



CHOICES

A Newsletter about Self-Determination in Dane County written by
Individuals with developmental disabilities, for
individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and supporters.
Vol. 13 No. 3 Fall 2011

The next issue of CHOICES will be out in February, 2012. Contact the editor, Stefanie Primm, with ideas for articles before December 15.

Articles are due by January 6 or until the issue is full.

Phone 263-5557
primm@waisman.wisc.edu

Inside this issue:

Bear in Mind	2
Fall Infoshare	2
Connections	3
Celebrations	4
Linda Kapral Grants	5
What's new?	6
More Celebrations	7
Dora's Pet Corner and other columnists	8
What else is new?	9
Saying Goodbye	10
Arc Halloween Party	11
And the Oh, Yeas'	12



People First members hanging out at the picnic
Photo by: Tom Veek

People First Stoughton Picnic By Alison Martens

People First of Stoughton along with the Stoughton Recreation Department and the Dane County Time Bank hosted a picnic on August 11, 2011. About 100 people came and we all had fun. There was volleyball, baseball, bean bag toss and other games to play.

The best part of the evening was the food. We ate hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, fruit, chips and drinks. The weather was perfect and everyone had a great time. A special thanks to all the volunteers who helped.

People First Stoughton Picnic By Jeffrey Johnson

I interviewed Tom Veek and Dan Blomgren. Dan is the Vice President of People First Stoughton. People First Stoughton started to plan their picnic in February. The picnic was held on August 11, 2011 at Eastside Park in Stoughton. People First Stoughton worked with the city of Stoughton Recreation Department and Dane County Time Bank to help make the picnic a success.

At the picnic they played yard games, and had lots of food and drinks. People First Stoughton invited Time Bank members and community members. The picnic has grown from 30 to 40 people to 100 people. Tom and Dan and People First Stoughton hosted the picnic. The reason that People First Stoughton wanted to have this picnic is because they wanted to build relationships. Stoughton Recreation Department provided the activities for the picnic. The self-advocacy group People First Stoughton paid for all of the food.

People First, the Stoughton Recre-

ation Department, and the Time Bank worked together once again successfully in putting on the picnic. The Stoughton community is trying to involve more people with disabilities in upcoming community events. Dan said, "He had a good time and looks forwards to next year's picnic." Tom said he is glad it is behind him...



Playing games at the picnic

Photo by :Tom Veek

Bear in Mind...



Monica Bear is Dane County's
Community Services Manager for

On a 500 mile Labor Day road trip my family listened to a children's audio book in which the main character, Margaret Rose, replied "I'd prefer not to" every time someone asked her to complete what she perceived as an undesirable task. As I write this column the county executive and county board face the difficult task of finalizing the 2012 budget. Like me when I prepared the DD budget for review, I am sure they are thinking, "I'd prefer not to."

As it stands now the DD children's budget eliminates funding for the Epilepsy Center and reduces staffing in shift-staff treatment homes. The DD adult budget assumes our system will achieve \$481,835 in county levy reductions. Because a combination of county, state and federal dollars pay for most DD services, a \$481,835 reduction in county funds translates to a \$1,186,373 reduction in services. By the time you read this, advocacy efforts may have altered these numbers. Regardless, we are certain to have less funding in 2012. In spite of these reductions, Dane County and our provider

community maintains committed to funding vocational support for 2012 grads that leave high school with paid employment.

Whether you are a person waiting for urgently needed supports, someone about to experience cuts in the help you receive, staff working an extra shift or an agency director eliminating positions and renegotiating health insurance contracts everyone feels the impact of shrinking resources. DD budget reductions began in 2004. For the last eight years everyone has tried to work a little harder for a little longer in hopes the storm would pass and we could resume business as usual. Lately I have encountered many exhausted families and colleagues. I have begun to wonder how we face the challenge of adjusting to our new reality, without becoming its victim? In addition to the need for patience and kindness, a lot of hard work lies ahead.

It remains true that people with developmental disabilities want to be in charge of their lives, work and live in the community just like anyone else. It is also true we must make the most efficient and effective use of individualized budgets and the publicly funded services they purchase. We must ask:

1. "What can people do for themselves with the help of their family, friends and community combined with their social security benefits, the money they earn and other benefits they get such as medical assistance personal care?"
2. "What unique support can the service system offer that people cannot provide for themselves that helps ensure their success?"

People can begin working on answers to question one immediately. Answering question 2 will require a longer wait.

Discussions about self-directed services often emphasize the importance of the individualized service rate. Yet many people have dis-

covered when they combine their individualized rate with another person's both can achieve something they could not afford on their own. The inter-connectedness of individuals' rates and personal funds offer possibility while adding complexity to budget discussions. Sometimes one housemate can afford more rent than another. Other times someone might experience increasing accessibility needs thus needing to move, leaving their housemate in a lurch. Another individual may wish to receive support from a specific provider but the person they want to live with wants help from a different agency. Funding limitations require people to confront these issues and make compromises in uncomfortably short time frames.

Like Margaret Rose we may prefer not to. But in the end Margaret Rose enlisted the support of a maintenance man, her senior citizen neighbors, a high powered lawyer, an art historian, and her summer camp pals to successfully fight both city hall and powerful development interests thus saving her neighborhood's beloved outdoor sculptures from the wrecking ball. Similarly we face the challenge of enlisting our allies to preserve what we hold dear. The process will take longer than an eight-hour car trip, but seems worth the effort.

Want to think creatively about the budget challenges? See more thoughts from Monica on page 6.

Join us on October 13 at the Alliant Energy Center!
InfoShare: Communication Works (for those who work at it!)
Thursday, October 13th at the Alliant Energy Center: 9:00 AM – 2:45 PM

\$10 per person, includes meals and materials, register by calling 608-265-9440 ext. 440

- Do you want to learn how to use an iPad?
- Or join an online group with others who share your interests?
 - How about some useful information on advocacy,
 - working within teams or talking with your doctor?

We will learn about these and many of other ways we connect with others near and far. **Encore Studio for the Performing Arts** will kick off the event with a thoughtful piece on communication with discussion to follow.

**You have a great story; join us on October 13th
to learn ways to get it out there!**

For more information please visit our website: <http://cow.waisman.wisc.edu/traincon.html>

Celebrations

Ricardo Awarded Temple Grandin Award By Jeffrey Johnson

I interviewed Ricardo and Mary Kay Vasquez about Ricardo's business called Vasquez Productions. Ricardo performs live music on marimba and percussion. He also tunes pianos. He gives concerts at schools, nursing homes, weddings, dinners, private parties, and award ceremonies. He also plays the drums for the Zor Shrine Band. He enjoys people with or without disabilities and he is a music lover.

Ricardo feels good when people are surprised when they find out how nice he plays. People are amazed that Ricardo has been in business for 5 years, and has



Ricardo playing marimba Photo Courtesy of Vasquez Productions

Hope Award Goes to.... Movin' Out!

By Jeffrey Johnson

Today I interviewed Howard Mandeville from Movin' Out. He told me that the Hope Award was given to Movin' Out. Movin' Out Inc. received the Hope Award from the National Association of Realtors in Washington D.C. for helping people with disabilities buy homes at a good rate since 1996.

A camera crew came out and interviewed two clients from Movin' Out. They help people with disabilities buy homes. They help potential homeowners find resources to purchase a home. They have helped more than 1000 people secure a home through out Wisconsin.

Howard said that buying a home is not for everyone so Movin' Out has started building a new affordable housing unit in Stoughton called Eleven Sted. They have also bought homes and rent them out for people with disabilities.

Movin' Out has changed by adding housing counselors, who provide information that help people be successful homeowners. They help integrate people in the community. I am very glad Movin' Out received this award, because without the support of Movin' Out people with disabilities could not afford to buy a house. They enjoy helping people with disabilities live the best life they can in the community today.

been playing for 15 years. It started off when his mom played guitar and Ricardo played the drums. Ricardo volunteered to play the drums in school because he was bored; and now he loves to perform!

On April, 12, 2011 Ricardo Vasquez was given the Temple Grandin Award. The award is established by people with

disabilities and it is given to people who have successfully started their own business.

If you are interested in hiring Ricardo to play your party or event visit www.vasquezproductions.com for booking info. You will not be disappointed!

Fashion Show for All Abilities . . . A Great Success!

By Jeffrey Johnson

Chantel Brown helped start the Fashion Show for All Abilities. When we had the fashion show a year ago it was held at the Concourse Hotel in Madison. I met Dallas and his Mom. I interviewed Dallas last year about his key chain collection. He has over 4,000 key chains.

My co-worker Rachel Weingarten is one of the people who organize the Fashion Show. This was the fifth year that the Waisman Center Outreach Program held the fashion show. It was held on May 25, 2011 at the Monona Terrace Community Center from 6:30- 8:30pm.

This year Chantel started the fashion show. She was dressed in a very pretty light green dress. She and Dallas have been dating for 10 years now. One of announcers was Rachel Freidman and she was telling everyone what kind of clothes the models were modeling and what store they came from and how much they would cost.

Kelsy Schoenhaar, Executive/Artistic Director of Encore, was our photographer. She took photos of all the models this year at the

Monona Terrace Community Center in Madison. I saw some of my friends there like Beth Brady and Erin Donald. I was fortunate enough to be picked by Rachel this year to be in the fashion show. This was my very first time being involved with fashion show. I was one of 50 models.

The fashion show is a Community Awareness Event. It is important because it lets people with disabilities try something new and feel good about it. This event is reaching out to many different businesses in the Madison area. The fashion show portrays that a person is no different than anyone else. Everyone is important to their community and doing something different makes people with disabilities feel good about themselves. This 2-hour event shows people with disabilities respect.

This year was a great turnout and all the models were all very excited. Everyone was given very nice complements on how they looked, and that makes the models feel good. We are hoping to get more models involved next year.



Megan and Jenny Henze strike a pose!

Photo by: Douglas Otto

More Linda Kapral Grants

Avenues Spa Day By Jeffrey Johnson

I interviewed Heidi Scherr from Avenues to Community and learned that about a new program that was started with a Linda Kapral grant. Avenues to Community planned to use the \$470.00 Linda Kapral grant to help people with a pilot program called "Avenues Spa Day" with Salon KB in Fitchburg.

This grant will provide a group of seven Avenues consumers an opportunity to be pampered, and enjoy a relaxing day. The idea for this grant came after a consumer happily showed her nails and new haircut. She was very proud of her new look.

This could lead to ongoing opportunity.

If people find that they enjoy Spa Day they will continue to organize similar events. The opportunity through this grant will also give people without disabilities a chance to meet and enjoy working with people with disabilities. They are trying to promote positive self-image, real concern, and personal appearance. It will take place on October 21, 2011.



The Pen Pal group



Two sets of pen pals
Photos by: Theresa Wonders-Tamez

LOV-Dane Pizza Garden By Jeffrey Johnson

I interviewed Kathy McConnell and Steve Skwarek at the East YMCA on Wednesday, June 15, 2011 about their community garden project. This was their first community project. LOV-Dane suggested the idea to Steve and Kathy at their staff meeting because they had extra grant money to fund community projects.

LOV-Dane wanted to do something with the Y, and they suggested a pizza garden. They partnered with the Child Watch department at the Y. Child Watch is for 2 to 5 year old kids. They are hoping to get some produce and expose the kids to new activities because some kids have never seen plants growing before.

It is a great learning experience and it is good for both Steve and the kids. The kids really look up to Steve, and he enjoys running this program because it is a lot of fun for everyone. Steve gets more out of his daily schedule. By Steve being a teacher it gives him the opportunity to make better relationships with the kids, and kids see that someone with a disability can be a leader.

The community garden contains tomatoes, cucumbers, green peppers, cherry tomatoes, peas, basil, and oregano. Steve schedules activities teaching kids about the gardening process and caring for plants. They brought me outside and showed me the garden out back. They are very pleased how the garden turned out. The kids drew on some buckets and planted some seeds in cups. The kids really enjoyed planting and helping out in their community. Kathy works in the childcare area everyday and when she needs help she can depend on Steve. Steve also talked to several different businesses to get the supplies for the garden.



The Pizza Garden
Photo by Michelle Vidovic

Fishing Fridays Program By Jeffrey Johnson

I interviewed Jennifer and Junior on August 12th about a group called "Fishing Fridays," which is organized by a program called Create Community Access (CCA) run by CLC. They connect with individuals and ask them if they would like to go fishing. The group provides you with fishing rods or you may bring your own. One place they go is Winnequah Park in Monona.

Junior is one of the planners for the group, where he gets involved with people with disabilities and invites them to get out and have

some fun. They try to go out every Friday morning and they like trying new and different places to go fishing, depending what the weather is like.

CLC thought this was a good way to make new friends. It is a free activity that people enjoy. It is fun and relaxing to hang out with friends, plus they even have picnics. This is their first year trying it. They will continue with the program if people like it. They have gone out five times this summer. They provide a toolbox for all of the hooks, lures, jigs, and spinners, because they do not like to use live bait. You may even catch some little blue gills. This group really enjoys fishing on Fridays.

By Jeffrey Johnson

The Pen Pal project was funded by a Linda Kapral grant. Catholic Charities Support Brokers applied for grant money to start the Pen Pal Project. The Pen Pal Project pairs up people with disabilities with a volunteer pen pal. Everyone is matched up by their interests.

Cheryl and Mary and Bob and Tom are two sets of Pen Pals who were interviewed about their experiences at a Meet and Greet lunch. Bob and Tom were the first pen pal match through the project. Tom indicated he had a pen pal when he was a kid. Bob and Tom found that they make good pen pals because they both like tractors and art. Cheryl and Mary found that they make good Pen Pals because they both like to make people happy.

Being a Pen Pal is a good way to meet people and get to know each other. Mary learned that Cheryl likes music by John Denver, likes baseball, and enjoys going to Badger Camp and Cheryl learned that Mary also likes John Denver music, likes flowers, and meeting new people and making new friends.

The reason Mary likes the Pen Pal Project is because she does not feel alone anymore. Cheryl and Mary enjoy getting letters in the mail from each other. Through the letters they send and the Meet and Greet lunch, Cheryl and Mary have gotten to know each other better and have become friends.

Bob and Tom have lunch together, currently about every 6-8 weeks. They talk about tractors and both like to garden. Tom is looking forward to seeing what Bob has planted.

There are currently 18 matched pen pals and their goal is to try to get 40 pen pals in their group. The hope is that more people with disabilities and volunteers will come aboard and find the happiness of finding a new friend. Currently, the Pen Pal project is only open to individuals who have Catholic Charities support brokers.

What's new?

The LOV-Dane Community Connections Project By Jeremy Gilomen and Robin Hunter

Do you have something you've always wanted to do, or something you want to get better at, but you've never been able to figure out how to pursue it?

The LOV-Dane Community Connections Project employs a Bridge Builder to help connect people with disabilities to people or organizations in the community that are related to their interests.

The members of the Community Connections Project—with the assistance of families, friends, and support people—hired the Bridge Builder, who works individually with them to find and develop lasting connections in the community.

Members also have regular opportunities to get together to exchange stories about their connections, make decisions about the project, and share food and fun.

Most of all, they are learning ways to create positive change in their own lives!

Parents or other representatives meet quarterly to direct aspects of the project including budgeting, hiring, and new directions.

The current cost of membership is \$1,700/year. Members use a variety of sources such as earnings, money from their families, or part of their county funding.

Contact us now to talk about joining the project.

Contact: Theresa Ellis 608-213-1364 or theresaj.ellis5@gmail.com, or
Amanda Bell, 608-516-4285 or amanda.lovdane@gmail.com

Living Our Visions (LOV-Dane) is a grassroots organization of individuals with disabilities, families, and community members building fulfilling, community-centered lives for all citizens.
More information at: www.livingourvisions.org

Some connections we've made...

Want to talk tech? Will and new pal Dave find Sector 67 a congenial setting.

Nathan & Matt enjoy exploring spiritual issues in wide-ranging conversations.

Alex & Kenn co-engineer one of WORT community radio's weekly shows.



The Little Library Daniel & Tom constructed between coffee breaks now enlivens Daniel's neighborhood.



Visiting Kate's church? She may give you a high-five in her regular job as a greeter.

Voter ID Bill

By Jeffrey Johnson

The Wisconsin legislature passed the new Voter ID Bill. This new law requires voters to show some kind of picture ID to be able to vote. This is to avoid the threat of voter fraud. Governor Scott Walker signed the bill on Wednesday May 25, 2011.

Our new County Executive: Joe Parisi By Dan Remick

I interviewed our new County Executive Mr. Joe Parisi about his new job on Wednesday May 22, 2011. County Executive Parisi told me he likes his new job, but that his job will be very difficult. He said, "the budget for our county will be very difficult to work with." Currently, there is an eight million dollar deficit to fill and no resources to fill it with. The levy limit is so strict they are not allotting enough money for the county to even support the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department is generally about 20% of the budget.

County Executive Parisi believes it is extremely important that he has dialogue with his constituents in Dane County. Parisi stated, "people with disabilities will be part of this discussion." I know that individuals with disabilities know how to work with the County Executives during tough budgets.

Parisi enjoys working with Mayor Soglin and Governor Walker. He said, "that it is important that all of us of us are working together". All of us are responsible for informing the governor and the mayor whether we agree or disagree on important budget issues in the future.

Photo Courtesy of:

www.countyofdane.com/



Joe Parisi
Dane County Executive

Celebrations

Cindy's Commentary:

Cindy Wegner fills us in on events from the last few months...

Day Tripper

We went to see Medieval Times. We had chicken legs, potatoes, tomato soup, and garlic bread. We also had apple turnovers, soda, and water. A knight in costume rode a horse and gave out prizes. Our team won.

VSA Fundraiser

VSA had a fundraiser. Steve Stricker, a golfer, played for money for VSA. We had good food. I made a speech about the class I took at VSA and how to make pottery. Everyone liked my speech.



Arc of Dane County

I am a board member for Arc of Dane County. We talked about the budget cuts, the golf outing and fundraiser. We talked about the August picnic and the Halloween Party in October.

Arc of Dane County Golf Fundraiser

Arc of Dane County had a golf fundraiser at Waunakee Golf Course. I rode in a golf cart for the first time. We went out to the course to see if the golfers needed water or something else. Sarah Carlson from Channel 3 came and we had good food for lunch.



People First of Dane County Picnic

People First had a picnic for the August meeting. We had a lot of people. We had brats, pasta salad, jello pudding, chips, soda, and cookies. We watched a video and Jeffrey's interview with Channel 3's Sarah Carlson.

I would like you to meet our newest addition to the Choices team, **Katelyn Tatge** of Stoughton. Her first article is about her beloved nephew...

Ethan is the little man on the move, 24/7. He is getting faster every day. Ethan does not like the car seat, he gets mad. He laughs at everything I say to him. He tried to eat the dog food once on my watch. He does not like his diaper changed.

PC Steve B. Love: New book in the WI Book Festival

By Jeffrey Johnson



I interviewed PC Steve B. Love about his book called Cold Blooded and Damn Right Dirty Vol. 3. PC Steve B. Love wrote a book on people with different abilities. He would like others to know how important it is to use different terms than disabled. He does not like the terms "disabilities" or "disability". They make him feel like he is being discriminated against. The words that PC would prefer people to use are

"differently abled" or "handy capable" or "mentally challenged" or "creatively talented". PC does not want people thinking he is someone with special needs. He feels he is no different than anyone else because we all have certain needs that need to be accomplished and need support with. He went to many different places and coffee shops in Madison, like Mother Fools, and did readings. He has sold his books at events like the InfoShare Conference at Alliant Energy Center and at a TimeBank event in Madison. His books cost between \$7 and \$8, which is the suggested price, but he will work out a deal if it is too much.

PC's friend Mona helped him write his book. They have known each other for a while, and they were connected through the TimeBank. PC has wanted to write a book for a long time. Kathy his case manager got PC involved writing his own book. Kathy helped him get his book published at Lakeside Press.

PC and Mona would get together and she would type out his ideas. PC and Mona worked together 1 to 3 times per week. They would go over the typed portion to get his feedback about what information he wants the readers to know. When Mona was gone for Christmas she gave PC a recorder so he could continue to get information for his book. PC dictated his story to her from November '08 through spring of '09. She typed it up on her computer.

PC plans to present his book at the Wisconsin Book Festival which will take place in Madison October 19-23, 2011.

Congratulations to PC for making it into the book festival!

More Thoughts from Monica Bear . . .

In preparation for next year's budget reductions people with disabilities, with input from their families, support brokers and service providers will have to figure out how to live the life they want and get the help they need with fewer public dollars.

Some questions to consider:

- Can I use my wages, SSI, medical assistance personal care, respite, the TimeBank, engagement with LOV-Dane or my personal connections to get the help I need?
- Instead of hiring a job coach can my co-workers help me on the job?
- If the county pays for my transportation, is there a different way I can get to where I want to go?
- If my current job requires a job coach with me all the time, is there a job that is easier for me to do where I could earn the same amount of money using less paid help?
- If I can't afford my rent can I live with another housemate or do I need to move?
- Can I safely use Sound Response at night instead of my current staff?
- Can I share more hours of paid support with my housemate or friends?
- Can I spend more time during evenings and weekends with my family or friends instead of paid staff?
- Can my housemate and I coordinate family visits so that my supported living agency will not need to schedule staff for that shift?
- If I have regular SSI spend downs is there someone who can help me with financial planning to make sure my money is helping me be as independent as possible now and in the future?
- If I experience a crisis do I have an emergency plan that eliminates or minimizes the need for additional public funding?

Dora's Pet Corner:

The New Lion Cub at the Henry Vilas Zoo

By Dora Norland and Diane Christoph

On December 18, 2010, an African lion cub was born at the Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison. The cub's mom's name is Vilas. His dad's name is Henry. The people at the zoo had a contest to name the lion cub. There was a list of 5 finalists. The name that won the contest was Leo Pold. That name was sent in by 4-year old Cole Johnson of Fitchburg.

The zoo has a long history. A



Leo Pold sleeps.... Photo by Diane Christoph

donation in 1904 from William and Anna Vilas created a public park near Lake Wingra. This park must remain free to the public, they said. The family asked that the public park be named after their son, Henry. Henry had died in 1899, at age 21, from complications of diabetes. The Henry Vilas Zoo had its first exhibit of 5 white tailed deer in 1911. The first lion house was built in 1917. A big cat exhibit has made a lot of changes and the present exhibit was finished in 1997.

When the cub was born in December, he weighed 3 pounds and slept in a laundry basket. The public could not see Leo Pold from December to April.

According to Zoo Director James Hubing, Leo Pold is now 60 pounds! Adult male African lions generally weigh about 400 pounds. Leopold eats a special meat diet just like his parents, Henry and Vilas. He's most active in the first half of day. In the afternoon, he likes to nap with his parents. He likes to move about the exhibit but Vilas calls to him if he gets too far away from her. Leo Pold gets along well with both his parents.

If you want to go see Leo Pold, he is



Leo Pold Photo by: Diane Christoph

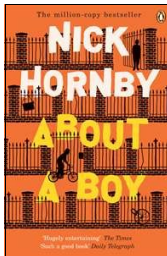
on exhibit from 9:30 to 4:00, weather permitting. I think you should go and check Leo Pold out for yourself.

I also recommend that you read the book *A Lion Called Christian* by Anthony Bourke and John Rendall. You can get it at the public library. Happy Reading!

About a Boy By: Nick Hornby

Book Review by Christa Decker

This book is about a man who decides that the best way to meet women is by pretending to be a single father. He feels that single mothers, especially, might be more interested in a single father than just a single man.



He joins SPAT (Single Parents Alone Together) and creates an imaginary two year old son for the purpose of his deception. His interesting plan goes well for awhile, until complications set in, in the form of a twelve year old boy named Marcus. The adventures that follow....well, I'll leave it for you to read the book and find out.

I enjoyed this book because it is funny and entertaining. I definitely recommend it.

I swear I have SUPER HUMAN HEARING

By Dale Buttke

There's a high humming sound,

I walk to stores, I am bound.

It almost drives me crazy,

I might be fat, but I am not lazy.

Sirens go wailing by me,

I wish people can see, that I really can hear.

When loud motorcycles go by,

I have to put my hands over my ears,

But life goes on with a sigh.

I believe that GOD had blessed me,

And said, you can be, with superhuman hearing!

Some loud sounds pierce my ears,

I wish people had the same hearing as I do.

I feel like just about to go insane, and so,

I have good hearing not by choice,

From GOD who seems to give me

SUPER HUMAN HEARING!

Other useful news

The Mobility Transit Program from Dane County Timebank

By Jeffrey Johnson

I recently interviewed Lorrie Hurckes from the Dane County TimeBank. She is working on a program called Mobility Transit which provides services for riders with disabilities who are involved with the TimeBank. This is a training program that she plans to start in October. Each person is partnered with a volunteer, and the volunteer will teach the riders what they need to know in order to ride the bus safely and how to get around their communities. The volunteer can accompany the rider as many times as they need until they feel comfortable riding the bus by themselves. It will give the potential riders an opportunity to ride the bus with support from TimeBank and their volunteers.

The volunteers will provide the riders with information and encouragement for them to ride independently. The volunteers will earn Time dollars for their help. Some of the riders being trained may know a little more about how to ride the bus and they may not need as much training as others. They will learn where the bus stops are and TimeBank will give out bus schedules so they know when to expect the bus to arrive. The intention of the program is to get to where current riders can teach new riders how to use the bus system ride. You can receive more information from the Time Bank on their web site at www.danecountytimebank.org, or call them at 608-663-0400.

Wisconsin Families Forward

By Jeffrey Johnson

I went to a small rally at the state Capitol on June 9 at 10:00am. The rally was called Wisconsin Families Forward and it was held in Madison to bring awareness to the legislators that if they put a cap on long-term care it could cause a lot of problems for people with disabilities graduating from high school. One of the parents was Beth Moss whose son and daughter both have autism. The parents want their kids to get a very good education and a good job when they get out of high school.

There is now a freeze on long-term supports for individuals with disabilities. This freeze may prevent some young adults from getting good support on the job and at their work sites. These parents do not want their young adults to end up on the couch. The parents do not want to quit their jobs to stay home to support their young adults either. Wisconsin Families Forward is asking the legislature to support all young adults with developmental disabilities, and thinks the legislature needs to prioritize their funding. "Families plan their whole lives for the future of their children with disabilities. Long term care means our children have a way to continue their independent lives in the community after they leave school" - Family Voices of Wisconsin.

To our readers:

Based on reader reactions to our previous issue we would like to make some clarifications and point out some changes.

- Opinions expressed on the pages of Choices newsletter are strictly the opinions of reporters, and do not represent the views of the Waisman Center or Dane County Human Services.
- Choices is written by individuals with developmental disabilities, and hopes to inform other individuals with disabilities, and their families and supporters.
- Jeffrey Johnson is a paid reporter and job coaches mentioned in his articles are supporting him in his reporter duties, as assigned by the Choices editor.

Thank you for reading,
Stefanie Primm, Choices editor

To the editor:

I was disturbed by two biased articles that were published in the Summer, 2011 edition. As a taxpayer funded newsletter, *Choices* has an obligation to report straight news without opinion.

Not all individuals with disabilities and their parents have the same political beliefs and to assume otherwise shows poor judgment on the part of the editor.

The two front page articles contained several questionable items.

"We are in a big bind because the Republicans got their way. Scott Walker thinks that cutting our benefits will fix the problem in the budget right now. He will not listen to or work with people with disabilities."

"My job coach and I went to the rally on the Square" "We saw many people holding up signs, and fighting for their rights."

Why is a job coach taking a handicapped individual to a partisan event?

Even though they may work for private firms, job coaches' salaries are still financed by taxpayers. I will never allow my handicapped daughter to be used as a political pawn and neither should any other parent or guardian. If your work e-mail ends in .edu, .wisconsin.gov, or .k12.wi.us, your salaries are paid for by the taxpayers. You are required to follow state ethics laws. That means keeping your personal political beliefs out of all aspects of your employment including office e-mails and your writings.

Sincerely,

Ted Sehmer

ANNOUNCEMENT:



The 12th Annual Halloween Costume Party – sponsored by **The Arc-Dane County** – will be held on **Sunday, October 30, 2011** from **1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** (note new time) at **Pooley's, 5441 High Crossing Blvd, Madison** (located $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from Eastgate Cinema). This site is wheelchair accessible with **FREE** parking available. Tickets must be **pre-purchased** from The Arc-Dane County for each person. (Sorry, no free tickets for staff, attendants, or family members). Be ready to enjoy Music, Dancing, Munchies, Parade of Costumes, & Door Prizes. The party is limited to 350 people on a first come – first serve basis.

COST: \$3.00 Arc-Dane County member
\$5.00 Non-member

Ticket requests must be received by **Monday, Oct. 10, 2011** for preparation & planning. Upon receipt of the ticket request and payment, the tickets will be mailed. Each family or agency is responsible for distributing the tickets purchased. If you have ordered too many tickets or need more tickets, please network with other DDC members. (Note: When you receive your ticket, **print your full name on the back of your ticket to be eligible for a door prize at the party!** Note: staff and/or family members also eligible for a door prize!)

NOTE: All clients must carry **emergency contact information** at the party. All individuals attending must provide **own transportation** to and from the party.

.....
TICKET REQUEST FORM

Note: The name & address below is where the tickets will be sent!
Thanks for getting your ticket requests in by October 10!

Name: _____ **Agency:** _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone #: _____ **Cell #:** _____ **Emergency #:** _____

_____ **TICKETS @ \$3.00 (Arc-Dane County member).** \$ _____

_____ **TICKETS @ \$5.00 (Non-member).** \$ _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

SEND FORM & PAYMENT by October 10 payable to The Arc-Dane County:

The Arc-Dane County
Paul A. Yochum, Executive Director
6602 Grand Teton Plaza
Madison, WI 53719



FAX #: 608-833-1307
E-MAIL: arcdane@chorus.net
TELEPHONE: 833-1199

<p><u>When you receive your ticket, print your full name on the back of your ticket to be eligible for a door prize drawing at the party.</u></p>

CHOICES Newsletter



The University of Wisconsin-Madison
Waisman Center
Room A 109
1500 Highland Avenue
Madison WI 53705

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit #658
Madison WI

...And the “Oh, Yeah’s...”

To Place a Connections Ad:

Submit Connections Ads to:
Stefanie Primm, Editor 122 E
Olin Avenue Suite 100
Madison WI 53713

263-5557, or
primm@waisman.wisc.edu
We will run your ad for at least
3 issues unless you tell us
otherwise.

Announce a Transition:

Tell us about a new job, an
Engagement, a marriage, a
new place to live, or say
goodbye to someone who has
passed away.

CHOICES by e-mail

Prefer to reduce paper coming
in the mail? Choices
newsletter is now available
electronically via e-mail. If
you would prefer to receive a

PDF or link, please e-mail
Stefanie Primm:
primm@waisman.wisc.edu

Please send your stories, comments and suggestions

Contributions, comments and
suggestions are encouraged
and may be directed to
Stefanie Primm, Editor (see
contact information in the box
to the right).

**CHOICES is
available on-line:**
<http://cow.waismanwisc.edu>
Web versions do not include
Connections ads or
Transitions information.

**The Next Issue
of CHOICES**
will be out in February,
2012. Contact the editor
with ideas for articles
before December 15.

Articles due by January 6
or until the issue is full.

Choices is on the COW Website?!

Did you know that Choices
newsletter has a fun color
version that you can view
online??
[http://cow.waisman.wisc.edu/
publications.html](http://cow.waisman.wisc.edu/publications.html)



CHOICES Newsletter

is published quarterly to
provide information to
consumers, families,
guardians, and service
providers about Self-
Determination Services in
Dane County. Contributions,
comments and suggestions
regarding CHOICES are
encouraged and may be
directed to:

Stefanie Primm, Editor
The Waisman Center
122 E Olin Avenue Suite 100
Madison WI 53713
Telephone: (608) 263-5557
Fax: 263-4681
primm@waisman.wisc.edu

Contributors to this issue:

Dale Buttke, Rachel
Weingarten, Monica Bear,
Jeffrey Johnson, Cindy
Wegner, Ted Sehmer, Christa
Decker, Dora Norland, Diane
Christoph, Paul A. Yochum,
Dan Remick, Katelyn Tatge,
Alison Martens, Jeremy
Gilomen and Robin Hunter