

Attention Parents!

Dane County's annual budgeting process is well under way for 2007. "Oh no!" you're probably thinking. "I don't have time. It's too complicated. I can't remember the name of my County Board member. I wouldn't know what to say."

You're right! There are a million good reasons not to get informed or involved. But there is one good reason that you should: your son or daughter's future depends on it.

Dane County deserves to be commended for its excellent service system for children and adults with disabilities. But it won't stay that way without help from the citizens who rely on it and value it.

- In 2007, non-profit service agencies are being told to expect no cost-of-living increases for the fourth year in a row. And, it's estimated that an additional 3.25% may have to be cut from the adult DD system budget next year. Since 2000, cost of living has risen by 20%, but county funding for cost of living has increased by less than 1%. It's not hard to do the math: that amounts to about a 19% reduction in purchasing power over the past 6 years.
- There are long waiting lists for many essential programs. Thanks to strong parent advocacy, high school graduates with developmental disabilities continue to receive job coaching for jobs they hold when they leave school, but no new adults are being considered for residential supports. Apparently Dane County voters and elected officials think they should be able to stay home with their parents indefinitely.
- Dane County is in the beginning stage of planning a new way to organize

long-term care services. "Family Care" is a statewide initiative based on managed care principles borrowed from the insurance industry, and it will be coming to Dane County DD services by 2009. How "Family Care" is designed during the next year will determine the choices available to your family member for a long time into the future.

Here are a few easy steps you can take:

- Go to the LINK website for more information. At www.linkdanecounty.org, under the Resources/Advocacy section, you will find information about the county budget process and how to determine and contact your County Board Supervisor. Remember to sign up, on the home page, for email alerts so that you can find out when public hearings and key votes are scheduled. The first hearing on the budget will be **September 19** at 6:00 p.m. at the Dane County Job Center on Aberg Ave.
- Call or email your County Board Supervisor. If you value the services that are currently available, let your representative know that you appreciate and support these programs and continued funding for them that keeps up with inflation. You don't need to be a budget expert. Tell your story and your hopes for your son or daughter's future.
- Dane County has scheduled a series of Town Hall meetings to provide and gather information related to planning for Family Care. These will be held at the Alliant Energy Center on November 13, 2006, February 7, 2007, and May 21, 2007 at 2:00 and 6:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.danecountyhumanservices.org/longterm.htm.



WHITEHORSE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS BRING DAHL'S "WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY" TO LIFE



Whitehorse 7th Grade Cast Photo. (L-R) Tiegen as Veruca, Mariah as Violet, Victoria as Violet's Mom, Russell as Willy Wonka, and Erik as Augustus.

LA FOLLETTE HIGH SCHOOL: Five seventh graders put on the performances of their lives April 26 and 27 at the annual Whitehorse Middle School Talent Show. The event, held at La Follette High School, drew hundreds of audience members from around the area. They were treated to a variety of skits, songs and poetry readings. But the most memorable event for several in the auditorium came early in the night when Tiegen, Mariah, Victoria, Russell and Erik, students who participate in Whitehorse's special education program, acted a montage of songs and scenes from Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. Their producer, choreographer, costume designer, set director, and biggest fan, Jennifer Norsetter, was the mastermind behind the show.

"This all started last summer," says Jennifer. "Family Support and Resource Center provided my son Erik with a grant so he could attend a week-long

music school. It was probably the best experience of his life."

Erik, who has Downs Syndrome, comes alive when he's on stage. He embodies the character he's playing, and is able to communicate in ways that are often difficult in everyday situations. Jennifer wanted to give other children the same opportunity to express themselves. She wanted them to know the thrill of the lights, and feel the joy of applause. When she found out about the talent show, she went to work. "The kids were so excited to pull this off. They looked forward to our endless practices, learning the progression of the show, shopping for uniforms, dress rehearsals, makeup, all of it," she exclaims!

Seeing the kids on stage, lights dimmed, and the roar of the applause brought Jennifer to tears. "It was so worth it. I'll do it again next year. Absolutely."

Birthdays! Graduations! & Congratulations!



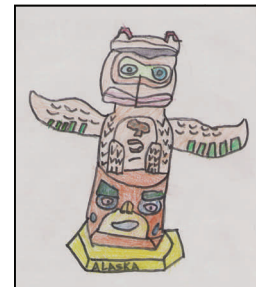
Dan Spooner (above) celebrates his 21st birthday with special party guests WISC-TV's Eric Franke, Fox 47's Kim Sveum & their new baby Jordan. **Anna Holloway** celebrated her 18th birthday in style. Happy Belated birthday! Thanks for sharing your evening with us.

Jatanna Harden is a 2006 graduate of Madison's Memorial High school. She will be returning to Memorial in the fall for post graduate studies and vocational training. **Cara Pedrelli** is a member of the 2006 graduating class of Regents from Madison's West High school. She too will return to school to complete her vocational studies. Great Work Ladies!



Look fast or you might miss **Ian Williams**. Ian participated in the Oregon School District's summer track class. His first meet took place at the UW track. Ian ran away from all the competition and came home with a blue ribbon and first place in the 80m hurdles!! Keep us posted Ian.

More Congratulations for **Alex Bausch**. He swam his way to a second place ribbon in the Free Style race at the Special Olympics Area Meet on April 22, 2006. Good Luck on the next race!



An original drawing by 8th grade artist **Cole Ziegler** was chosen for "Visions and Voices", the arts magazine for Sennet Middle School. Take a look, we're lucky to have it here too!!!!



Claire Bible's Wonderful Adventure

Claire is a 2006 Memorial High School graduate who will be entering college in September in the Threshold Program at Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Claire announced long ago that she would be leaving high school at age 18 and going off to college. Claire's persistence and the support of her parents and teachers are making the dream come true.



The Threshold Program at Lesley University was founded in 1982 and was the first college-based program in the nation to provide vocational and independent living skills to motivated young adults with diverse learning challenges and other special needs. It is a non degree program for students interested in careers in Business or

Early Childhood. Although it is a non degree program, Claire will have 6 college credits at the end of two years. Threshold also has a two year post-graduate program.

Claire will experience dorm life on Lesley's campus along with the 50 other students who are admitted each semester to the Threshold Program. Claire is especially excited about the Fine Arts classes that she will be able to take as elective courses in addition to the required classes. Claire is an accomplished writer and hopes to hone her skills in the creative writing class. She is looking forward to a career in the theater arts, perhaps as a director or playwright.

Susan, Claire's mom, offers these tips for looking for post-high school options:

- Plan early. Involve high school teachers, guidance counselors and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Determine if your child will graduate via credits or IEP (Claire graduated on IEP) and find out what requirements are for the college and what if any placement tests are needed.
- Don't try to make your child fit the program. Look until you find the program that is right for your child. Research, research and look again at all options. Claire also looked at

the Minnesota Life College in Richfield, Minnesota, but ultimately decided that Lesley University was a better fit for her goals. She also applied to UW Whitewater's Project Assist.

- Don't be intimidated by the cost. There are grants, loans and scholarships out there to make your choice possible. Susan does admit it was time consuming to find financial assistance that Claire was eligible for and then write the applications. Claire participated by writing poems and essays to go with the applications.
- Claire attended the Transition Camp at UW Whitewater and Susan also highly recommends the Transition Workshop which MATC pulls together and offers twice a year. She said it was very helpful to have several programs, like UW Oshkosh's Project Success and UW Whitewater's Project Assist, in one place at the same time.

We all wish Claire the best as she begins this exciting time of independence!

For more information:

Lesley University's Threshold Program
1-800-349-8181 or threshld@mail.lesley.edu
www.lesley.edu/threshold

Minnesota Life College
7501 Logan Ave. S.-2A, Richfield, MN 55423
(612) 869-4008
<http://www.minnesotalifecollege.com>

UW Whitewater – Project Assist
262-472-4788 or 262-472-239
assist@uww.edu

UW Oshkosh – Project Success
College of Education & Human Services
800 Algoma Blvd. Oshkosh, WI 549001
920-424-1033

MATC Transition Workshop – This event will be held in November, date to be determined. Contact Disability Resource Services at MATC for more information, 246-6716. There will be a College Fair at MATC on October 26, 2006.

Available from FSRC: 1) *Opening Doors to Post-secondary Education and Training* (a 2003 publication of WI Dept of Public Instruction) and 2) *Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities* (a 2006 publication of the US. Dept of Education.)



SEPTEMBER 2006

- Sept. - Dec.** **Kids at the Rotunda, Overture Center for the Arts**-fun-filled Saturday morning entertainment for kids and families! Entertainment begins at 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 1:00 p.m., September 9 through December 9. Cost is free. Visit www.overturecenter.com for more information.
- Sept. 21-23** **World Music Festival, Wisconsin Union Theatre and Union Terrace**- Experience a wide variety of new music from around the world with international artists. Times vary. Please contact 262-2201 for more information or visit www.union.wisc.edu/theater/.
- Sept. 23** **Monona Chili Cook-Off, AmericInn, Monona**- Come enjoy the sights and smells of yummy homemade chili prepared by over 30 chefs. This event is a good time for people to come learn the secrets of amazing chili making! Samples from the chefs are available for purchase for 50 cents each.

OCTOBER 2006

- Oct. 3-8** **World Dairy Expo, Alliant Energy Center**- An international trade show for dairy producers from all over the world. Come see cattle, exhibits, crafts, youth judging, and lots of ice cream! For more information visit www.worlddairyexpo.com.
- Oct. 6-8** **New Glarus Oktoberfest, New Glarus**- Experience many activities in the Village Park throughout the weekend. Come see traditional Swiss music, yodeling and alphorns. There will be wagon rides, craft show, and many children's activities.
- Oct. 8** **Dane County Fire Truck Parade**- Over 40 fire trucks from around Dane County will travel up State Street to the Capitol Square where they will remain on display for everyone to look at. Bring the kids, bring your camera and come out to see some beautiful fire trucks and meet the brave firefighters who protect our communities every day.
- Oct. 13-15** **Fall Festival, Mayr Family Farm**- Come and enjoy the beautiful fall weather with horse drawn wagon rides to the pumpkin patch, corn maze, petting zoo, bouncy house, games and more! All proceeds benefit the Family Support and Resource Center! For more information visit www.mayrfamilyfarm.com

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



“No Limits”

By Dennis Granzen

As part of our ongoing discussion about talking to our children about disability, I recently received a letter from Pat Roth of La Farge, WI whom I got to meet as part of the WCDD Building Connections grant. Pat sent a thoughtful four page letter about her family’s experience with fourteen year old Jay’s “fairly high functioning autism spectrum disorder.” The Roth family also includes twelve year old twin boys. Pat related a number of useful points about how families come to understand how the presence of a labeled disability informs their lives and relationships. Space constraints limit me to sharing just a few with you here.

Pat talks about how all her children “have been getting little sound bytes of information about autism from a very young age,” and that all “need information (however simple and basic) that helps the relationship grow in love, understanding, and compassion.” Pat has found that talking about “functional, practical information is more useful than telling all about autism.” This has led to discussions of how Jay has reacted to specific situations, i.e. tactile discomfort, not understanding what someone has told him, or not understanding a situation that has caused him or others to become upset. Pat has found that these little discussions have become useful in building empathy and tolerance “when someone at school or a stranger acts unpredictable or does something weird.” The family can say, “Well, he may not have done it to be mean – he could have something like autism.”

Pat closed the letter with a couple of insightful observations that bear our thoughtful consideration. One is advice to parents. Pat says, “Become accepting of the disability in your own heart – this way the discussions won’t be infused with the sadness you feel at first.” Although this may be easier said than done, I think Pat has hit on something vitally important. Our own attitudes and understanding of disability can’t help but affect how we communicate about it. Our non-verbal communication is as important as what we say, even when communicating with someone who struggles to understand the non-verbal.

Secondly, Pat related that although Jay has been aware of his diagnosis for some time

through all of the doctor visits, IEP meetings, other meetings and conventions, and “our little sound byte conversations,” he stated about a year ago, “Mom, I’m not autistic.” His reasoning in saying this was that he doesn’t share a lot of the characteristics of other people he has met who have a diagnosis of autism. Pat says, “Whether this is part of being 14, or part of being high functioning, or a manifesting feature of his disability (that he can’t accurately self-perceive) I don’t know... For me, it’s an invitation to reconsider disability and whether people are defined by it.” I think that here Jay and Pat have put their finger on the real issue to struggle with: Just what is “disability,” and how does our definition of it limit or liberate us as we walk through life together? As Pat says, “Be ready to make the disability a subject of ongoing discussion, or even debate – you may hear something like, ‘Mom I’m not disabled.’ Discussion is a two-way street.”

In Good Company: News & Reminders

Make requests Early

In Good Company encourages families to alert us with any changes that might help us continue to fill your requests. Let us know in advance if you anticipate a need for care on non-school days, holiday breaks, or vacations. Also, contact your respite coordinator if your current care or recruitment needs have changed.

Move Lately?

For care providers, we ask that you remember to update your current availability and contact information. If you are a registered provider in our pool, you can log onto www.linkdanecounty.org to update your profile. This is an easy way to make sure that all of the information in your profile is current, including availability, skills, contact information, and preferences. Also, remember to check the website’s message board for our current requests, training opportunities, news, updates, and other information.

Tell Us Your Story

Have you had a rewarding experience with an In Good Company family or care provider? If so, we’d love to hear about it and share with our readers in the next edition of Family Footnotes. Please contact Shauna Foss at 608-237-7630 or sfoss@fsrkdane.org to share your story!



Summer Programs You Enjoyed!



Allison Rebholz found time in her busy camp schedule to enjoy some quiet reading with a counselor.

As summer draws to an end, we heard from a few parents reflecting back on successful summer programs. Naoki, age 12, participated in Camp Shalom Bogrim in Verona with the assistance of Child Care Inclusion Resources. Keiko, Naoki's mother, stated that Camp Shalom is very high quality and action packed with activities like swimming, rock climbing, and soccer. Counselors told her that Naoki did best when he was with peers. "Nothing is more exciting than when I heard some kids say 'Good bye Naoki!' from the distance when I picked him up from camp. Naoki usually came back from the camp with such a content/happy look."



Casandra Taylor gets into the spirit and dresses the part to celebrate July 4 at summer camp.

Victor, also age 12, had a similar camp experience. Victor attended Camp Lighthouse in Verona. Maria, Victor's mother, stated that Camp Lighthouse has been very positive. "Victor has enjoyed all of the activities, and more important for him, he has enjoyed the company of other kids. I have noticed as well that Victor has been talking more and trying to express himself with longer sentences and seems more sociable."

Erika, age 7, attended MSCR's Neighborhood Playground program. This program cost only \$40 for the entire summer and provided a chance for kids to play with their neighbor-

hood friends with some supervision and planned activities. MSCR hired a specific one-on-one aide for Erika to help her participate. "Erika spent her days swinging with friends, playing Simon Says, climbing on the playground or coloring pictures at the picnic table. I believe her favorite part is using her communication device to tell her friends what animal to draw for her! We will definitely sign up for next year!" states Lisa, Erika's mother.

We are happy to hear that the summer of '06 has been an active and enjoyable one. We look forward to continuing to hear your summer stories and hope that the fall season will also prove to be an exciting and joyous time for families.

Focus Group Study on Special Education Services in Madison Schools

Parents and Family Members:

I would like to invite you to join a focus group study. The purpose of this study is to get feedback from parents and family members regarding the special education services their children are currently receiving in the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD).

- * Are you satisfied with services?
- * Do you believe they meet the needs of your child?
- * Do you feel included as a collaborator?
- * Would you like to share your experiences and perspectives?

The study is comprised of multiple interviews, both group and individual. Dates and times of interviews are not yet determined, but will take place in the near future. Parents and family members who are selected for participation and complete the study will receive up to two \$25 gift certificates to local grocery stores in exchange for their time.

Please email me at familyperspectives@yahoo.com or call 608/262-2722 if you are interested in participating or would like to know more about the study. The project is cosponsored by UW-Madison and MMSD. Independent researchers will be conducting interviews and all participants' comments will be confidential.

Audrey Trainor, PhD, Assistant Professor,
Dept. of Rehabilitation Psychology & Special
Education, UW-Madison



Great Friends of our Families

The past spring and summer presented several wonderful opportunities for both family fun and support of FSRC:

On May 20, friends and family members gathered at Schwoegler's Park Towne Lanes with Greg & Teri Smith for the annual **Family Bowling event for the Allison Smith Foundation**. The day was filled with family bowling, raffle prizes, and remembrances of Allison Smith in whose honor the foundation was named. Thanks to **Schwoeglers**, the **Holiday Inn & Suites**, and all the many bowling participants and donors who, together, raised \$4500. FSRC is the fiscal sponsor for the foundation, which provides grants throughout the year to families for weekend getaways and to purchase equipment for family recreation.



The Gomers onstage with mascots at Family FunFest

The American Marketing Association of Madison organized **Family FunFest** at Capital Brewery in Middleton on June 17. This free family event featured singing group **The Gomers**, silent auction, brewery tours, face painting, balloons, games, & refreshments. Thanks to all the members of AMA-Madison, especially past President Jen Barnum, for their hard work in making this event happen. Co-sponsorship by **TDS Metrocom**, **Associated Bank**, and **Capital Brewery** plus proceeds from the silent auction and refreshment sales brought in \$3800 for our Families Can't Wait fund.

Many thanks also to **The Clinic** and **Merrill Lynch** for a donation of \$700 to our Families Can't Wait campaign. These two organizations are co-sponsoring evening seminars on Planning for Lifetime Care of Your Child with Special Needs. The next seminar will be held Wednesday, October 11 (see back page for details).

The Mayr Family Farm's annual Fall Festival will be **October 13, 14 and 15** this year with proceeds benefiting the **Family Support & Resource Center**. You can look forward to GREAT fun like riding in a horse drawn wagon to the pumpkin patch (the wagon is wheelchair accessible), wandering through a corn maze, spending time with the animals in the petting zoo, playing games or picnicking. Mayr Family Farm is open on weekends beginning September 1 with the corn maze. Come enjoy the beautiful fall weather, have some fun and support FSRC! The farm is located at 3680 Egge Road between De Forest and Token Creek. You can look up directions or find out more information at their website www.mayrfamilyfarm.com.

Dane County Celebrity Dinner Just Around the Corner

Did you know that most of the money for our Families Can't Wait fund is raised on just one evening in November? FSRC's annual Celebrity Dinner is the single largest source of funding for the many grants that we make each year to children on our waiting lists.

This year's event will be held on November 13, once again at the beautiful Nakoma Golf Club. Tickets are \$75 and will go on sale in October. The evening is always lots of fun for everyone and a great way to meet local celebrities while supporting Dane County kids with disabilities.

You can help us make this year's event the best ever! We are looking for businesses or individuals willing to sponsor a table at the dinner. (The \$1200 level of sponsorship comes with tickets for a table of 10 guests; the \$600 level comes with discounted prices for a fewer number of tickets.) We're also in search of donations for our terrific silent auction, which typically raises over \$10,000 at the event. More information about table sponsorship and auction donations can be found at our website at www.fsrcdane.org.

If you are a business owner, employee, frequent shopper, or a craftsman, please consider making a donation towards this event. Our goal is to raise \$40,000 to insure another year of Families Can't Wait grants.

Family Support & Resource Center
101 Nob Hill Road, Suite 201
Madison, WI 53713
ph 608.237.7630 fx 608.237.7524

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Upcoming Events:

Creative Dance for Teens with Developmental Issues at the Hancock Center for Movement Arts & Therapies. Dance, music & fun promote self-esteem, positive body image and successful peer relationships. Teen volunteers will support the class. Wednesdays from **Sept. 20—Dec. 13**. Register by calling Ann Wingate at 251-0908 x12.

Public Hearing on the Dane County Human Services 2007 budget, September 19, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Dane County Job Center on Aberg Ave. Check www.linkdaneconomy.org for details.

Engaging our communities: A Seminar for Wisconsin Respite Care Programs, September 28 from 9-4 at the Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids. More information at www.respitecarewi.org.

Statewide Annual Respite Conference, October 4 from 8:30—2:15 at the Holiday Inn Express Convention Center in Janesville. More information at www.rockcountyrespite.org.

Planning for Lifetime Care of Your Child with Special Needs, October 11 from 6:30—7:30 p.m. at the Edgewater Hotel. RSVP to 204-6083 or communicationinnovations@charter.net.

Crisis: How to prevent it, define it, successfully live through it. DD Network presenters include Chris Heimerl, Connie Lyle O'Brien, Karen Green McGowan, John O'Brien and David Pitonyak. **October 16 and 17** at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

Expanding Choice: Dane County InfoShare. October 20 from 9-4:30 at the Marriott West in Middleton. Contact Weingarten@waisman.wisc.edu or 890-0777.