

Spring 2009

FSRC Salutes the Madison Concourse Hotel & Governor's Club!

The Family Support and Resource Center wants to extend a big thank you to the Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club for their long-term commitment to offering the Hotel with a Heart Program to families in our programs. For over 15 years, the Madison Concourse Hotel has teamed with FSRC to provide a magical overnight and complimentary dinner for parents and primary caregivers of children supported by our agency. The Hotel with a Heart Program includes a one night stay in a luxury room in the Concourse's Governor's Club and is offered to two families each month.

This program has been enjoyed by more than 100 families since its inception and provides much needed respite for families in need of time away from the day to day demands of caring for their children. It offers an opportunity for parents to re-connect with each other in addition to renewing their energy.

Grateful families often write thank you notes to let us know how much this experience is appreciated. Here are a few quotes from letters we have received over the years:

- ♥ The room was great and the time we spent together at the "club" was wonderful. It was so nice to be able to sit and talk to each other, to be "alone" without distractions. It was a little like rediscovering each other again.
- ♥ The evening spent in the Governor's Club was delightful! It came at a time we felt we really needed to get away from family health concerns. We certainly will be recommending the Governor's Club to our out-of-town guests and business travelers.
- ♥ It warms our heart to know that someone recognizes how hard life is and the need for a respite.
- ♥ It was one of the richest experiences in our 20 years as foster parents.
- ♥ It was a real blessing to have a night away and it was something we will remember for a long time. We can't speak highly enough of the staff at the Madison Concourse Hotel and will highly recommend their services.

The Family Support and Resource Center is so grateful to the Madison Concourse Hotel for their ongoing gracious support to the families we serve. We want to thank and acknowledge them for all they do to provide a relaxing time away for so many people. It is hard to explain how much we appreciate what the Concourse offers but one family's comments put it very well when they wrote, "Thank you for reviving our spirits when we really needed it....what you do with Hotel with a Heart is incredible"!

Board of Directors Update

The Family Support and Resource Center is governed by a great Board of Directors who supports and monitors the work of our organization. We have been fortunate to have the involvement of three members, Sharron Hubbard-Moyer, John Shaw and Barbara Katz, who have completed their terms and will be officially leaving the Board in April. A big thank you to each of them for their commitment and assistance in making FSRC a great place for children, families and staff. We would also like to thank Dan Nordloh who will remain on the Board, but will be completing his two year term as President. Vice-president, Kim Matney, will be assuming the role of Board President in April. FSRC Board meetings are open to the public and are scheduled for the remainder of the year on March 9, May 18, July 20, September 21 and November 16. All meetings take place at the FSRC office building from 6-7:30 pm.



Encuentren "Servicios del verano 2009" en la pagina 7!



Belief in FSRC's Mission Leads to Long-time Friend of Agency

By Lori Dobberstein

After serving for 6 years on FSRC's Board and close to 20 years as a respite care provider for many of the families we serve, we are saying goodbye to a long-time friend of our agency, Sharron Hubbard-Moyer.



When I sat down with Sharron to talk to her about her relationship with FSRC, I asked her why she has supported the agency for so long, and in so many different ways. It's clear that she believes strongly in the agency's mission: "Keeping Dane County families together by providing resources to support and care for their children with significant disabilities at home."

As a care provider of many children in our agency, she was able to see the difference FSRC's services made in their lives and was able to be a part of making a difference herself. When she was asked to become a member of the Board of Directors in 2003, her involvement with families helped her to "bring the voice of the community to the policies of the agency." In each of these capacities, her dedication, compassion and willingness to extend her support has helped keep families together.

While on our Board, Sharron served a term as Vice President and then President. She supported many FSRC events and activities, from providing childcare at the Connecting Families Conferences each year, to providing outstanding support for our annual fundraiser, the Celebrity Dinner. This past year she was co-chair of the Dinner with board member Kelli Betsinger and we are happy that she has offered to continue to be a part of our fundraising events in the future!

When Sharron spoke of what she received from her efforts in these roles, she said that knowing she made a positive difference in people's lives was rewarding for her. She made many long-lasting relationships with

families that we serve and has seen members of the family come full circle, daughters become mothers, mothers become grandmothers. It is these relationships she says that have enriched her and her family's lives.

We are very thankful for Sharron's work over the years and appreciate her willingness to maintain a relationship with our agency and its' families.

UW-School of Social Work Field Student, Jessica (Jess) Thompson, Talks about her Internship at FSRC

I have been having a wonderful year here at Family Support and Resource Center! With the supervision of case managers Alice Thorson and Emmie Coan, I have learned a great deal about social work and this agency. I have also been able to shadow many of the case managers at FSRC which has been a wonderful opportunity. I have to extend the greatest THANK YOU to all of the families who have allowed me to get to know them and their children. When I was the primary case manager for several families while Sara Russell was on maternity leave, I learned so much about what being a case manager entails. This experience was extremely important for my professional development and taught me how incredibly complex this job is!

My experience with children and families has been the most educational and enjoyable part of my field experience. Because families have been so open with me, I have been able to observe case managers to learn skills that I need to be a social worker. I have enjoyed meeting everyone and have discovered the remarkable strength that every family has in supporting each other and overcoming challenges they sometimes face.

In addition to learning the tasks of case managers, I have been fortunate to attend several social work trainings at the Waisman Community Outreach Center. I have learned about the services available in Dane County, including SSI and SSDI, how to manage threatening confrontations from Paul White and about ethical issues as a social worker. These trainings have taught me so much about the services available to children with developmental disabilities, which has been invaluable to my education.



I was also able to attend a training session in Wisconsin Dells which was an essential piece of my ability to understand the work at FSRC. I am grateful to be attending the National Association of Social Workers Lobby Day on behalf of FSRC. I will learn more about lobbying and hope to use these skills in the future to improve policies for children with developmental disabilities. All of these supplemental training sessions have enhanced my coursework and my field experience at FSRC. I am looking forward to continually getting to meet and spend time with families and the many other learning opportunities in the coming months!

WQHCC and UCP Youth Services – Respite Care – What the heck is going on?

By Pam Staab

In November, 2008 the In Good Company/ Respite Care Program moved from Family Support and Resource Center to United Cerebral Palsy. This means that UCP now has the Dane County contract to provide respite care to families who have children with disabilities living at home in Dane County - whew! long sentence. At about the same time a new organization was born – Wisconsin Quality Home Care Commission. These two events happening at the same time caused some confusion and worry for families. However, as the months have gone by it is apparent that what it has really meant is that families have a choice between two good programs.

Both UCP Respite and WQHCC provide recruitment and training for workers. Both provide fiscal management of wages. Respite can still occur either in home or in the community with both programs. I see the big difference between the two programs in that with the UCP Respite Program respite workers are employees of United Cerebral Palsy and with WQHCC parents are considered the employers. Workers in either program will receive the benefits of taxed income – contributing to social security and earning quarters toward retirement.

There are other differences between the programs, for example UCP Respite Program is

not able to employ teenagers under the age of 18 years old. At WQHCC a respite provider can begin work as soon as an initial worker application has been made; at UCP the worker cannot be paid until becoming an official employee of UCP. Both UCP and WQHCC will thoroughly screen potential workers and communicate the findings with families. UCP will work with children with and without special funding. As of this time WQHCC is only focusing on children who receive waiver funding.

Contact information for both families and providers:

WQHCC: Shauna Sendelbach, ssendelbach@wqhcc.org, phone #608/630-8402 and web site www.wqhcc.org

UCP: Ginger Schwann, gingers@ucpdane.org, phone number #608/273-3318 and web site www.ucpdane.org

I encourage you to check out both programs for additional information.





There are some moments in life where by giving your best you uplift everyone around you. We want to share these stories of inspiration with as many people as possible, as they help keep the spirit of hope alive and serve to remind us that we are all connected and have the power to enrich each other's lives in many positive ways. Thank you to the Vanderbloemen's and Manser's and all of you who have shared your stories with us.

Jake's "Amazing Race!"

by Kate Vanderbloemen

Some of you may know Jake's history and the struggles we have faced as a family because of his autism, and others may not. Suffice it to say that what took place Tuesday night in Baraboo was nothing short of a miracle. It was just a few years ago that Jake was living at a residential treatment center for people with autism and other developmental disabilities, and just a year ago that he was swimming proudly with the Waunakee Special Olympics swimming team. Nobody ever thought that Jake could be a part of "regular" activities, but he became a member of the Waunakee High School Men's Swim Team and it was with this team, on Tuesday night in Baraboo, that Jake had his "Amazing Race".

When he arrived at the meet, Jake was told that he would be swimming the 500 free-style (an event that all swimmers must do at least once a season), which is 20 consecutive laps in the pool! Jake usually swims 50 or 100 meters. He was nervous and so was I. Events came and went, including Jake's first race, the 50 free, where he came in last but still raised his fist in victory because for him winning is just getting in the pool and completing a race.

Then the announcement came; it was time for the 500. Jake, along with 3 other swimmers, took to their blocks and the race began. He started fast, but looked almost frantic as he swam since he doesn't put his head in the water because it bothers his nose too much. I got choked up. I was hoping he'd slow his pace. I was worried that he would have a heart attack, puke or give up and climb out of the pool. He kept swimming and the other swimmers raced ahead.

He fell behind quickly. He was beginning to tire and I was crying. The coach came up to me and said, "Don't worry, he can do this." He was falling further and further behind and was obviously getting tired. We were all cheering him on along with his coaches. Jake looked up and mouthed the words, "I can't."

By now the first swimmer had finished, and then the second. Jake was on lap 11....and he kept on swimming. Soon the third swimmer finished, staying in the pool with the other competitors as is protocol until the last one finishes. By now my eyes were clouded by tears. All the other parents were cheering for Jake, his teammates were on their feet cheering him on, and the entire team from Baraboo was up and cheering, many of them by the side of the pool. Everyone in the entire pool



area was shouting "Jake, Go Jake, You can do it Jake!" The sound was deafening. I was sobbing. I just wanted him to finish the race but then I realized that something bigger than a swim race was taking place.

Later on Jake told me that he could hear people shouting and then looked around to see that he was the only one swimming. He didn't give up, in fact, by the last lap he poured it on and swam as if he were swimming for a gold medal. When he finally finished the race everyone was up out of their seats applauding and his teammates raced to give him "high fives" and a big, group hug. It truly was an AMAZING moment! For Jake, that race will go down as one of his life's highlights, knowing that he was able to do something that he never thought possible and how it felt to have his teammates so proud of him. He felt like a hero and in a way he was. For the other swimmers, it was a lesson in perseverance



and determination and the realization that "winning isn't always everything." Sometimes winning is just finishing the race.



Remembering a Special Friend

by Katy Steeno

"On November 18, 2008 Ryan Dutter shot and killed his son, Kyle, who was diagnosed with autism, and then himself. I know that all parents of special needs children felt a very deep sadness over this tragedy. We know the daily struggles of having a child with physical and/or mental disabilities. We know the stress...financial, emotional, marital, social, and academic. Outsiders try but they can never really understand until they've walked in our shoes. Most would take off running and screaming. Some days even I want to take off running and screaming."

- Shelly Manser, mother of Matt Manser

Every once in a while, a special friend comes along and has such a tremendous impact on our lives, that we are never the same. For Matt Manser, that friend was Kyle. The two boys met at school and became instant and fast friends. They would often walk down the hallway, with Kyle putting his arm around Matt and calling him "my buddy." For Matt, who struggles with developmental disabilities, this friendship was an important and special part of his life. When Matt found out that Kyle had passed away, it was extremely difficult for him. Matt's parents and school staff were very concerned that this would greatly affect him for the worse. However, Matt instead used this opportunity to do something good to help others.

Through working with school staff and his

family, Matt decided to hold a "ball drive" in honor of Kyle. This drive was held in December and helped to collect balls for the Toys for Tots Holiday drive. Kyle always loved playing with balls, and this was a wonderful way to help others as well as honoring Kyle's memory. Matt's goal was to collect a full truckload of balls, and although they didn't quite make it, they came extremely close! Matt took a tragic event and used it for good, and for that, he and his family's efforts should be recognized and honored. Matt is an incredible young man, who showed strength and empathy throughout an incredibly adverse event. Someone once said that "true friendship consists not in the multitude of friends, but in their worth and value." For Matt and Kyle, their friendship was worth a lot, and Kyle will surely be missed.

FSRC Featured in "14 Ways of Giving"



Adam and Deb Notstad

This past December, WISC-TV featured FSRC as part of their 14 part Holiday series, "14 Ways of Giving." Reporter David Douglas interviewed Deb Notstad (parent of Adam) who did a great job of sharing how our agency has helped them over the years. He also spoke with FSRC Board Vice President, Kim Matney, who provided an overview of the role our agency plays in the community. We'd like to thank them, as well as Teri Barr and Michelle Perko from WISC for thinking of our families this holiday season!



Summer Services 2009 Registration begins ASAP!!

***Check out www.madisonyouthservices.com for some great summer ideas!

Able Trek (provides supported tours) 1-800-205-6713 or <http://www.abletrektours.com/content/view/372/417/>

Aldo Leopold, 608-221-0404 or <http://www.naturenet.com/alnc/summcamp.html>

Badger Camp, 608-348-9689 or <http://www.badgercamp.org/programs.php>

Boys and Girls Club, 608-257-2606 or www.bgcfdc.org/main_sublinks.asp?id=14&sid=45

Camp Shalom (camps are for grades K-5 or grades 6-9), 608-278-1808 or <http://www.jewishmadison.org/section.aspx?id=1251>

Dane County Human Society's Camp Pawprint, 608-838-0413 ext 128

www.giveshelter.org/sitemgr/camp_pawprint

Easter Seals Camps-1-800-422-2324 (main)

608-254-2502 or <http://camp.eastersealswisconsin.com/respite/sessions.html>

608-254-8319 or <http://camp.eastersealswisconsin.com/wawbeek/trailblazers.html>

Keva Sports Center, 608-662-7529 or <http://www.kevasports.com/community.html>

Legacy Academy, 608-270-9977 or www.legacyacademy.info/summer-camp-program

Lions Camp, 715-677-4969 or info@wisconsinlionscamp.com

Lussier Community Center, 608-833-4979 http://lcecmadison.org/what/index.php?category_id=3343

MSCR, 608-204-3000 or www.msqr.org

YMCA, main website: <http://www.ymcadanecounty.org/programs/camp.asp>

West YMCA, 608-276-6616 ext 246 http://www.ymcadanecounty.org/programs/camp%20images/ymcacamp_w.pdf

East YMCA, 608-221-1574 ext 123 http://www.ymcadanecounty.org/programs/camp%20images/ymcacamp_e.pdf

Northeast YMCA, 608-837-2221 ext 1007 or http://www.ymcadanecounty.org/programs/camp%20images/ymcacamp_ne.pdf

3 Gaits (Horse), 608-877-9086 or <http://www.3gaits.org/daycamp.html>

Hoofbeat Ridge (Horse), 608-767-2593 or www.hoofbeat.org

Hoofer Riding Club (Horse), 608-262-1630 or <http://hooferridingclub.org/hooferKidsCamp.php>

Adaptation and Modification Program

The Adaptation and Modification Program (A&M) has recently moved to a new home at Responsive Solutions, Inc. The A&M project has been around for many years helping families and adults in Dane County make their homes more safe and accessible for individuals with behavioral challenges and/or developmental disabilities. The goal of this project is to create safe and appropriate environments, which ensure an individual's continued participation in community life. A&M can provide referrals, consultation, and hands-on services as needed. They have relationships with local contractors for larger or detailed work. Projects are always done so the home environment is least restrictive while keeping your child safe. Please contact your case manager if you have questions about how the A&M Program may be able to assist in your home project to meet your child's needs.

New Autism Provider in Dane County

Starting in January of this year there is a third autism treatment provider available in Dane County, in addition to Wisconsin Early Autism Project (WEAP), 608/288-9040, and Integrated Development Service (IDS), 608/441-0123. The new provider is Achieving Collaborative Treatment (ACT) and is directed by Matt Nonemacher. For more information, contact Matt at 608/443-7032.



Servicios del verano 2009 Llame lo mas pronto posible para registrarse!!

***Vea al www.madisonyouthservices.com para ideas!

Able Trek (provee excursiones con apoyo) 1-800-205-6713 or <http://www.abletrektours.com/content/view/372/417/>

Aldo Leopold, 608-221-0404 o <http://www.naturenet.com/alnc/summcamp.html>

Badger Camp, 608-348-9689 o <http://www.badgercamp.org/programs.php>

Boys and Girls Club, 608-257-2606 o www.bgcfdc.org/main_sublinks.asp?id=14&sid=45

Camp Shalom (campamentos para grados K-5 o grados 6-9), 608-278-1808 or <http://www.jewishmadison.org/section.aspx?id=1251>

Dane County Human Society's Camp Pawprint, 608-838-0413 ext 128

www.giveshelter.org/sitemgr/camp_pawprint

Easter Seals Camps-1-800-422-2324

608-254-2502 o <http://camp.eastersealswisconsin.com/respite/sessions.html>

608-254-8319 o <http://camp.eastersealswisconsin.com/wawbeek/trailblazers.html>

Keva Sports Center, 608-662-7529 o <http://www.kevasports.com/community.html>

Legacy Academy, 608-270-9977 o www.legacyacademy.info/summer-camp-program

Lions Camp, 715-677-4969 o info@wisconsinlionscamp.com

Lussier Community Center, 608-833-4979 http://lcecmadison.org/what/index.php?category_id=3343

MSCR, 608-204-3000 o www.mschr.org Ellos proveen un asistente para su hijo/a.

YMCA: <http://www.ymcadanecounty.org/programs/camp.asp>

West YMCA, 608-276-6616 ext 246 http://www.ymcadanecounty.org/programs/camp%20images/ymcacamp_w.pdf

East YMCA, 608-221-1574 ext 123 http://www.ymcadanecounty.org/programs/camp%20images/ymcacamp_e.pdf

Northeast YMCA, 608-837-2221 ext 1007 http://www.ymcadanecounty.org/programs/camp%20images/ymcacamp_ne.pdf

3 Gaits (Caballo), 608-877-9086 o <http://www.3gaits.org/daycamp.html>

Hoofbeat Ridge (Caballo), 608-767-2593 o www.hoofbeat.org

Hoofer Riding Club (Caballo), 608-262-1630 o <http://hooferridingclub.org/hooferKidsCamp.php>

Madison Riding Academy (Caballo), 608-833-2064 o www.lvstables.com

Si necesita ayuda con una interprete, puede llamar a su coordinadora de servicios o llamar al: 237-7630.

Local Businesses Brighten the Holidays for Kids and Families

Each winter, members of local businesses open their hearts and extend their help to kids and families served by FSRC to make their holiday season brighter! This year, due to the generosity of members of **Unity Church** of Madison and employees of **Capitol Indemnity Corp.** & **Capitol Lakes**, we were able to provide individually selected gifts and certificates to over 130 children in our agency.

Thanks also to **Community Bankers of Wisconsin** for their generous donation to one family and **Playthings** at Hilldale Mall for sponsoring FSRC in the Holiday Tree Walk!

We truly appreciate the giving hearts of all those involved!

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

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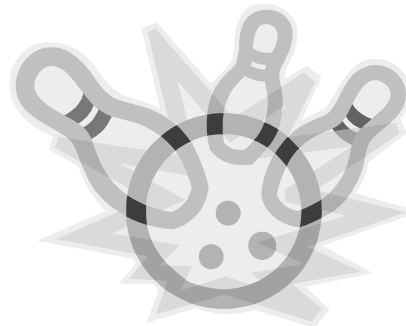
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Website: www.fsrcdane.org

SAVE THE DATE!



**Allison Smith Foundation
Bowling Event!**

April 25th

Please join us for bowling,
food, prizes and lots of fun
at Schwoegler's Park Towne Lanes!

This annual event, in memory of Allison Smith,
benefits families served by FSRC. Watch for details
and registration information in the mail or call FSRC
at 237-7630.