" Welcome to Shauna Foss, & "Power Spots" by Jeffrey Rumbaugh
- ◆ **Dane County Area Events Listing**— October-December
- ◆ **Community Bulletin Board**: Interview with Board member Dan Nordloh, Celebrity Dinner is coming on November 7!





## Give Yourself a Break!

By Becky Ziemba, Family Support Program Case Manager

As summer draws to a close and kids are getting ready to go back to school, there is a world-wide sigh of relief from parents who have spent the lazy hazy days of summer acting as their child's chauffeur and chief entertainer. However, for many parents of children living with a disability, that sigh is quickly followed by a gasp of anxiety with thoughts of having to attend IEP meetings, needing to work with new teachers, and the many unknown obstacles that the school year will bring. Unfortunately, there are no summer vacations or spring breaks from being a parent. All of the responsibilities can be quite overwhelming at times and this is exactly why support systems are so crucial to maintaining a healthy mind, body, and spirit. Everyone deserves a break from the demands of being a parent to focus on being an individual with your own needs and wants. The more overwhelming life is, the more reason to form your own support network.

The first thing that comes to mind, when someone hears the word *support*, is often a paid professional. Sure, a therapist, case manager, or an organized group can be great ways to find support, but they are not the only way. Support can be found in an activity, another person, or within your community. Some parents have already created support systems for themselves and don't even realize it because it is a natural part of their lives. Here are some ideas on how a few parents have created support networks for themselves and in return, enhanced their home life.

◆ **Shannon and Clayton Greaves** have 2 boys ages 13 and 17. One day during a shopping trip, they stopped to watch a class at Karate America as they passed. They immediately became engrossed in the activity and decided to sign up as a family. They now attend classes 5 days per week and have seen innumerable benefits for themselves and the boys since they started. Shannon and Clayton have formed close and supportive relationships with other parents and their sons have been able to build self-confidence and physical skills. When things get overwhelming in life, they jump in the car and go to karate. Getting physical activity, being focused on one thing, and being around their support network melts away the anxieties and frustrations they came with.

◆ A single mom with 2 sons, ages 16 and 17, became involved in their community church for support. As part of becoming a member, 3 different families hosted her and her boys for dinner as a welcoming. This way she was able to connect with a few people right away and now is close to many other members. This summer, when she was unable to find full-time childcare for the boys, she turned to the church. They arranged for her to drop off the boys 2 days per week to work with the church staff. This not only allowed her to work, but also gave her boys a sense of self-worth, job experience, and they even got paid. What she learned most from this support system was that it is important to put your needs out there and believe that there are people who want to help and that you shouldn't be afraid to educate people about special needs.

◆ **Sharon Maynard**, who has one son age 7, and **Tonja Severson**, who has one son age 13, have both found support through volunteer opportunities. Sharon has been volunteering at WORT 89.9 FM as a sound board technician and occasional host for the radio literature program. She had an interest in music and writing and decided to seek out an activity that offered job experience as well as self-fulfillment. Being a parent can be such a one-sided giving relationship and this was a way for Sharon to do something for herself while also working on her career goals. Sharon volunteers for 3 hours per week and this position has given her a chance to do the activities she loves while meeting a variety of people who are connected to the radio station and those who come in for interviews. Tonja and her son have always loved cats and decided to get involved by providing foster care for needy cats and to help with cat adoptions at PetSmart. This volunteer position has helped Tonja to make great new friends who are very supportive, while still spending time with her son. Prior to this position, she says she felt very isolated, like her whole world revolved around her child and his needs. This helps her feel like an individual and not just an extension of her son. Tonja's words of advice are that you find a hobby, away from home if possible, that you love and be sure to make time for it every week.

◆ Another parent of two children, ages 5 and 3, has found support through a part-time job. She works as a nurse and became involved in Mary Kay Cosmetics through a provider who worked with her daughter. Being a Mary Kay consultant not only provides extra income, but also allows this mother to network with other parents. She is in charge of her own schedule and can be flexible to accommodate the needs of her children as well as her own need to get out of the house once in a while. She advises parents to not be afraid to approach and correspond with other parents. She has also found conferences as a great way to network with other parents and find support.

Whether you are looking for a support system for your whole family or just for yourself, remember that you do deserve to take out time for yourself and that the few hours you spend out of the home will make you a more relaxed and attentive parent who is ready to take on the challenges that life brings.

## Respite News

### “What is Respite?”

community-based care in a changing service system that is supported by eroding government funding, the Respite Care Program staff have taken some time to reflect on the question of what it means “to provide respite care.”

Respite as a word is simple to define; as a service it can be much more complex to explain and deliver. The “Respite Care Program” foremost serves Dane County families by supporting them in their efforts to find, manage, and pay for in-home care for their children who have a disability. However, it also provides a service to interested community members in connecting them with families who are looking for volunteer or paid help. Our reality is that “respite care” is defined many different ways by the families and providers themselves.

Program staff have stopped saying “that’s not respite” and instead say, what can we do to help you meet your need? This paradigm shift has led to “respite” matches being made, for example, to facilitate the delivery of MA-funded personal care hours and to provide summer program support staff, therapy appointment assistance, relief care, overnight weekends away from home at alternative sites, coverage for parent work hours, crisis support, specialized behavioral team training and coordination, and community inclusion activities. Prospective providers continue to request matches for employment and education experience. (You can read about one of these matches in Jeff Raumbaugh’s article “Power Spots” later in this newsletter.)

We are also utilizing new technology to expand our capacity to bring providers into the pool and to match them with families regardless of whether a family is “in” the program or on the waiting list. The [www.linkdanecounty.org](http://www.linkdanecounty.org) website is accessible to all eligible families and registered providers. It allows providers to start the application process on-line, and it allows families to search for a list of available providers to meet their specific need.

Thanks to additional funding from CUNA Mutual Group and assistance from Firefly Web Development in 2006, the LINK website will soon increase its capacity to get information to providers about available requests, and it will increase families’ access to newly registered providers. These advances will allow us to

connect more families and providers—with the end goal of completely eliminating the need for families to wait for Respite Program staff support to find care providers.

However, for the 3rd year in a row, the Dane County budget proposal for 2006 includes **no increases** for respite care funds. Families without other financial resources will continue to have to wait for financial assistance with respite care. We will work with families to identify other funding options wherever possible and appropriate.

In the coming months, families, providers, service agencies and community members will have an opportunity to broaden their expectations of “What is Respite.”

What can you expect from us?

- All families can utilize [www.linkdanecounty.org](http://www.linkdanecounty.org) in-home provider search to search the pool of over 200 active, screened, experienced and available respite providers
- Waiting list families can expect assistance with provider referral and short term consultation from program staff
- Case managers and service agency peers can expect information and referral support
- Providers can expect assistance with matching to experiences that meet their interest, availability and need
- Everyone can expect an open mind and some level of response to your request for help

“What is respite?” You decide.

#### Wheelchair Accessibility Loan Program

A reminder that the Respite Care Program has **2 portable ramps for loan free of charge!** These ramps are intended to provide short-term accessibility for respite provider homes, houses of friends, and other community settings. Each set of equipment includes a 6 foot ramp which folds up to the size of a large suitcase and a 1.5” threshold ramp.

Please contact FSRC’s Respite Care Program at 221-4611 if you are interested in utilizing this equipment.



## Respite News (continued)

### Power Spots By Jeffery Rumbaugh

On Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, I arrived at Jefferson Middle School to take part in a summer enrichment program called "Middle School U." I was there to work with a student on the Autism Spectrum, a student having difficulties relating to and interacting with his peers. I was there to observe, as well as interact with the student in an effort to gauge his communicative abilities.

I have learned that gauging the understanding of the student's neuro-typical peers in terms of their acceptance of his differences is certainly part of the equation. That understanding will lead to greater communication. First, however, these children with varying neurologies need to be acclimated to each other.

Trying to lengthen the amount of time that this particular student spent within the actual classroom was the primary goal of the staff at "Middle School U." The student did not have to be "on-task". It was the student's presence within the room, amidst the other students, that was emphasized. The student would create a construction paper sheriff's outfit with scissors and tape while the other students were in the adjacent kitchen making caramel from scratch.

Acknowledging the student's sensory needs and arousal levels, no questions were asked when the student chose to depart the classroom and arrive at what On-site Assistant Director of "Middle School U" Casey Hopp referred to as "power spots". The office, the stairwell, and the bathroom were areas that served to accommodate the student. Once a sense of stability was regained, the student would return to class.

An important point was that the entire staff was aware of the student's needs. The student was allowed the choice to exit the classroom, but was also expected to return within a reasonable amount of time. These "power spots" sought out by the student demonstrate the profound relationship within Autism between accommodations like safe-space accessibility and the ability for that person to function in surrounding environments.

*Jeffrey Rumbaugh is a post-baccalaureate student at Edgewood College who is pursuing an M.A. in Special Education and certification as a cross-categorical cognitive disabilities teacher. Jeremy Sanford of FSRC connected Jeffrey with the Childcare Inclusion Resource Center, who provided this placement at Middle School U as part of an educational requirement.*

### Welcome Shauna!

Hello! My name is Shauna Foss, and I would like to introduce myself as a recent addition to the Respite Care Program staff. I am extremely excited as I begin my position as a Respite Care Coordinator. Working with families is the kind of work I really love, and I feel very lucky to be part of the dedicated team here at the Family Support and Resource Center. I am committed to assisting the families we serve, as a source of information, ideas, advocacy, and action.

I am originally from New Munster, Wisconsin, a rural farming community in Kenosha County. When I came to Madison to attend the UW, I quickly learned that this city is a wonderful place of opportunity for anyone who wants to get involved.

Since I've been here, I have dedicated my time to facilitating positive changes in our community through working with individuals and their families. I have been a volunteer with the West Madison Special Olympics, worked for Goodwill Industries as a vocational assistant, and have spent time as an After-school Leader for Madison School and Community Recreation.

In addition, I have assisted a young girl and her family navigate the Dane County services system. This experience allowed me the opportunity to work with speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, preschool teachers, special education teachers, friends, and neighbors, as a team member dedicated to facilitating and encouraging her growth. I learned firsthand how valuable and effective a strong network of family and community members can be.

I have also been involved as a volunteer at the Rape Crisis Center, providing support on their crisis line, recruiting new volunteers, fundraising, and building public awareness. Currently, I work as an on-call Advocate/Counselor one weekend per month.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, comments, or information you may want to share. I would love to hear from you.



# Dane County Area Events Listing

## OCTOBER, 2005

- October 1 & 2**     **24th Annual Mount Horeb Fall Heritage Festival- Mt. Horeb** Art & craft fair, live music, pumpkin decorating, storytelling, and more!
- October 1 & 2**     **Wollersheim Winery Grape Stomp Festival- Prairie du Sac** Grape Stomping Contests, grape spitting contests, cork toss, food, music and of course, wine tasting! Bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the food pantry! Cost is \$3.00.
- October 7-9**     **New Glarus Oktoberfest- New Glarus** Enjoy a wide variety of live music, locally made foods and drink, tractor pull, farm show, as well as arts and crafts.
- October 14-16**     **Wisconsin Book Festival- Downtown Madison** Series of dynamic interactive programs that celebrate the written work, writers, reading, and books. This event is much more than a book expo!
- October 15 & 16**     **Wisconsin Dells Autumn Harvest Festival- LaCrosse St parkin lot, Wisconsin Dells** Craft fair, farmers market, clowns, pumpkin decorating, petting zoo, and fun for kids and adults of all ages! Saturday 10:30am to 6pm and Sunday 11am to 3pm.
- October 28-30**     **Madison Food and Wine Show- Alliant Energy Center** This event is sponsored by Madison Magazine and is the area's premier gourmet experience. Many opportunities to sample foods and beverage. Learn tips and techniques from local experts. Dueling Chef competition!

## NOVEMBER, 2005

- November 5**     **Oregon Area Senior Center Annual Holiday Bazaar- Oregon Senior Center** Hand made crafts, baked goodies, lunch, quilts, jewelry, and children's corner.
- November 5**     **Madison Bead Society Fine Art & Craft Show and Sale- Westgate Mall, Madison** Jewelry and Bead creations, handcrafted artisan work in a variety of mediums. Also will provide beading demonstrations throughout the day. 10am to 5pm.



## Dane County Area Events Listing

- November 11-13** **Edgerton's Christmas in the Community- Downtown Edgerton** Music, bargains, treats and all kinds of Holiday fun in Edgerton's Historic District. Visit the Log Cabin for prizes and kid's activities.
- November 18-20** **One of a Kind Rubber Stamp and Scrapbook Show- Alliant Energy Center** For more information on this particular event, please visit <http://stampscrapmadison.com/>.
- November 19 & 20** **Madison Gem & Mineral Club Show and Sale- Alliant Energy Center** Enjoy booths and demonstrations from club members on various aspects of gemology and mineralogy.
- November 25** **Hmong New Year Celebration- Alliant Energy Center**
- November 26 & 27** **Mid-Continent Railway Santa Express- North Freedom, WI** Santa will visit as you walk down memory lane in Christmas Past and experience vintage train cars. \$13 for adults and \$8 for kids 3-12. For questions call 608-522-4621 or 800-930-1385

### DECEMBER, 2005

- December 2-4** **Victorian Holiday Weekend- Stoughton** This three day festival has something for everyone! The weekend starts with a Grand Ball. There will be an arts and crafts fair, a visit from Santa for the kids, cookie decorating, and pony rides. Sunday will feature a children's parade downtown.
- December 9** **Holiday Arts and Crafts Affair- Alliant Energy Center** Where you can buy that one of a kind handcrafted gift. Over 500 artists and craftpeople from 30 states will be displaying their wares. Enjoy a variety of entertainment as well as plenty of food and drink! Also register for \$25 gift certificates to be given away hourly!
- December 11** **5th Annual Holiday House Walk- Mount Horeb** Take a winter's drive to Mount Horeb to tour the town's most magnificent homes decked out for the holidays! Carriage rides will be available as well!
- December 30** **Harlem Globetrotters- Alliant Energy Center** Enjoy the spectacle that is a mix between basketball and showmanship! The Globetrotters will take on their arch rivals the Generals. This event is fun for all ages. Please visit <http://www.alliantenergycenter.com> for details on pricing and times.

*This events listing is gathered from information provided by [www.visitmadison.com](http://www.visitmadison.com)*



# Better Together: FSRC's Inclusion Page

## Reflections on Circles

by Fil Clissa

**"To be rooted is perhaps the most important and least recognized need of the human soul." --- Simone Weil**

You may hear people talk about "circles of friends" or "circles of support." While some make distinctions between the two (a circle of friends is a group of friends for the person who has a disability and a circle of support is a group with a broader role of helping the person and/or family), both types of circles focus on capacity, gifts and dreams. A circle supports a life— not a service plan.

I have helped develop circles of support for people with disabilities for many years. I am also a member of a circle of support for a young woman in Dane County. I can tell you that there are as many different ways that circles function as there are members in the circle. When circles of support are successful, everyone in the circle feels supported, not just the "focus person." The focus person is simply the person the circle is formed around.

When we talk about community inclusion we almost always talk about developing friendships and living meaningful lives. When people are connected socially they are happier, healthier and better able to adjust to life's ups and downs. Circle members can become bridge builders who guide people into new relationships and opportunities. They help strengthen the ties between a person with a disability and the community. They are the person's champions.

"I don't know who to ask." That's usually the first thing someone says when they decide they want to start a circle. Asking someone for help is sometimes the most difficult part of starting a circle because people often are uncomfortable or feel like they are imposing just by asking. But honestly, don't let this be your obstacle. Being asked to be in someone's circle is an honor. We all, kids included, need to be needed. Crafting a meaningful life for any of us means contributing in some way to something that is important to us. Everyone in the circle is valued and everyone finds ways to contribute.

When focusing on friendships, find out what your child loves and then look for people who love the same things. Does your child like baseball? Find someone who likes baseball too. Maybe they play on a little league team or maybe they like to watch baseball games. Whatever the interest, find people who are following similar interests.

Always ask your child who they would like in their circle. Start by looking in the obvious places— current friends, next door neighbors, or fellow classmates. But don't stop there. Look in not so obvious places as well. For instance, take a closer look at your child's classroom or school community. Is there someone who always asks questions about your child? Maybe there is someone who is equally shy about making friends. Maybe it's the popular kid who seems to be the natural leader. Even kids who have been less than kind have turned around and become strong allies.

Circles often set up regular meeting times but can also have impromptu gatherings as well. During the meeting talk about things that interest everyone: how things are going at school, upcoming events, clubs or other activities members are involved in. If there are things the focus person wants help with they can ask the circle members for assistance or guidance. Maybe the focus person wants to eat lunch in the cafeteria with other members of the circle or wants to go to the school dance or football game. Circle members can offer suggestions and assistance to help achieve the goal. As bridge builders, members can also assist in helping other students understand and communicate with their classmates.

This all seems so formal and mechanical when one tries to write it down on paper. The bottom line is that we all need and want friends. Develop a circle that suits your child's needs and interest and have fun with it. Make it your own.

***Fil Clissa and Dennis Granzen are available to assist families in developing a circle of friends or support. For more information please contact them directly at 221-4611 or [inclusion@fsrcdane.org](mailto:inclusion@fsrcdane.org).***



# Better Together: FSRC's Inclusion Page

## Seeking the Beloved Community

Who else cares about my child? Do they care enough to insure his/her happiness after I die? These questions express some of the deepest fears of parents who have children with disabilities.

***Waddie Welcome and the Beloved Community*** is a book with a peculiar title that sheds much light and hope on these questions. It is the story of Waddie Welcome, a man from Savannah, Georgia, who was raised and lived at home with his family. After his parents died and his siblings were no longer able to care for him, he found himself living in an institution—unhappy and far from his neighbors and former friends. The story of how ordinary people—old friends and new ones, prompted and nurtured by the Savannah Citizen Advocacy Office—brought Waddie Welcome back to a “beloved community” is one that all families should hear.

The book is authored by Tom Kohler and Susan Earl. Tom is a nationally acclaimed speaker and a leader in Citizen Advocacy for 25 years; he has developed a web of connections and roles in his home town of Savannah that he uses to help others, especially those with disabilities, to find community. Susan Earl is a writer and photographer and graduate of UW-Madison. Their book is available from Inclusion Press ([www.inclusionpress.com](http://www.inclusionpress.com)). But there's another way to get your copy!

**On October 6, Tom Kohler and Susan Earl will be the featured speakers at Wisconsin's DD Network, to be held in Madison at the Monona Terrace Convention Center.** Registration details for this one-day conference can be found on the back page of this newsletter. A copy of *Waddie Welcome and the Beloved Community* will be provided to all registrants as part of the \$50 fee. Don't miss this opportunity to renew your sense of purpose and hope.

## CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE!



**Mark Mathews was all smiles while posing for graduation pictures. Congratulations on your June graduation from Verona High School!**

Accomplished athletes continue to shine. It has been a busy spring and summer for many who enjoy sports. In June **Mandy Wessel** swam her way to a Silver medal in the 50 meter Backstroke and a Bronze in the 50 meter Freestyle at the state Special Olympics in Stevens Point. Way to go Mandy! **Alex Bausch** is another strong swimmer, bringing home a Gold medal from the state games. Watch the water fly! **Sara Lawson** used her multiple talents at the state contest to bring home a 2<sup>nd</sup> place Silver medal in the Shot Put and still had the energy to take 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Standing Long Jump! Golf anyone? **Dusty Holmes** traveled to Eau Claire in July, to participate in the Special Olympics Golf tournament. Congratulations Dusty on a 2<sup>nd</sup> place medal. **Flory Kessler** is fast on her feet! She is a member of the Madison West Special Olympics soccer team that took a first in the regional games and then rolled on to the state tournament.

Celebrating the Arts: Congratulations **Erik Norsetter** on winning the Rubin for Kids Youth Achievement Award!! The scholarship allowed Erik to participate in theatre camp over the summer.



**Congratulations to Mandy Wessel (left) who won a Silver medal in swimming!**

WOW! WOW! WOW! Great Big Cheers for **Matt Ward** in honor of his May 14<sup>th</sup> graduation from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Matt graduated with a BS in Mathematics







## FSRC's COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

### FSRC Board Member Profile: Dan Nordloh of MTM, Inc.



Looking forward to our annual fundraiser in November, the Dane County Celebrity Dinner, we decided to take a look at a veteran sponsor of the event who has taken his support of FSRC a step further by becoming a Board member. We wanted to find out why he keeps coming back to the event and how his participation led him to contribute to FSRC's mission on a larger scale. Dan Nordloh, President, MTM Inc. and FSRC Board member since 2004, had this to share...

"The Celebrity Dinner was my introduction to FSRC and its mission of providing resources to Dane County families with children with disabilities so they can live at home. MTM, Inc. began sponsoring a table a few years ago and it has now become an autumn tradition for us. It is a fun evening and people who attend the Celebrity Dinner once seem to come back year after year. After attending again the next year I became interested in how I might contribute to FSRC above and beyond sponsoring the annual fundraiser. I was introduced to FSRC's Executive Director, Terri Johnson, and some Board members so I could learn more about FSRC and how I might contribute. After attending a couple of Board meetings and meeting a number of members, I was invited to join the Board of Directors.

"As a Board member, my primary contribution to-date has been making connections between FSRC and the business community. Once businesses understand the role and impact of FSRC, they are often willing to contribute to such a worthwhile endeavor in terms of volunteering additional and/or discounted services, i.e. payroll, staffing, accounting etc. Our Marketing manager at MTM, Jen Barnum, has volunteered her time in marketing support on developing new brochures and agency materials. I am able to offer business advice when needed and continue to recruit businesses as sponsors for the Celebrity Dinner.

"The benefits to being involved with FSRC are not only theirs. Through meeting members and helping fulfill FSRC's mission, I have gained an awareness and perspective of the enormous challenges families face in raising a child with disabilities. Aside from the most obvious physical and financial challenges, many families have other children that of course need their love and attention and spouses that really need to rely on one another for support. Factor in careers and the many general obligations that are part of nearly everyone's everyday life and it quickly becomes apparent that families with children with disabilities must try to create a balance with the very limited, precious resource of time. (FSRC offers services such as Family Support, Respite Care and Community Inclusion to help families with the financial, time and child involvement challenges they face.) Sarah and I have three children, Ben is age five, Katie is nearly four and Andy just turned one... while I often times feel that our house is chaotic and requires a tremendous amount of time and energy, I am quick to remind myself that everything is truly relative.

"I welcome the opportunity to talk with business leaders about the many ways their organizations can become involved with FSRC, and am available at 608-270-3830 or via email at [dnordloh@mtmimage.com](mailto:dnordloh@mtmimage.com). FSRC is a very impressive organization with a great story to tell. I am confident that people will be moved to some type of action or involvement when they hear more about the impact FSRC has within Dane County."

### Thank You!

Thanks to the **SBC Pioneers** for purchasing and assembling back-to-school supplies and backpacks for 44 children in families served by FSRC. This is an annual project of the Pioneers, one that is truly appreciated by many kids and their parents.

### Annual Celebrity Dinner Sustains Families Can't Wait Fund

It's coming on November 7, 2005! For the 6th consecutive year, the Nakoma Golf Club will host Family Support & Resource Center's annual fundraising dinner. Offering guests a fun-filled evening, with the opportunity to meet and chat with many local celebrities and browse through an extensive silent auction, our Celebrity Dinner is the event that replenishes our Families Can't Wait fund each year.

**100% of the proceeds from this Dinner go directly to families on our waiting lists** to purchase home & vehicle modifications, respite care, and adaptive equipment. If you would like more information about sponsoring a table or donating to our silent auction, please call Terri at 221-4611 or visit our website at [www.fsrcdane.org](http://www.fsrcdane.org).



**Family Support & Resource Center**  
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 608/221-4611 FAX 608/221-4655

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**Inclusion Facilitators:**

Dennis Granzen Fil Clissa

**Website: [www.fsrcdane.org](http://www.fsrcdane.org)**

**FAMILY FOOTNOTES-BACK PAGE**

**2005 Annual TASH Conference**, November 9-12 at the Midwest Express Center in Milwaukee, WI. "The Heart of TASH: 30 Years and Still Beating Strong." Visit: [www.tash.org](http://www.tash.org) for more information

**DD Network**, October 6, 9am-5pm at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison, WI. "The Beloved Community: Nurturing the Role of Neighbor and Citizen." To register, contact Fil Clissa at [fil@tds.net](mailto:fil@tds.net).

**The Festival of Arts**, October 6, 11:30-2 pm at the Monona Terrace Exhibit Hall. Showcases original artwork by artists with disabilities, their family members and artists who work in the field of disabilities.

**Parade of Accessible Homes**, October 1, 10 am - 4 pm. Tour Madison area homes that showcase accessibility features and assistive technology for people with disabilities. Tickets: Call 242-8484.

**Lori Dobberstein-Ji: FSRC's New Office Manager**

I am really excited to be here at FSRC to support the organization as Office Manager. I started the middle of July and am impressed by the staff's dedication and care to the families and community it serves-what a great team to be a part of! I'm not new to the Madison area, having earned my BFA at the University in 1997. I recently moved back after living in Chicago for 7 years where I worked at a large non-profit, The Options Clearing Corporation. My position in their Communications and Marketing department gave me the valuable administrative and organizational experience that I can now use to help FSRC staff achieve their goals. I look forward to meeting the members we serve and assisting them in any way I can.

"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 221-4611.