

# family footnotes NEWSLETTER

Summer 2009

## Congratulations High School Grads!



Michael Steward



Anna Holloway



Michael Cordes

We want to express our best wishes to the young adults who are graduating high school in June and subsequently leaving FSRC services. May all of your dreams come true as you enter the next phase of your life. We will miss each and every one of you!

### East

Victoria Isom  
Bethany Spartz  
Leslie Spartz

### Marshall

Maggie Cate

### Memorial

Jatanna Harden  
Erica Pawlowicz

### Middleton

Anna Holloway

### Monona Grove

Michael Cordes

### Stoughton

John Horn

### Sun Prairie

Pollyanna Lee  
Travis Thompson

### Verona

Michael Steward  
Jason Walton

### Waunakee

Karissa DeRungs  
Brandon Karandjeff

### West

Allen Park  
Heather Sarabia

## Tim Ehlert Joins FSRC Staff

Hi, my name is Tim Ehlert and I recently joined the Family Support and Resource Center as a case manager. A little bit about me - I have lived in Madison for nearly 10 years, receiving my Master's degree in Social Work from UW. I live with my wife Christy and my daughters Adelle, age 5, and Eliana who is a rambunctious 17 months. Prior to joining the Family Support and Resource Center, I worked for nearly 3 years at Family Support 360, a program in Madison that supports low-income families with children with disabilities in a variety of ways, including case management, advocacy, and parent training and support. I am happy to be a part of the important work that the Family Support and Resource Center is doing in Dane County, and am looking forward to getting to know the families, staff, and community better.

## New Board Members and Board Meeting Dates

2009 Board meeting dates have been changed to Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00pm on July 15, September 16 and November 18. At our March meeting FSRC welcomed two new Board members, Kate Wing and Deb Notstad. Thank you so much for agreeing to assist our organization!



### Allison Smith Foundation Bowling

Event by Amy Polka



Corbin Polka watches his ball roll down the alley

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, my children and I participated in the Allison Smith Foundation’s annual bowling fundraiser at Schwoegler’s Park Towne Lanes. The Allison Smith Foundation was established by parents, Greg and Teri Smith, who lost their little girl, Allison, at the age of 8 in 1999 due to complications from Rett Syndrome. The Foundation in Allison’s name is administered through the Family Support and Resource Center. There was a great turn out of bowlers of all ages and abilities. Everyone seemed to be enjoying Schwoegler’s cosmic bowling ambience, as well as the entertaining emcee skills of Greg Smith. Both Teri and Greg were able to mingle amongst the participants in between calling out winning raffle ticket numbers. My 4 year-old-son was particularly excited to receive a “gold medal” from Greg Smith that he proudly wore around his neck. We had a really fun time, and I realized that my bowling score does not improve even with bowling bumpers. This year over \$2,700 was raised at this afternoon event.

\*\*\*\*\*  
A special thanks to all those who participated in and donated to the **Allison Smith Foundation** bowling fundraiser!  
\*\*\*\*\*

### Camera Day 2009

by Jennifer Babb

Hundreds of people gathered at Camp Randall Stadium on April 18<sup>th</sup> to support our UW Badgers football team. To many, that day marked the start of our Badgers upcoming season. The events began in the McClain Center. When doors opened at noon the field was quickly filled with an array of red and white. Kids of all ages and their families were excited to meet the football players and their energetic cheerleaders. In addition to our hometown celebrities, the edges of the field were filled with various activities and souvenirs.



Jennifer Babb and her sister Leah volunteered at FSRC’s registration table

Camera Day was open to the public but kids signing up for the event through Big Brothers Big Sisters or Family Support & Resource Center got an extra treat: a bag containing various goodies, an autograph page and pen, and best of all, a camera to capture the fun-filled day. By two o’clock the Badger fans made their way into the stadium to watch the highly anticipated spring football game.

Thanks to all of you who came out for this event. We hope you had an unforgettable time. As for those of you who were unable to attend – don’t miss out next year!

**Equipment Exchange** on [www.fsrcdane.org](http://www.fsrcdane.org)

Do you have a piece of equipment that your child has outgrown and you’d like to sell or give away to another family? Are you looking for a particular item for your child? We invite you to post your item on our website and check out what others want to sell or give away!



## Q&A with FSRC Board President: Kim Matney



*Kim Matney, is the mother of a 6 year old boy with Autism, Devin, who has received services from FSRC since 2004. Kim has been a member of FSRC's Board for 2½ years.*

### **Q. What led you to become a Board member for FSRC?**

It started with my participation in the PALs (Parents as Leaders) program through the Waisman Center, where I was encouraged to contribute to the community to assist children with developmental disabilities. Combining my background as a social worker with my first hand insight as a parent of a child with disabilities has given me a special perspective into how to work with the established support networks to improve the services and support that families receive from the state and the county.

### **Q. What have you been able to contribute to the agency in your role as a Board member?**

Through my role on the Board I have participated in the planning of and fundraising for the "Families Can't Wait Celebrity Dinner". I also helped research and select candidates for the executive director position within the agency.

### **Q. This year you began 2-years of service as FSRC's Board President. How does this role change your participation? What do you hope to fulfill in the position?**

My participation as president of the FSRC Board puts me in closer communication with Heidi Rossiter, the Executive Director of the agency. We will coordinate the direction of the agency and discuss the breadth of ser-

vices that the agency provides within the county. I hope to contribute as the voice of a parent of a child receiving services as well as a complimentary position within the board hoping to complete a nexus of where the agency's expertise meets the community's needs.

### **Q. What benefit do you receive being involved on the Board?**

There are no direct financial benefits of being a Board member, but it does provide me the opportunity to work with other families and local business leaders who want to help shape the service and support that families in need can receive.

### **Q. What other activities/roles are you involved in within the community?**

I have been a member of the Autism Society of Greater Madison (ASGM) as well as a member of the New Century Charter School of Verona Site Council.

If you have any questions regarding FSRC's Board or becoming a Board member, please call the agency at 237-7630.

### **Thank you to all those who donated to our agency this past quarter. We appreciate your generosity!**

Bernice Hughes  
Clinton Mayer  
Doris Kontos  
Sheryl Steward  
A1 Furniture Inc.  
Dr. Allison Wilmeth  
Eliana Schwab

#### **In Memory of Devin Carstensen**

Peter & Carol Carstensen & Friends  
Howard & Pam Erlanger  
Louise & Nelson Milder

#### **In Memory of Alexis Long**

Melissa Taylor & Luke Bowman  
Bonnie & Don Haugen  
Stacy Kernan  
Molly & Dale Bolender  
Michael, Melissa & Taylor Kysely  
Florence Marion  
Stanley Lyon, Jean Feinstein-Lyon & Ben Feinstein



## Logan's Heart and Smiles

by Pam Staab

A great resource in our community that many families may not know about is Joe Herr's Foundation, Logan's Heart and Smiles. Joe offers help to families who have a child with special needs by building ramps and fences, enlarging doors, and other necessary home modifications. Joe offers these services in tribute to the memory of his son Logan James Herr who had cerebral palsy and died at age 4 with complications from pneumonia. Logan left behind special memories with everyone he touched during his short life.

Joe knows firsthand the difficulties of just getting in and out of the house when a ramp is needed and there isn't one. Logan's Heart and Smiles provides free labor and materials (based on income) to adapt the homes of children with physical disabilities to make them safe and accessible. To apply, families can complete an application that can be found online at [www.logansheartandsmiles.org](http://www.logansheartandsmiles.org).



Ramp at Attewell home built by Logan's foundation

Joe has built two ramps for the Attewell family. Two because the family moved. Now Joe is having to shorten the ramp (seen in the picture) because the city is installing sidewalks. He has done all of this as part of Logan's Foundation. Karen Attewell said that the ramp has been such a wonderful thing for her daughter Jenny, and the whole family is appreciative of Joe's wonderful work.

To help Joe with the work of the Foundation, contributions can be made to help purchase materials and equipment. To make a donation, please contact: P.O. Box 259568, Madison, WI 53725-9568 or call 608.204.7215.

## Golf Fundraiser a Big Success!

by Deb Notstad



Logan's Heart and Smiles 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing was a great time for all! We had a beautiful day, and the course is welcoming to all golfing fanatics as it borders the Sugar River bike trail. 120 golfers participated in the event this year which provides Logan's Hearts and Smiles Foundation with 99% of its funding. Joe always has a few kids who have received a new ramp or fence participate in the event to start the golfers on their journey. The kids, their families, and the golfers are also invited to stay after the outing to enjoy the pig roast and awards ceremony at the club house.

## Have Fun this Summer at HC DANCE CLUB: Creative Dance for Teens with Developmental Issues

The Hancock Center offers this therapeutic class filled with fun, dance and music. The class, facilitated by Ann Wingate, MA, ADTR-DTRL, encourages self-esteem, positive body image and successful peer relationships. To promote a sense of inclusion, the class is supported by teen and college student volunteers.

**When:** Wednesdays, 4:15 - 5:15 p.m., June 17 - Aug 12

**Where:** Hancock Center, 16 N Hancock St, Madison

**Cost:** \$135 / 9-week session.

**Registration:** Call 251-0908 ext 12



## SAVA Event Filled with Fun and Games! by Joe Burdowski



**Bucky Badger dives for a ball while playing games with the kids**

The spring community event hosted by the Student Association of Volunteers for Autism (SAVA) at UW-Madison, on April 18<sup>th</sup>, was a great success. All of the SAVA members want to thank the community for showing their continued support of our efforts. The Spring Party held in the West High School cafeteria featured a multitude of mini arts and crafts projects guided by UW-Madison students. The projects ranged from coloring to decorating hats, picture frames and cookies. Children were able to play games and come away with a bag full of prizes, and of course a smile. Several other activities were available to play, such as taking turns hitting a piñata, balloon races, face painting, and much more. Bucky Badger also made an appearance for an hour to interact, take pictures, and play games with all the kids/teens.

Additionally, complimentary snacks, bagels, and beverages were provided as an option for lunch. Parents were given an opportunity to connect with both students and each other, which is another reason for the event's success. All the volunteers were enthusiastic and greatly enjoyed hosting every family that attended.

The Spring Party was SAVA's second such event, as they hosted a holiday themed party last December. It is their new goal to host a similar community event at the end of each semester, welcoming all families with a child

on the spectrum. The student association was founded only two years ago and strives each semester to take on an even larger role in the Autism community. The students are eager to lend a hand, while demonstrating such great ambition and compassion. If you would like to contact SAVA for any questions, comments, or upcoming volunteer opportunities, please email [sava@rso.wisc.edu](mailto:sava@rso.wisc.edu)



On March 21, 2009 **Bradley Statz** was the recipient of an honorable mention for his work of art at the 2009 VSA Arts of Wisconsin Awards Ceremony. Bradley was among 26 children and adults with disabilities recognized for submitting their work to the annual VSA Call for Art. This is Bradley's second VSA award. **Way to go Bradley!**



Our congratulations go out to **Kaitlin Whitish & Hailey Disch** who did an outstanding job in a cheerleading competition held in Wisconsin Dells this past March. Great job girls!

**Family Support & Resource Center**  
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Danielle Leake Chris Williams  
Lauren Meyers Kevin Yanke  
Becky Ogiba

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

**Yes, I want to support FSRC's mission to  
keep Dane County families together!**

Enclosed is my gift in the amount of:

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 other \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my Visa or Mastercard:

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May we publish your name in campaign materials? Yes No

The Family Support & Resource Center provides respite care, financial assistance, case management and other family support services that give families hope—that their son or daughter with a disability will thrive with in-home care.

**Your support is greatly appreciated!**