

# CHOICES

Vol 8 No. 3 - Fall 2007WEB VERSION

A Quarterly Newsletter about Self-Determination in Dane County

## Teaming up with AmeriCorps *Cleaning Up and Having Fun!*

by Nancy Molfenter  
VOICES staff and volunteer

People with disabilities in Dane County, The ARC-Wisconsin Disability Association, and The Waisman Center teamed up with AmeriCorps volunteers and the Madison Senior Coalition in an innovative effort to help people see how rewarding and fun it can be to volunteer. A terrific and dynamic group got together for several Saturdays to help out at local parks around our community.

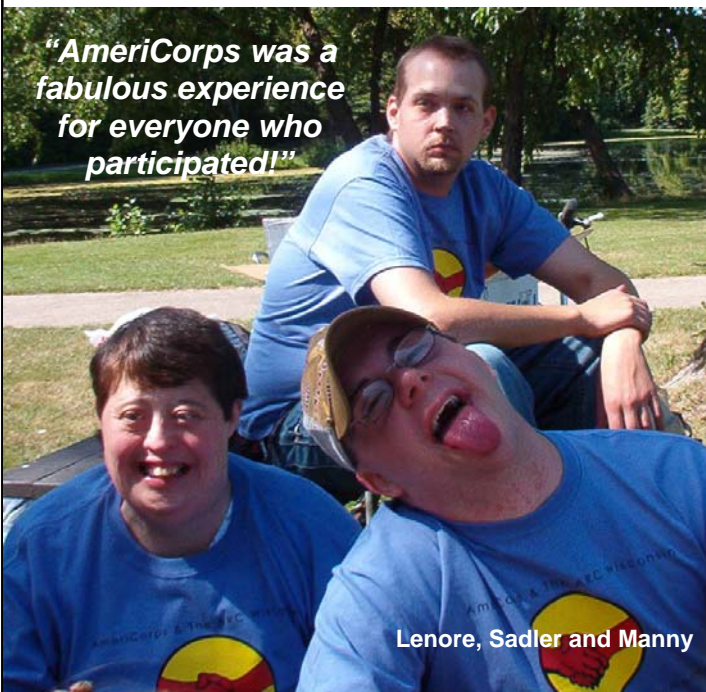
The first designated clean-up was at Warner park the day after Rythm and Booms. There was a lot of work to be done – and lots of folks to help get this wonderful community resource looking good



again. Additional Saturday mornings were spent at Tenney Park and Hoyt park doing a range of things from trash pick-up to prairie restoration. Groups gathered around ten a.m. and worked for about two hours.

During the work gatherings, people also had a chance to meet new people, gain teamwork experience and show off their skills. The AmeriCorps grant was able to provide really cool t-shirts, drinks and snacks and equipment such as gloves and extended grabbers to help people get the job done.

***"AmeriCorps was a fabulous experience for everyone who participated!"***



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by Dan Rossiter, Manager  
Developmental  
Disabilities Services,  
Dane County

## Dan Sez...

I must say, this is a fun edition of CHOICES. The first couple of reports from the folks who received one of the CHOICE's grants are included: the Catholic Charities "Ethnic Diversity Potluck Picnic" and the Progressive Community Services "Fireside Dinner Theatre Excursion". It looks like both activities were a bunch of fun. In fact, there a whole bunch of things going on where people are out there doing great stuff. The AmeriCorps article is really interesting as is the article on the Community Connections "Aktion Club", the CCLS Clubhouse and the article on the Henry Vilas Zoo.

On a happy/not-so-happy note, we are happy for Nancy Molfenter's new career, but not-so-happy that she is leaving our County system. She will be sorely missed by the folks at People First, the staff at the Waisman Center's VOICES program and anybody who has had the fortune of meeting and working with her. Best of luck, Nancy.

And finally, I need to point out that in front of every silver lining, there is a black cloud. It appears that we are going to have to look for additional efficiencies in 2008. If nothing changes, individual budgets will need to be reduced by 4.8% just to keep our system going. You, your Support Broker and provider(s) will be discussing the necessary changes in supports in the next few months. It is not going to be easy, but it is necessary.

## Editor's Note

*Dear CHOICES Readers,*

*It has been great fun helping to put together the quarterly issues of CHOICES for the past 2 ½ years! This newsletter helps share the great stories and the current news about supports for people with disabilities all over Dane County, WI and beyond.*

*This will be my last issue as editor as I have accepted a position working with WI APSE (The Association of Persons in Supported Employment)/The Network on Employment. This job will take me around the state helping to share best practices and strengthen advocacy for integrated employment and employment choices for people with disabilities.*

*I'm sure that I will run into many of you as the journey of advocacy continues. Carry on the good work and be well!*

*Nancy Molfenter*



CHOICES is sponsored by  
Dane County Dept. of  
Human Services-Adult  
Community Services Division  
1202 Northport Drive  
Madison WI 53704



## It's Show Time!

by Nancy Molfenter, VOICES  
staff

Many of you have been to the Overture Center in Downtown Madison, either to walk around the beautiful building or check out an event. I think the very first performance I saw there was by ENCORE. I have been to a few other shows and performances there, but cost is definitely an issue.

A few folks from Rise-Up have discovered a way to see shows at Overture for a reduced cost. You can request ticket vouchers from the Overture Center. If the show is not sold out, Overture will mail you a voucher for tickets that will only cost you \$3.00 per person. You do need to go to the Overture Center ahead of time to purchase the tickets, but it is a really great program. Below is the contact name and information for the ticket voucher program:

**Beth Racette**  
**Education and Outreach**  
**Coordinator**  
**Overture Center for the Arts**  
**201 State Street**  
**Madison, WI 53703**  
**608-258-4169**  
**[eracette@overturecenter.com](mailto:eracette@overturecenter.com)**  
**[www.overturecenter.com](http://www.overturecenter.com)**



## Diversity with Food and Fun



### Catholic Charities Support Brokers Host Delicious and Enjoyable Potluck Celebration

by Nancy Murphy

**A**mund Reindahl Park Shelter was brought to life on June 14<sup>th</sup> when the Catholic Charities Support Broker Program hosted an Ethnic Diversity Potluck Picnic. What more could you ask for besides a beautiful park, a warm day, delicious food, and exciting entertainment? Just one thing – great people to share it with.

The picnic provided an opportunity for clients, families, and staff to celebrate and share their diversity with old friends and new acquaintances. Clients brought dishes to share which reflected their ethnicity or another ethnicity of interest to them (and some just brought food they like). The past potlucks were a huge success, with a vast variety of dishes including spicy chicken wings, lasagna, Hungarian stuffed peppers, potato salad, and German chocolate cake.

This year, thanks to an anonymous gift provided to Dane County Human Services, the Catholic Charities Support Broker Program was awarded a grant enabling us to provide beef tacos, pork and veggie egg rolls, and chicken fried rice for the picnic. The evening started with visiting and enjoying a great meal. A variety of ethnic music, including Native American, Latin, Calypso, Celtic, and Zydeco music was heard in the background of conversation as everyone enjoyed the variety of ethnic tastes and each other's company.

Conversation quieted as Mike Alioto, a Support Broker at Catholic Charities, introduced some special guests – dancers from the Cashel Dennehy School of Irish Dance! Upbeat Irish music rushed through the shelter as the costumed dancers began to perform the Irish Jig. Before long, the crowd was clapping their hands to the catchy beat of the music. Hoots and hollers were heard as the dancers displayed their talent. When the routine was

over, the clients congratulated and thanked the dancers for the excellent performance, and some even took pictures with the dancers!

The rest of the evening was spent enjoying the weather, visiting with others, playing Frisbee, and going up for second, or third, helpings of the ethnic dishes. The Catholic Charities Support Broker Program would like to thank all of the clients, families, and staff that participated in the event and helped make it a memorable and enjoyable experience and the Cashel Dennehy School of Irish Dance for their openheartedness in traveling to the park and performing at the Ethnic Diversity Picnic.

To the anonymous person who generously gave the donation to Dane County which provided funds necessary for the event, we give a special thank you and would like you to know that your gift was truly appreciated and the picnic touched many lives. Thank you.

#### Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities Presents:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Wisconsin Self-Determination Conference

#### "Organizing for Self-Directed Supports"

Increasing the presence and participation of people with disabilities in our neighborhoods

## Save These Dates

**November 5 – 7, 2007**

**Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells**

Family Care is expanding across Wisconsin, and Self-Directed Supports are a key feature of it. Self-Directed Supports can help people achieve such important Family Care outcomes as "I decide where and with whom I live." "I make decisions regarding my supports and services." "I decide how I spend my day."

#### We will:

- \* Learn together how Self-Directed Supports will work now and in the future in your part of Wisconsin.
- \* Organize to help people know what both Family Care and Self-Directed Supports can offer.

#### You will leave the conference understanding:

- \* How self-directed supports work within and outside of Managed Long Term Care;
- \* How to build upon the strengths of our communities to help people make and live the lives they want;
- \* How to organize within your part of the state to help people understand Family Care outcomes and Self-Directed Supports;
- \* How people can use individual budgets creatively to:
  - Choose where to live and who to live with
  - Increase employment and income;
  - Contribute to others in our communities
  - Develop micro enterprises;
  - Develop employment and housing cooperatives.... And More!!!

#### Core Faculty include:

John O'Brien & Connie Lyle O'Brien, Responsive Systems Associates; David and Faye Wetherow, Community Works; and Mike Green, Asset-Based Community Development.

**Brochure coming September 2007**

**Questions? Contact Steve Stanek at (608) 266-8337 or [stanesj@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:stanesj@dhfs.state.wi.us)**

# *CLC Aktion Club* Raises \$1,000 for Olbrich Children's Garden

by Toni Johnson



Martha by the brat sign



Presenting the Check

**CLC Aktion Club** members spent Tuesday nights in June and July selling brats, hot dogs, water, chips, and cookies at Olbrich Gardens Summer Concerts. Their goal was to sell every brat and hotdog they brought to the park each and every Tuesday. If they could do this they would surely make a profit. Well, their goal was realized and the group made over \$1000.00 in profit! This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that the group has sold brats at the Olbrich Gardens Summer Concerts and it definitely was the most profitable, doubling sales from the previous years. A one-thousand dollar check was presented to Connie Beam from Olbrich Gardens at a Madison East Kiwanis meeting. The money

raised by the brat sale will once again be put toward the Children's Teaching Garden. The goal of the Children's Garden is to raise awareness and appreciation for the world of plants with the youth of Madison through both gardening and ecology related activities. The Children's Teaching Garden Program runs Monday through Thursday, June through July.

CLC Aktion Club is a chartered member of Kiwanis International and is sponsored by the Madison East Kiwanis Club. Much like the Kiwanis, Aktion club members perform a variety of services for the community in which they live. Aktion Club members work independently and/or jointly with Kiwanis Club members, as was the case with the brat sale, in providing community service and raising money for needs in the community. The CLC Aktion Club is now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year. The Olbrich Gardens Brat Sale is their major fund-raising event of the year. Other past and on going service projects have included: providing a meal for Habitat for Humanity workers; passing out beverages for the "Buddy Walk"; handing out t-shirts for the Dane County Youth Skate; distributing t-shirts for Special Olympics WI Polar Plunge; making decorations for City View Nursing Home; collecting pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House and collecting donations for the Dane County Humane Society.



The Cooks



# Dora's Pet Corner

By Dora Norland  
and  
Nancy Molfenter

Well, ok, it's a bit of a stretch, but let's face it: if you live in Madison you can always (all four seasons) get an animal fix by heading over to the Henry Vilas Zoo. And it's free! (although donations are always welcome to help care for the animals and the grounds). The Henry Vilas Zoo sits centrally located near the downtown area and adjacent to the university campus. There you can find creatures ranging from primates to reptiles, bears to goats, and rhinos to eagles. The seals are almost always playful and those colorful flamingos stand out in a crowd. You can see rays in the aviary and Raymond the giraffe there too.

During the winter months, you can warm up with the orangutans, tropical birds and those always interesting tarantulas, snakes and fish and iguana. Open year round for all of our enjoyment, the zoo provides education as well as entertainment. Lots of facts and animal information can be found all over the place – a good reminder of the connections between creatures (and humans) all around the world.

The aviary and carousel are some of the latest additions at the zoo, as well as a remodeled children's area – and soon to be tree house play area for the kids. Not to mention, Vilas park and the lake lie just outside of the zoo area. It really is quite a treasure to have such a resource so close by. So, maybe it's time for another visit to our favorite community pets. And drop a dollar or two in for the animals if you can.

###

## Animals for Everyone: Our Local Zoo "Pets"



Fancy Flamingos



Stingrays in the aviary aquarium



Raymond, our local giraffe





# PEOPLE FIRST OF DANE COUNTY

The next meeting of **PEOPLE FIRST** will be

On: Tuesday October 16th

At: Options, 22 N 2nd Street, Madison, WI From: 5:30 – 7 p.m.  
Pizza will be available for \$1.00 per slice

Call: Jeff Bailey, President, 241-3116 if you have questions

## PEOPLE FIRST Picnic and Baseball Outing



People First of Dane County members and their friends enjoyed a lovely afternoon of hotdogs, hamburgers, songs by Peter Leidy and Christy Stadele, and Mallard's baseball on Sunday August 5<sup>th</sup>.

It was a really good crowd



Lenore R, Margie S, Jeff B sing with Peter Leidy, picnic entertainer



People gathered at Warner Park Shelter



Grillmaster, Pete Molfenter

The Mallards cooperated nicely too and won the game against the Greenbay Bullfrogs. Way to go Mallards!



# Special Grant Funds Fireside Dinner Theatre Trip

by Charity DeVoe-Brekken



Thanks to an anonymous donor, nine Dane County consumers enjoyed a fun-filled trip to the Fireside Dinner Theatre in Fort Atkinson on May 20, 2007. They were accompanied by two support brokers from Progressive Community Services, Mindy Connors and Charity DeVoe-Brekken, along with many family members who chose to purchase tickets and come along as well. Mindy and Charity applied for a \$500 grant earlier in the year when it was announced in an issue of *Choices*. They asked some of their clients what kind of community outing the money could be used for, and the idea was born! This was a rare opportunity for most of the people participating, who may not be able to afford an extravagant dinner and theater tickets without the help of the grant. And now they had the chance to attend the world-famous musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, for no cost!

After months of anticipation and planning, the excited group traveled from all over Dane County and arrived at the Fireside early in the afternoon. They first spent some time browsing in the many gift shops before being seated in the elegant dining room. Dinner was served shortly, and everyone enjoyed the many unique and delicious dishes, especially the dessert! With their appetites satisfied, they moved on to the intimate theater, where they saw a spectacular performance of *Fiddler on the Roof*. The musical was very emotional, with lots of humor, as well as a touching

message. The audience laughed throughout the show, and a few tears were shed as well.

When asked what their favorite thing was about the trip to the Fireside, some of the participants commented on the good food and drinks, the gift shops, and the restaurant. Greg Burrill described the day by saying, "I went to see the play *Fiddler on the Roof*. It

was a really good play. I really got into it. It took place in the olden days, and the song that almost made me cry was *Sunrise, Sunset*." Rocky Handley summed it all up by exclaiming, "it was fun - I liked it!" As you can see, all of the theater-goers left with fond memories of the entire experience. Thank you to the generous person who made it all possible!

## SAVE THE DATE

Conference for Self Advocates & Their Support People on  
**FRIENDSHIPS, DATING & SEXUALITY**

Friday, October 19, 2007

Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton WI



Are you interested in learning how to make new friends and keeping the old ones or dating and sexuality? Join us to talk about these topics and enjoy fun activities on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> in Appleton.

Watch for details and registration information in the coming weeks!

Contact: Rachel Weingarten, UW-Madison Waisman Center  
Phone: (608) 890-0777, Email: weingarten@waisman.wisc.edu  
A joint project of UW-Madison Waisman Center & People First Wisconsin,  
along with collaboration from the Arc-Fox Cities & Arc Winnebago Co.



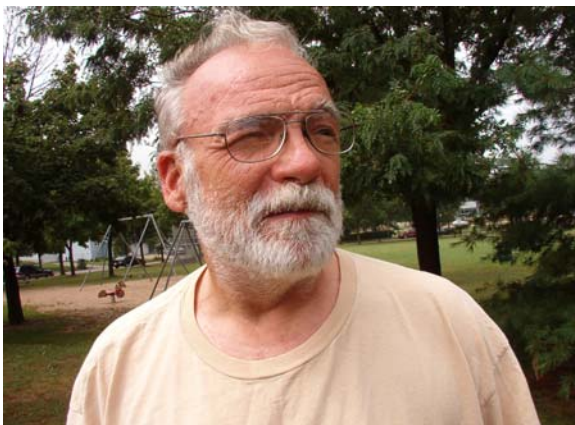
# What's Up at the CCLS Clubhouse?

by Nancy Molfenter, VOICES staff



In the last issue of CHOICES, we gave you some information about the Club House that Creative Community Living Services is operating. Now, we want to share a little bit more about the types of things that people there are doing, and to stress that this is not intended to be a drop-in center or a place for people to go when they do not have staff at their home. The Club House is intended to be a center for activity and a starting point for people to meet up and then go out into the community. Everyone who signs up to come to the Club house has opportunities to give input to the activities and decide what they want to do. Currently, people involved with the Club House are thinking about new things to try and new places in the community to get connected.

During my latest visit there, I had the chance to meet a man named Michael Brown. He works part-time at Valley Packaging Industries and spends time each week at the Club House. Michael enjoys his time at the Club House. He has worked on the raised flower beds there, plays games such as chess and prepares dishes in the kitchen. He likes to be active and go out, but he does not have an interest in volunteering. Michael is looking for a job in the community, but feels that the Club House is a good option for him on his days off right now.



*To keep active on his days off, Michael Brown enjoys building a bird feeder, gardening, playing chess, cooking, and trying new activities at the Clubhouse*

One thing that the Club House is working on right now is keeping Michael and everyone else who comes there active. The Club House is dedicated to being a dynamic and interactive place where people can enjoy doing things – not just sit around. People get out to various community locations like Olbrich Gardens, Farmer's Markets, the library and coffee shops. The Club House would also like to offer people more opportunities to volunteer and engage in community efforts of their interest. That is a next step.

###



## ARTWORKING

Lance Owens, Coordinator  
Fountain Resource Center  
1945 West Broadway Suite 100  
Madison, WI 53713  
(608) 442-9254 x 221  
Email: [lancebug@hotmail.com](mailto:lancebug@hotmail.com)

WORC, Inc. is pleased to announce that "ARTWORKING" has commenced operation in the new Fountain Resource Center. Artists with cognitive disabilities can participate in a variety of services and opportunities. People with an interest in art should go to [www.artworking.org](http://www.artworking.org) for further information. You can see our whole array of services on our website: [www.fountainresourcecenter.com](http://www.fountainresourcecenter.com)





# Some Good News...

## **From Progressive Community Services Supported Self-Employment (SSE) Program Goes Statewide!**

PCS was awarded a grant through Wisconsin Pathways to Independence, a division of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services. Shannon Munn, has been taking her knowledge and experience of supporting people to become self employed in Dane County around the state. She is providing training and technical assistance on the process of person centered business planning throughout Wisconsin, primarily in counties that are part of the Family Care pilot project. Shannel Trudeau-Yancey started with PCS

in February as the Dane County Self Employment Coordinator which is funded in part by DCHS and DVR. Shannel formerly was involved in the SSE pilot program through a former employer. The program has proven its achievement over the past year by providing supports to several businesses who have successfully completed the program.

**Shannel Trudeau-Yancey 608-837-1205 or [shannelt@pcsdane.org](mailto:shannelt@pcsdane.org)**  
**Shannon Munn 608-318-0700 or [shannonm@pcsdane.org](mailto:shannonm@pcsdane.org)**

## ***New Transition Coordinator***

DCHS expanded PCS's contract to include a Systems Transition Coordinator position in 2007. Molly Reineck has joined PCS in this role. She will work with students with disabilities 18-20 years, their schools and adult vocational providers to find efficiencies in supporting high school graduates enter the adult system. Kurt Svennson continues in his role as the Transition Coordinator who works with students their last year in high school.

###

## ***... Dane CDBG Helps Make Home Ownership Affordable***

For people who primarily rely on public benefits such as SSI and Social Security Disability, home ownership may have some significant advantages, ***if home ownership is affordable.*** Solving the affordability puzzle takes lots of planning, learning and team work—and sometimes some good fortune such as a benefit back payment, legal settlement, inheritance, or family contribution.

Here is an additional piece of good fortune. In partnership with Dane County Human Services and Movin' Out, the Dane County CDBG Commission budgeted \$50,000 to be reserved as extra down payment assistance for people served by Adult Community Services. For two households, this means adding more funds to the subsidies already available to households qualified for down payment assistance. The extra funding means that as much as \$70,000 in down payment assistance could be leveraged to purchase a home.

Such an amount may make the difference in determining the affordability of purchasing a home. To learn more about the affordability of home ownership and the availability of funds, contact a Movin' Out housing counselor at 251-4446 x7.

While home ownership may not be achievable by everyone on a fixed income, there are nearly 900 Movin' Out home owners across Wisconsin who show us that home ownership can be both affordable and sustainable over the long haul.

###

# ON THE STREET INTERVIEWS

by Nancy Molfenter

**Shelley – I like to do karate**



## At the Park with Young Adults

People are meeting and new friendships are growing through a recently formed social group. On the evening of August 30<sup>th</sup>, this group of young adults got together for a picnic at McGee Farms Park. At the start of the picnic everyone was asked to share their name and something that they like.

**Here's what some of them said:**

**Jennifer – I like shopping for tattoos**



**Sarah – I like e-mailing**



**Steve – I like movies**

**Max - Likes to Travel**



If you are  
20-something and  
interested in checking  
out this group,  
contact Amanda Bell  
at  
[bell@waisman.wisc.edu](mailto:bell@waisman.wisc.edu)



**Steven – Likes to go bowling**





## *the Oh, Yah's...*

### To place a Connections Ad

#### Submit Connections Ads to:

Amber M. Jensen  
122 E Olin Ave STE 100  
Madison WI 53713  
Phone: (608) 263-0271  
Email: [jensen@Waisman.Wisc.Edu](mailto:jensen@Waisman.Wisc.Edu)

### 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.

Amber Jensen has agreed to serve as Interim Editor until posting and selection of a permanent editor occurs in the near future.

### Please Send Your Stories, Comments & Suggestions

Contributions, comments and suggestions are encouraged and may be directed to:

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**CHOICES** newsletters are available on-line at  
<http://cow.waisman.wisc.edu>  
Web versions do not include Connections ads or Transitions information.

**CHOICES Newsletter** is published semi-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:

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## CHOICES Newsletter



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