

# CHOICES

Vol 9 No. 3 - Summer- 08 WEB VERSION-Corrected

A Quarterly Newsletter about Self-Determination in Dane County



Hi, my name is Catherine Clodius. I am a new reporter for the Choices Newsletter. My family is extremely important to me and I am a deep lover of Boxer dogs. I am interested in reading, listening to classical music, watching TV and spending time on my computer.

I am interested in how the budget impacts the consumers and families and I am also interested in the human side and how that impacts upon the families.

## Catherine Asks the Burning Questions

### MARC RES/RAC Director Suzanne Hanson on Budget Cuts

by Catherine Clodius

I had the honor of sitting down and talking to Suzanne Hanson who is the Center Director of MARC/Responsive Employment Services and the Retirement and Arts Center. Suzanne had worked with individuals with disabilities for 25 years and has worked in Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin. Suzanne has been with MARC for 11 years. Some of the responsibilities that Suzanne has are budget, hiring, and supervising staff and the general operations of the programs.

I asked Suzanne how the budget cuts have affected serving the consumers and was told that services to individuals have really changed and they used to do whatever it takes to make an individual successful in the employment field but Suzanne now has to see if RES can really afford to do it. Each individual has a SDS budget and RES must really try hard to keep with in that set budget. It used to be that consumers and staff could meet to talk over how things are going

but now that isn't always possible and more emailing is done but with that course you can lose the tone of whatever communication is being sent. The final area that is being affected is job development and the job market has really changed over the past 5 years or so and staff positions have been cut.

Suzanne is the co-chair of the SEPC (Supported Employment Providers Coalition) and this is a sub-committee of the DD Coalition in Dane County. Other agency directors are experiencing similar difficulties. Because of these cuts agencies have lost staff and job development is really suffering. It is hard to retain staff when you can't give raises and it's harder to recruit staff.

RES has a self employment program and six individuals have started their own businesses. There is Bob Hanneman who does artwork, Aleta Marie who sells Fair Trade Coffee and Tea, Mrs Bow Wowz biscuits, Sassy D's jewelry, Kelly's

(See Catherine Asks, p. 2)

## "All Shook Up" with Bus Abouts

by Cindy Wegner

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, Julie Schmid and I went to All Shook Up with Bus Abouts. Bus Abouts is part of MSCR. We took a bus to the Armory in Janesville. We ate first. We had three choices for dinner and all the drinks you want. The choices were chicken, ribs or lasagna.

The Armory was an art museum that is now turned into a restaurant and theater. It has a patio and regular restaurant as well as the theater one.

Then we saw the play at one o'clock. All Shook Up has Elvis Presley songs acted out by the singers. There was also an orchestra. They acted things out like scenes from Elvis movies.

One was a gas station scene and another was a Greyhound Bus Scene. We left at 4:30pm to return to Madison.



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## Custom Cards

by Jeffrey Johnson

I interviewed Laura W., Kristina H., and Leda T. I think that nine clients who came together to create beautiful handcrafted cards would make a lot of people very happy so I thought it would be very good to put in the Choices Newsletter.

### Who do you work for?

I work for Community Support Network, it is a Vocational Agency in Madison that helps adults with disabilities find jobs and work opportunities in the Madison Community.

### When did this Support Network get started?

The Community Support Network launched in July of 2007. They called it the Community Card Project. It consists of a revolving group of adults with varying abilities. There are nine participating clients who came together to create beautiful handcrafted cards.

### Who are they working with?

There are nine participating clients collaborating with CSN staff in designing the cards. They go on to implement their designs by working together in a group setting in our newly created card production room.

### What do they do with the cards?

When all the cards are completed the clients then have the opportunity to go out in the community and sell their cards to individuals and to retail stores. We currently feel like we have a well established and very good cooperative relationship with several established retail stores like Orange Tree Imports, Absolutely Art, Indus Beads, Anthology, Community Pharmacy, Capitol Kids and Café Zoma.

### Who was this card project designed for?

This card project was designed to give our clients the opportunity to express themselves artistically while at the same time earn fair wages.

### What kind of cards do they make?

The clients that work here also do custom work for people who need matching items like invitations and place cards and tags. They also make thank you cards for weddings, birthdays, and showers.

### How do they feel?

They are very pleased with the outcomes of their project. The clients working in the card production room have been learning some new skills. They have also been learning how to be social with each other and make their relationship stronger in the community.

## Please Share Your Newsletters

We're sending out one newsletter per household. We're hoping that you all don't mind cooperating and sharing your CHOICES newsletter with your roommates if you have them. This will help us save paper, trees and eventually the planet! If you have questions about this, please contact Stefanie at 263-5557. Thanks everyone!!

## East Side Women's Games Group

UCP is restarting our East Side Women's Games Group this fall. We meet on the first Monday of each month at 3 p.m. at the coffee shop inside Borders Bookstore near East Towne Mall. The group runs from 3 to 4 p.m. We will bring an assortment of games to play each week. Since the first Monday in September is Labor Day, we will meet on **September 8th**. For more information, please contact Matt Jahnke at 273-8482 ext. 515.

## Catherine Asks, continued from p. 1

cards and Jeff's Soda and Sweets business. Self employment is really designed for people who want to do something on their own. There is a wonderful future for self-employment for some individuals but it's not for everyone and it is really hard getting a business off the ground.

I would like to talk about the RAC (Retirement & Arts Center) which was started when a staff member saw a need for individuals who have a disability as they aged. A grant was written to the Helen Bader Foundation and they gave a grant of \$25,000 to remodel vacant space. The program was originally meant for people with Alzheimer's and dementia. The individuals who spend time there have a lot of fun, including this reporter who had to retire from the Walgreen's Distribution Warehouse because I could not physically handle the heavy lifting of boxes. My friends and I go to the Zoo, to coffeehouses and to various outings in the community. I would like to say we have so much fun and I know that for me I have met many nice new friends and staff and feel that by attending the RAC it has been a true gift and a blessing.

I did ask one final question to Suzanne and that was if money were not the issue what would you do for people with disabilities, and her answer was everyone that wanted to work could and to earn as much money as possible and lastly to make dreams come true.

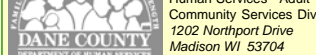
## Dates to Remember:

To join the Choices Team or ideas for Choices Stories . . . . . by August 22, call or e-mail Stefanie at 263-5557, or [primm@waisman.wisc.edu](mailto:primm@waisman.wisc.edu)

2nd Annual Fashion Show . . . . . (p 5) Wed August 20, 6:30-8:30 pm

INFOShare . . . . . (p 5) Friday, Sept 12, 9:30am - 3 pm

People First Dane . . . . . (p 6) July and August meetings combined: Friday August 8 Warner Park, 5 pm picnic, 7 pm Mallards game. Contact Stefanie at 263-5557 by July 18 if you will attend.



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

Regular PF meeting on September 16 at 5:30 pm at 122 E Olin Suite 100

## Catherine Asks the Burning Questions, Part 2

### Self Directed Services Coordinator Eric Miller on Support Brokers and the Broker Fair

by Catherine Clodius

Just recently I had the chance to sit down and talk with Eric Miller who is the SDS Coordinator for Dane County. I wanted to get some information on the Support Broker system in Dane County. Here is what I learned. Dane County provides its services to adults within the DD System. Support Brokers systems are based on the principals of Self-Determination.

Every year there is a Broker fair so that high school graduates and their parents can sit down and interview a Support Broker. After the interview is done the graduate and their parents will decide to hire a broker but if not then the graduate and their parents are given additional resumes to read over.

I then asked Eric how the budget cuts are affecting the Support Brokers and he said that basically you do more with less money. A few years ago the Support Brokers had 20 consumers on their caseloads and now it's 25 consumers. Support Brokers try and find new ways to help their consumers like having a Sound Response System or having consumers living with a roommate. Basically what it boils down to is Support Brokers need to find creative ways to do more with fewer funds.

I also asked how often do consumers change their brokers and was told that some consumers don't feel the need to change their brokers but that others sometimes

do find the need to make a change. If that is the case Dane County would like consumers to be with their new brokers for 6 months up to 1 year to see how the relationship works.

I asked Eric what the job description for a Support Broker is and would like to give you a couple of items that they are responsible for.

- (1) Support Brokers need to understand how to complete financial paperwork;
- (2) Review of the Dane County Abuse and Neglect;
- (3) Attend "Power and Control: How to Use it Respectfully";
- (4) Understanding of Person Centered Planning techniques;
- (5) Understanding financial and health care benefits.

Support Brokers need to attend trainings throughout the year and to receive periodic County information updates.

I would like to give you a couple of Websites regarding the future of Family Care here in Wisconsin.  
<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/LTCare/INDEX.HTM>  
<http://www.danecountyhumanservices.org/longterm.htm>



## A Horse Named Remington

by Dora Norland and Diane Christoph

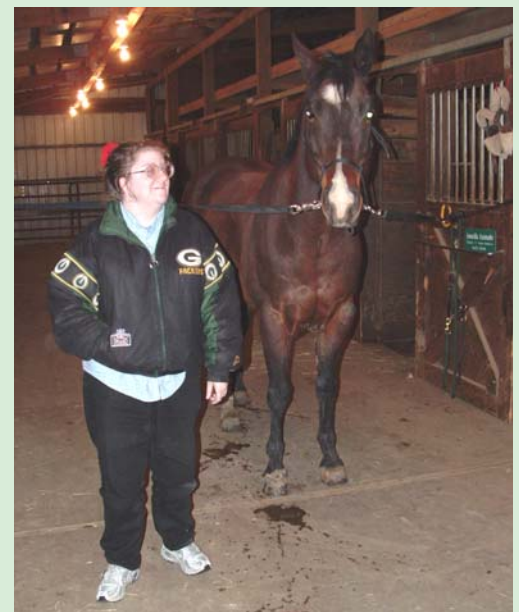
Diane and I had a chance to go to the Phoenix Training Center to meet a horse named Remington and his owner, Blair. Remington is a ten-year-old horse and is a Quarterhorse mix. Blair has had Remington for four years.

Remington eats hay, grain and carrots. Remington is brushed 3 times a week. He spends his day outside and all horses at the stable come in at 3:00 in the afternoon to eat and stay in their stalls for the night. Horses like a consistent routine, just like cats and dogs.

It takes a lot of work to take care of a horse. Blair comes out a couple of times a week to ride and train her horse. It's important to take lessons to learn how to ride a horse and to learn to teach your horse new things. Remington goes to training sessions too! When Blair can't get out to see her horse, the staff at the stable takes care of Remington. They feed him, brush him, clean out his stall and see that he gets outside for exercise and fresh air.

Remington has to see the veterinarian 4-6 times a year; this includes getting his teeth cleaned!! The vet comes out to the stable to see Remington. It would be hard to take a horse to the vet's office! He also has his hooves trimmed every 6 weeks by a person called a farrier. Remington is a busy guy!

Diane and I had a lot of fun seeing all the horses and we also saw a baby horse, called a foal. I took lots of pictures!!







## Dane County *Disaster Assistance Registry*

by Jeffrey Johnson

There is a new program in Dane County called the Disaster Assistance Voluntary Registry. They will help provide more resources during a disaster for people with disabilities. No one can predict when a disaster will happen but people with a disability can plan ahead by having supply kits on hand when a disaster does happen.

The Disaster Assistance Voluntary Registry program works with Dane County Emergency Management. Dane County wants to have as many people with disabilities register as possible. They will have a computer database with all of the person's important information in it. They will update their information once per year. You can choose to have your name taken off the list at any time. This information can only be used by the disaster responders that manage the data base.

Before there is a disaster you can find information on what to do in different disasters by looking at their website at <http://www.countyofdane.com/ems/> (and scroll down to Disaster Assistance Voluntary Registry link), or by phone at 608-266-4330.

The Red Cross has a check list for what you might need if a disaster happens. You can go to the Red Cross website where you can buy a disaster kit or get information about survival kits. Their website is [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) and you can also go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) to get information.

I looked on the Red Cross website and looked at one of disaster kits. Some of the items in it were a personal hygiene comfort kit (includes shampoo/body wash, washcloth, toothpaste, comb, and deodorant) and a First Aid and Emergency Preparedness Guide.

### REM Wisconsin - New Address!

**As of June 2<sup>nd</sup> REM's new location is:  
2005 W. Beltline Hwy, Suite #100  
Madison, WI 53713**

**The REM Wisconsin State Office is now at:  
2005 W. Beltline Hwy, Suite #203  
Madison, WI 53713**

**REM's phone numbers remain the same:  
276-0102 for reception,  
276-9209 for direct extensions**

## Severe Weather & Tornado Tips

by Sandy Nelson, Weather Spotter for Dane County Emergency Management

- Stay away from windows during severe weather!!
- Go into a safe place like a basement or lower level.
- Severe thunderstorms can cause tornados.
- STAY INDOORS!!
- If you have to go outside, watch out for falling debris or winds picking up because those are signs of tornados.
- Be alert for large hail, which often comes with tornados and thunderstorms.
- Cloud to ground lightening (CG) is dangerous, stay down low and make yourself as small as you can if you are caught outside during a thunderstorm.
- Tornados are most common during April – September but they can happen anytime of the year. For example, Walworth County had a tornado January 7, 2008.
- Tornados can happen at any time of day, most commonly 3pm-9pm.
- Everyone should have a weather alert radio to stay informed about severe weather that is approaching their area. They can be portable or stationary.
- If you don't have a weather radio, stay tuned to radio or tv during severe weather so that you know if an alert, watch or a warning are occurring currently.
- A watch means that conditions are favorable for a tornado to form, or for severe weather.
- A warning is when a tornado or severe storm has been spotted or seen on radar.
- Tornados, flash floods and severe thunderstorms can be deadly.
- Do not drive down streets that are under water during a storm, turn around and go a different way.
- Flooding is more likely near lakes, streams or rivers.
- Tornados have a tendency to and do jump over water.
- Water spouts are water based tornados and can cause the same damage and destruction as a tornado when they reach land.
- Hurricanes cause flooding when they come on land, for example Hurricane Katrina in 2005 caused severe flooding in New Orleans.
- Hurricane season is usually May-November.
- Tornados are miniature hurricanes.
- If you are out walking and see very dark clouds, be extremely careful because that could be a sign that thunderstorms or tornados are heading your way.
- The sky often looks greenish when conditions are ripe for a tornado, so if the sky looks green head inside and stay on the lower level away from windows.

# SAVE THESE DATES!

## Infoshare Presents: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fashion Show for All Abilities *Fashion Is for Everyone*

Wednesday August 20, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
Madison Concourse Hotel, Madison  
Hosted by Jonathan Suttin, Triple M Radio



Questions?  
Contact Rachel Weingarten  
[weingarten@waisman.wisc.edu](mailto:weingarten@waisman.wisc.edu)  
(608) 890-0777

Fashion is for everyone. That means taking care of and feeling good about your self every day. We'll talk about what this means and how you can do it in your life. See the latest fall fashions from participating retailers. The evening will also include a surprise makeover!

**Tickets: \$3**

### Participating Retailers:

Deb, Lane Bryant, Maurices, Suzen Sez, Catherine's, Mens Wearhouse,  
Atelier – Art to Wear, Wild Child, Katy's American Indian Arts, A  
Woman's Touch, Madison West Target, Heavenly Hats

*Thank You!*

Please RSVP to:  
James Mulder-Philyaw  
[comm.training@waisman.wisc.edu](mailto:comm.training@waisman.wisc.edu)  
(608) 265-9440 ext. 440  
Online: [cow.waisman.wisc.edu](http://cow.waisman.wisc.edu)

### KEYNOTE BY CHERI MAPLES

Cheri's rich work history includes: Assistant Attorney General for the Wisconsin Dept. of Justice; the top administrator in the Division of Community Corrections for the State of Wisconsin and a police officer for 20 years with the Madison Police Department. Before becoming a police officer, Cheri worked as a community organizer. She worked extensively in neighborhood centers, a deferred prosecution program, in domestic violence programs, and was the first Director of the Wisconsin Coalition against Domestic Violence.

## INFOSHARE: A COMMUNITY POTLUCK

Friday, September 12  
9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Olin-Turville Park, Madison

**BRING A DISH  
& ATTEND FOR FREE!**

*Party subs provided by  
Training & Consultation*

If your last name begins with

**A-H:** Bring a Salad

**I-P:** Bring a Dessert

**Q-Z:** Bring a Side Dish

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

\* An excerpt from "Found Money",  
a new play from Encore!

**5 CEH**

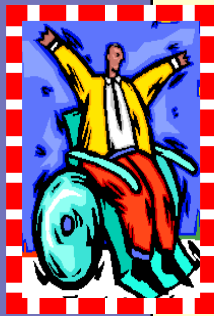
\* Real ways you can get involved in your community

\* Get out and vote! *Peter Leidy and Joe Parisi*

\* Games for all!

Sign up online: <http://cow.waisman.wisc.edu> Call/Email James Mulder-Philyaw,  
(608) 265-9440 ext. 440, ; [comm.training@waisman.wisc.edu](mailto:comm.training@waisman.wisc.edu)

PEOPLE  
FIRST  
of  
DANE  
COUNTY



For the summer, July and August meetings will be combined to one: Friday, August 8 at Warner Park. A Potluck Picnic will start at 5:00 pm and watch a Mallards game at 7:00. If you will attend please contact Stefanie Primm at 263-5557, or e-mail: [primm@waisman.wisc.edu](mailto:primm@waisman.wisc.edu) by Friday, July 18.

September 16 5:30 - 7:00 Regular meeting at 122 E Olin Avenue Suite 100

## What is a Co-Op & Why is it Good?

by Jeffrey Johnson

I talked with Margaret Bau, cooperative development specialist with USDA Rural Development in Wisconsin, about co-ops or cooperatives. They are a very special kind of business where people come together and share control. The members create their own rules and decide what benefits they get as a member. All members have one vote. By having a vote it makes you part owner of that co-op. By being part owner you help make the choices and decisions.

Sharing decision-making is good because each member brings new ideas and the more members you have the more power your co-op will have. It is good to share control of your own business. It is what makes it fun. It is open to everyone who can use the services that are provided and who will accept responsibilities of membership.

It is good to learn from other members that are part of the co-op. The Union Cab company is run by its members. It is called a Worker Co-op. The Willy Street Co-op is called a Consumer Co-op.

There are usually co-op meetings for most co-ops out there. Usually, you have a choice to go or not to go to the meetings. There is a very good reason to go to the meetings. The more meetings you go to, the more you will know about co-ops. Also you will learn how they are run and by whom.

Co-ops are alike and also different than the SDS/self determination movement. Co-ops and SDS both give people with disabilities control. They both give you choices with group support.

The difference between Co-ops and SDS is that people with disabilities aren't connected or making decisions together with SDS. In co-ops decisions are shared by the

people with and without disabilities. They decide things together, share resources and are connected together.

If you want to learn more about co-ops here is what I did. I interviewed Margaret Bau and I also read some information I got from my co-worker Amanda on co-ops. I also read about co-ops on the web. Margaret also gave me a DVDs to watch about co-ops.

## Quality Assurance Board Works on Improving Services

Are you interested in quality services? Do you worry about staff training and turnover? Do you have ideas on improving services?

The Quality Assurance Board is working on these issues. At the April meeting, a young man who has residential services talked about his challenges with staff. His staff time has been reduced due to budget cuts. The committee discussed how to use the time he has with staff in ways that he wants it to be used. The man left the meeting with specific ideas on improving his situation.

In May, we discussed with some agency workers the same problems from their point of view. Workers have less time to do things with people. They also are interested in how to use the time in a way that is most useful to the people they support.

The Quality Assurance Board is always looking for new members. Please consider joining us to improve services for everyone. If you would like to come to a meeting and talk about your services, you can call Maya Fairchild at 242-6466.

Dream

Create

Cooperate

## Using Networks & Cooperatives to Create Opportunities for People with Disabilities & Their Families

Join us as we learn from each other and begin to create new opportunities for people with disabilities in Wisconsin.


Friday, July 11  
11:45am to 8:30pm

Saturday, July 12  
9:00am to 12:30pm

For more information about this Co-op event please contact Amanda Bell at 890-0776 or [bell@waisman.wisc.edu](mailto:bell@waisman.wisc.edu)



**Meet New Board**



**President**  
**Tracy**  
**Woehrle**

**at The Arc-Dane County**  
by Jeffrey Johnson

**Question: When did you join the Arc?**

**Tracy:** They actually invited me to become a board member back about 5 or 6 years ago. I was too busy to do anything at that point in time. They kept on asking me every time went to their house to do things like with Special Olympics and at parties and they finally convinced me to come on board. I joined Arc Dane County when I felt I had the time, because is an agency helping advocate change for people with disabilities in the community.

**When did you become a member of the Arc?**

I think it was about 2006 when I became a board member.

**What Is the Arc?**

The Arc of Dane County is really an advocacy agency that wants to promote community in and all over Dane County for people with disabilities. It is for everybody put together and advocating for change but make sure that people with disabilities are included in that community.

**Why do you like working for the Arc?**


Because it is a worthy cause. My biggest thing now is to promote Arc so more people can find out available services that the Arc provides for the community.

**Do you enjoy your job?**

We will see if I enjoy my job as President. I have enjoyed myself as a board member the last few years.



**Meet New Executive Director**



**Paul**  
**Yochum**

**at The Arc-Dane County**  
by Jeffrey Johnson

I interviewed Paul Yochum from the Arc-Dane County about his job at the Arc. Paul is a part-time employee for The Arc-Dane County starting on January 1, 2008.

The Arc-Dane County is an advocacy organization that works with individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Paul handles a lot of information and referral calls pertaining to parents wanting information about community services for their son or daughter. The Arc-Dane County's mission is we work to ensure that all children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families are offered the same opportunities, choices, rights and respect that you or I would receive.

Paul became a board member of Arc-Dane County in 1985, serving as chair of the fundraising committee, moving on to Vice President of Development, and then six years as President from 1998- 2004. Paul's first knowledge of the Arc, in general, was back when Paul worked for the State of Iowa as a vocational rehabilitation counselor in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Paul remembers that The Arc-Iowa state executive director gave a presentation to statewide counseling staff about what the Arc does. That director, Helen Henderson, made a great impact on Paul about the need for advocacy. That has stuck with Paul ever since!

Paul wanted to be a part of that advocacy not only for his work (with the national office) but as a volunteer and on behalf of his youngest daughter. His daughter, Sara became disabled in 1982 at age 5 1/2 with a rare seizure disorder.

Arc-Dane County annually sponsors two county-wide social events for individuals with disabilities, the Halloween party and the Winter ball. Over 300 attendees come out to these events each year! In the past Arc-Dane County has sponsored a number of educational workshops pertaining to guardianship and special education topics. Our web site at [www.arcdanecounty.org](http://www.arcdanecounty.org) has an attorney listing for people to call for additional guardianship information. The board of directors is looking to expand the Arc-Dane County's educational seminar topics to include more financial planning, i.e. benefits counseling.

The Arc-Dane County is Paul's passion. Paul likes to spread the word to the county and to the general public and elected officials information about what individuals with disabilities can do. Paul feels that it is important to take a stand on issues like the Arc does. Then we convey those stances to the appropriate audience, whether that is for education, employment, community living, social functions, or the county budget process. Paul knows first hand (with his daughter as an example) what The Arc has done to help her strive to be a full citizen of Dane County.

Paul enjoys his job very much. It is nice to wake up in the morning and want to come to work. And when you are passionate about something, it is not really a job. Paul does it because Paul enjoys it. Paul is a lucky guy to be able to work for The Arc-Dane County.

# Doin' R Thing

## Social Group

by Jeffrey Johnson

I interviewed Jerry Donnell about his Social Group called Doin' R Thing. These are the things I found out about what his group does. If you want more information about the group check out their website at [www.doinrthing.org](http://www.doinrthing.org)

### **How did your group get started?**

**Jerry:** Doin' R Thing began when a group of friends were looking for things to do together in addition to what Special Olympics offered. Six of them got together as a team and joined a regular bowling league. Other teams followed and we eventually began our own league of challenged adults. We bowl on Wednesday nights and the name of the league is Doin' R Thing.

### **Who can join your group?**

I am just a friend that is putting together a social group for people with disabilities and without disabilities to get together and have some fun. The group is called Doin' R Thing. I am trying really hard to get as many people involved as I can. The more people I can get to do various activities the better.

### **What day do your activities fall on?**

That all depends on the activity that the group does. We have a bowling league that all of us put together with some of our other friends on Wednesday nights. We also do some high school activities and some college activities like going to some UW Basketball games.

### **What activities do you like to do?**

I think this a good way to get people out of the house on a nice, sunny day and meet up with some friends to do things they like to do with each other. I like going to baseball games and races in the Wisconsin Dells.

### **Who decides when and where and time and place to have it?**

We can meet weekly or even monthly. It all comes down to what we have planned for the activity that day will makes sure that everyone has a say in what the event will be.

# Encore's New Play, "Found Money," is very funny!

by Jeffrey Johnson

There is a group called Encore Studio for the Performing Arts. They were putting on a play at the Bartell Theater in Madison. It was called "Found Money." The director Kelsy Schoenhaar welcomed everyone to the show. Kelsy was playing on the guitar and she was also in charge of the Scene, Lighting & Sound Design. Encore is a group of people with disabilities that like to do acting.

The actors in the play were Dawn Cieszynski played Lori, Cara E Peterson played Meg, D.J. Moore played Wayne, Christy Stadele played Annie, Randy Sands Played James, Sarah Schoenhaar played Kat, Corin Reilly played Detective O'Malley, Steve Miller played District Attorney, Wendy Prosis played the defense attorney, Bill Freeman played the Bailiff, and Sarah Luedtke played the Judge.

One day Lori got some mail and her disability check was in there. The disability check she gets usually is very small. But when she opened the mail she said holy crap several times. Lori could not believe her eyes. The check was made out to her for \$38,000. She heard a knock on her door and it was her friend Wayne who came over to see her. She told him that she got her disability check in the mail. She said it was for \$38,000. Then Wayne was texting friends and she asked him who he was texting. Wayne said no one.

Later someone was knocking on her door again and she thought would be her friend Wayne. It was not her friend Wayne. It was Annie and her PWD (People with disabilities) mafia gang. Annie and her friends came on over and demanded that she should give them \$30,000.

The next day Lori said to Meg that she was going to the police. Meg asked what happened. Meg told Lori if you don't tell me what happened I can't help because she didn't want to take the rap for it. Meg told Lori that she will try to get the best attorney she could find. The very next day they all



went to court. Detective O'Malley and the District Attorney asked the people from the PWD to tell the truth they said they would. Here is their story: We were sitting in the coffee shop drinking their hot cocoa when this mean girl with sticks came along. She said would hit us if we did not give the money back. Their attorney said she was lying. Now it was Lori's turn to tell the truth. She said almost the same thing they said, that she was in same coffee shop when these guys came up to her and ask her to hand over the money to them now.

I don't want to give away how they play ended but it was a very funny play. I really recommend that you and your friends go see it. I think all of the actors did a great job playing their roles. There wasn't a thing they to do a better job then they did that night.

## Young Adult Group

The Young Adult group is a group of twenty-somethings that get together every month. They have a leadership team that plans each event. Here is what Greg Burrill, one of the leaders, had to say about the group:

"I want to say that our group is getting along with each other well and I think of things we did so far, like dinner and a movie and we made a meal together and watched "Wish Upon a Star." We also went to the movie "College Road Trip" and Pizzeria Uno for dinner. I think that we can get better if we can talk one at a time at the meetings and come up with new ideas as a group."

For more information contact Stefanie Primm at 263-5557 or [primm@waisman.wisc.edu](mailto:primm@waisman.wisc.edu)



# ARTWorking

by Jeffrey Johnson

I met with Lance Owens and learned about ArtWorking. The first thing he did was offer a tour of the building. He showed us where some of the artists work and what kind of work they do. ArtWorking Studios is a professional program for people with developmental disabilities and offers trainings by other artists.

Small Businesses can come in and rent out a space and use equipment at the ArtWorking Studios. It is hard to get the information out about the space that is available to people with disabilities and without disabilities. Right now ArtWorking works with six Artists and 5 Businesses. Lance has been working with Arts for All. Arts for All has an art gallery night in the spring and fall.

Phil Porter started to do art when he was about 32 years old. He was not doing so good selling his paintings but found the outlet for his art at the Escape art gallery and coffee house. He sells cups, cards, magnets, and t-shirts.

Phil Porter said "I like this kind of work because I find art relaxing." Phil said that he struggles with his paint

brushes and getting them all the way clean. The brushes can get stiff when he wants to go back and use the brushes again but needs to find a better way to clean his brushes. He said, "I love to make money for selling my art."

Phil met Lance by getting to know his wife though Very Special Arts. Lance and Phil have been working together on a one on one basis. Lance took Phil up to Kohler Wisconsin to sell some of Phil's art.

Phil says, "I have been doing art since I was at Southern Wisconsin Center where I did some painting and needlepoint work at Marc Center, and paintings at Madison Opportunity Center and at Very Special Arts. I sell my art at fairs and at Warner Park. My friend Patti got me started painting."

You can buy Phil's artwork. He sells all the key chains for \$2.50 per piece. The coffee cups are the best deal. You can buy 4 for \$6.95 each. The magnets sell well, they are four dollars. Phil sells them at Conferences.

# Chris Celebrates Ten Years at Econoprint

by Jeffrey Johnson

Chris Harrison works at Econoprint in Verona. How did Chris find this job? Chris's mom knew a job developer named Stacy Griff. She had worked with her before. That is how Chris found this job. She brought the job idea to Chris's team.

Chris likes working at Econoprint. He likes his co-workers. He likes it because he also gets support from his co-workers and his boss and because he gets to move around a lot. Chris says they pay him very well. Chris works on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Chris's job coach is Bob. They work together to break down 50 to 100 boxes every day. When they are done they fold them up and bring them to the dumpster. Chris and Bob have worked there for 10 years.

To celebrate Chris's 10 years of employment they took Chris out for pizza at Rocky Rococo party pizzeria on the Eastside. They give Chris a \$200 gift card. Kathy Hillenbrand from Econoprint got the Employer of the year award this year from Arc of Dane County.

# ON THE STREET INTERVIEWS and photos . . .

. . . by Dora Norland



Dan

**“John Kennedy’s  
Biography”**



Ann Marie

**“Any book by  
Cassie Edwards”**

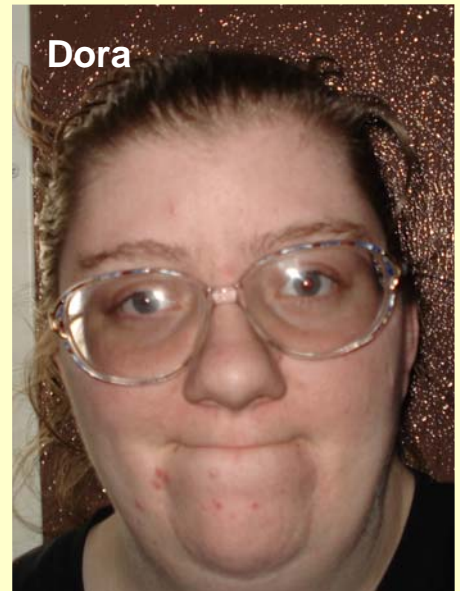
**What  
is  
your  
favorite  
book?**



Cindy

**“Harry Potter”**

These people  
are all  
members of a  
book club.



Dora

**“Harry Potter”**



Emma

**“I read a lot of books  
about politics”**

**A book club** is a group of people who read the same book and then get together to discuss it. A book club has about 5 members and they meet as often as they want, some meet monthly, others weekly.

**Want to start a book club?** Get a group of friends together and come up with a list of books you would like to read, then vote on which one to read first.



# the Oh, Yah's...

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## Please Send Your Stories, Comments & Suggestions.

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

CHOICES newsletters are available on-line at

<http://cow.waisman.wisc.edu>

Web versions do not include Connections ads or Transitions information.

The next issue of CHOICES will be out in October, '08. Contact the editor with your ideas for articles before August 22, 2008.

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:

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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>

