



CHOICES

A Quarterly
Newsletter
about
Self-Determination
in Dane County

Vol. 10 No. 4
December 2009 - WEB VERSION

The Cats Who Found a Home for Christmas

by Dora Norland and Diane Christoph

Announcement

Our next reporters
get-together is a
White Elephant
Gift Exchange and
dinner at Perkins
on the East side
from 5-6:30 on
December 11.

The address for that
Perkins is 4863
Hayes Rd, Madison

Announcement

See p 9
for Winter Ball
info and
ticket form

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Dora and Chris

Chris and Max are two lucky cats who found a home for Christmas. Andrea adopted Max at the end of November 1995. She adopted Chris in December 1996 and named him Christopher, in honor of Christmas.

Chris and Max were lucky to find a home. Many cats don't have a home. Some are surrendered, or given up, like Max was and left at the Humane Society or other shelters. There are many reasons that cats are

surrendered; research lists many reasons for surrendering a cat. Ten reasons why cats are surrendered to shelters are:

1] there are too many cats in the house, 2] there are allergies in the family, 3] the owner is moving, 4] the owner can't afford to take care of them, 5] a landlord does not allow pets, 6] a cat doesn't use its litterbox, 7] the owner has personal problems like illness and is incapable of taking care of them, 8] the cat doesn't get along with other pets, 9] no time to spend with the animal, and 10] the family is having a baby.

Unlike Max, Chris was a stray; he was found by one of Andrea's coworkers, who brought Chris to work with

See p 4,
Dora's Pet Corner

From Pet-Lover to Business Owner

by Jeffrey Johnson

Amy Gunsolus is the owner of Tasha's Love Treats. This was Amy's hobby that she turned into a business. She started Tasha's Love Treats two years ago. She wanted to go out on her own and run her own business. She really loves her cat, Tasha, and that's why she named her business Tasha's Love Treats.

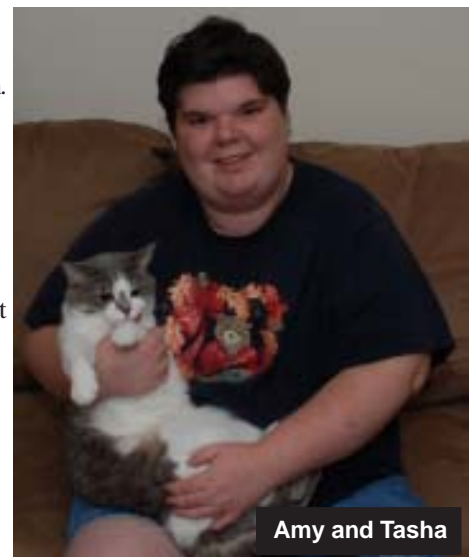
Tasha's Love Treats are homemade pet treats. The pet snacks are made in Amy's kitchen and she sells them in small batches. To order treats, call her at 608- 442-5294 ext.

401 or go to her website

www.tashaslovetreats.com.

Amy sells Love Treats for cats, dogs, horses and birds. Dog treats are the most popular. All varieties cost about \$5 per bag. Charity, Amy's support broker, helps run her own business out of her apartment in Stoughton.

See p 4,
Tasha's Treats



Amy and Tasha

DAN SEZ



Dan Rossiter is the Manager of Developmental Disabilities Services at Dane County Human Services



Well, folks this is my last “Dan Sez”. I’m going to retire at the end of the year, after a mere 22 ½ years here at the County. During that time, I have been witness to an extraordinary growth in our system of support to folks with developmental disabilities, although it certainly hasn’t been without its difficulties. Between rules that don’t seem to make a great deal of sense, the rising and falling of our economy and trying to do more with less, there has been a bunch of challenges. But what remains a constant, is our shared vision that all people are vital, integral components of community and our continued search to make that real.

Now I could go on about all the changes I’ve seen, but that’d be pretty boring. So, I’ll spare you all that. However, if you do have trouble getting to sleep at night, send for your copy of The Dan Lectures: Lessons Learned over the Past 22 ½ Years, available soon on 14 compact discs. A sample from disc #1: “Love is an awesome thing. Beauty is a blossom. If you want your finger bit, just poke it at a possum.” Thought provoking, isn’t it? Words to live by.

Back to that vision thing. It is what brought me and my wife to Madison in the first place. We wanted to be someplace where instead of asking “can a particular creative thing be done?” the question was “how can this creative thing be done? And how soon?” Dane County has been and will continue to be the most innovative, thoughtful system anywhere. No matter what path it takes...Family Care, IRIS...no matter what.

It is hard not to sound trite here because words can seldom express deep and true feelings, but it has been a privilege and a pleasure working with everyone who reads this newsletter and all the people who should.

And I hope and plan to continue to be part of realizing our shared vision. So, I’ll see ya around.

Respectfully yours,

Dan

P.S. I should also mention that Monica Bear got the short straw and will be filling my position on an interim basis

Magician, Singer Stuart Stotts & Open House

People First Stoughton



See our [dAbility](#)

People First Stoughton will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of People First Wisconsin with an open house on Sunday December 6th from 11AM to 3 PM at 154 E Main (former Stolen Heart). We are people with various abilities that have come together to advocate for ourselves. Stop by and see what we have been up to and meet some of our members. We will be having a singer song writer Stuart Stotts, a magician, cake, refreshments and a special recognition of some people that have made significant contributions for people living with a disability.

People First of Dane County Celebrate People First Wisconsin 10th Anniversary

WHEN:	December 10, 6:30-9:00
WHERE:	James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Church, 2146 E. Johnson St. Madison WI
WHO SHOULD COME:	Self-advocates, supporters of self-advocates, support staff, agency staff, county managers
WHAT:	Dinner, Awards, Cake, Dance, Raffle prizes
FOOD:	Sandwiches and snacks
COST:	Tickets are \$5 – reserve ticket by calling Stefanie at 263-5557
AWARDS:	People First of WI Award: Waisman Outreach; Jed Buza Award: Dan Remick

Color of a Spectrum

by Cindy Wegner

On a Wednesday in August, Open Doors Studio had their art exhibit at the City County Building. There were a lot of paintings for sale. There were also snacks.

A schoolteacher bought my painting for \$40. She bought a Joe Wahler painting a few years ago and has been coming to the Open Doors art exhibit ever since. Open Doors Studio is part of VSA Arts of Wisconsin.



Waisman Craft Workshops

by Cindy Wegner

Rachel Weingarten arranged craft workshops at the Waisman Outreach Center. At the first workshop, we made cards. At the second workshop we made Halloween decorations. The next workshop, we will be working on Thanksgiving decorations. The one after that will be Christmas crafts. Mary Ellen teaches the classes. Each class costs \$5 and all materials are included.

SEEING BLINDLY

by Dale Buttke

I was seeing things regularly
And life took me not too seriously
Meaning that I started feeling blinded
From the glare from off the snow, I got blinded.

From the early 80's, I had to wear sunglasses,
Even when the skies were cloudy, I swear
And if that wasn't enough,
Black spots were too tough.
And then came a miracle pill
I had to take, so I won't be ill.

And so, being snow blinded
I had to wear prescription sunglasses
Even when it's a cloudy day
People go by and look at me and say
"Why can't that guy see today?"
But I have to wear them anyway
I don't care what they say
Even when it's sunny or cloudy
I wear sunglasses for my eyes.

YMCA Holiday Art Expo

Local artists with disabilities
display their paintings
and useful decorative ceramics.
Featuring work by
Fulton Dam, Dan Stace and more!
Items will be
available for purchase.

Thursday, December 10
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Lussier Family East YMCA
711 Cottage Grove Rd

www.ymcadanecounty.org
608-221-1571

DORA'S PET CORNER

(continued from page 1)

her. He found a home with Andrea.

When you find a stray you don't know their background, whether they once had a home or anything about why they are a stray. Some strays have lived much of their life without a home, trying to find food and shelter on their own. Research mentions that many strays are lost pets that were not kept indoors or provided with identification tags where you list the owner, phone numbers and other important information. Without this there is no way to contact the owner. It's not that hard to get identification tags for your pet. Look at your nearest store for machines that make ID tags for cats and dogs. Cats can also be microchipped to provide this information.

Max and Chris were adopted when they both were about 6-8 months old. Max was adopted first. Andrea already had a cat and a dog at that time. Chris

was adopted the next year. This meant she had to make sure that they all got along. When she brought one home she kept it separated in its own room. She could spend time to get to know them and they could get to know her. After awhile she introduced them to each other so they'd get to know each other. She always supervised them and was there for them so they learned to trust each other and her.

Luckily all the cats and the dog got along over time. We asked Andrea if Max and Chris had changed since their adoption. Max hadn't changed much, Andrea said, but Chris became mellower and not so rambunctious. They've become good friends. Max is now 14 and Chris is 13. They've spent most of their life together.

Andrea said that what she likes about Max is his soft fur, his communications in 'cat language'. Max can also open doors with his paws. What she likes about Chris is his ability to do tricks like a dog. And he is really playful.



To find out more about cats in need of a home go to the Dane County Humane Society's website www.giveshelter.org or give them a call at 838-0413. Another shelter you can contact is Angel's Wish. Check out their website at www.angelswish.org or call 848-4174.

You too can adopt a cat for Christmas.

(continued from page 1)



"Where can I buy Amy's Pet Treats?"

Amy sells her pet treats at several different locations in the Madison area: in Stoughton at the **Yahara Co-op** and **Big Sweeties** (also in Watertown), and in Madison at **Nutzy Mutz**, **Bad Dog Frida**, **Wagging Tails**, **Goochi Poochi**, **Susan's All Breed Pet Grooming**, and at outdoor events at **Pet Supermarket**. Amy will also be selling her treats at the following upcoming events: **Stoughton Victorian Holiday Show** on December 5th.

Interview with Mr. Jim Hoegemeier

by Dan Remick

I interviewed Mr. Jim Hoegemeier, Director of Arc of Wisconsin. I asked Jim how he likes his job as director. He said he enjoys meeting lots of new people in our state. When asked if Southern Wisconsin Center will be closing down in the next 2 or 3 years, Mr. Hoegemeier said it will become a very short term facility with a goal to get people back into the community. The Arc has had a strong run of 60 years in Wisconsin that Jim wants to use as a foundation for the next 60 years. Hopefully in the future the Arc will not be seen only as an advocacy agency, it will become a resource for families as well.

Here's what Kathleen Falk has to say about the budget:

by Dan Remick

"Despite the most challenging budget times since the Great Depression, I am committed to making sure Dane County continues to have the best programs and services to assist those with developmental disabilities. The budget recommended to me by the Human Services Department increases the total dollars committed to persons with development disabilities to almost \$80-million. Human Services and Public Safety have and will continue to be my budget priorities in 2010."

Employment First-Wisconsin

by Jeffrey Johnson

The goal of the Employment First Initiative is to have a wide variety of jobs available to people with disabilities. People involved with Employment First are trying to help people with disabilities get good and safe jobs in the community. Employment First also wants to help high schools get involved, along with vocational support providers, county staff, managed care organizations, consumers and family members.

Employment First is organized by the state chapter of APSE. APSE is the Association for Persons in Supported Employment. States that already have Employment First Initiatives are: Minnesota, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Employment First works to address barriers to employment. Public transportation is a big barrier for consumers when getting to a job. However, Madison has good bus services including the Metro Plus. But, if a

consumer has a job in Waunakee buses stop at the corner of University Ave and highway Q. They might have to get a ride from a friend or family member to get to work. Waunakee is a small community where there is little transportation or no transportation at all. Sun Prairie, Deforest, Monona, and Janesville don't have as good of local transportation as Madison has. Many other parts of the state outside of cities also do not have many public transportation options.

Employment First is trying to figure out how to get people into community jobs. Education is an important factor. The schools should inform parents what happens in workshops and on any given day if there is not work. When someone has down time they are not making any money at all. Some consumers enjoy going to a workshop every day. How much can a consumer makes on a job depends on the job you are doing. Consumers should all know their options

and have a choice if they want to work out in the community or in a workshop. Dane County policy encourages high schools students and helps consumers have jobs in the community.

In Dane County, some people with disabilities own businesses called micro-enterprises. This is one way to get employment. Dane County helps fund micro enterprises jobs for students coming out of high school. Parents must get involved from the start. The parents are good advocates for their sons and daughters.

If you want to get involved in the state-wide Employment First Initiative, please contact Nancy Molfenter at nancym_wiapse@earthlink.net



Halloween

written by Phyllis J. Perry,
typed up by Emily Datta

**Hooting, howling, hissing
witches.**

**Riding, rasping, ragged
switches;**

**Fluttering, frightening, fearsome
bats;**

**Arching, Awesome, awful
cats.**

Long Lantern lighted streets;

tongue tasty tempting treats.

COLORS BY FULTON

Announcement



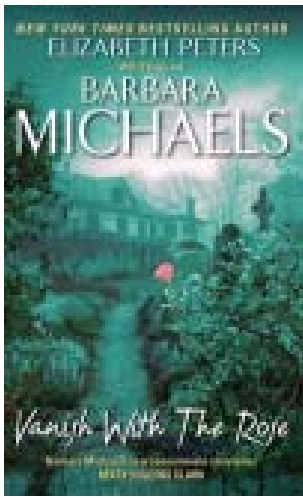
M-F 9-8 Sat. 9-5 Sun. 11-4
4118 Monona Dr.

Fulton Damm, owner of micro enterprise business Colors by Fulton, has set up shop inside the Madison Craft & Gift Shops. His ceramics may be found in an area in the stores last isle. Please shop today to find great gift ideas! Lake Edge Shopping Center corner of Buckeye & Monona Dr.

BOOK REVIEW by Christa Decker***Vanish With The Rose***

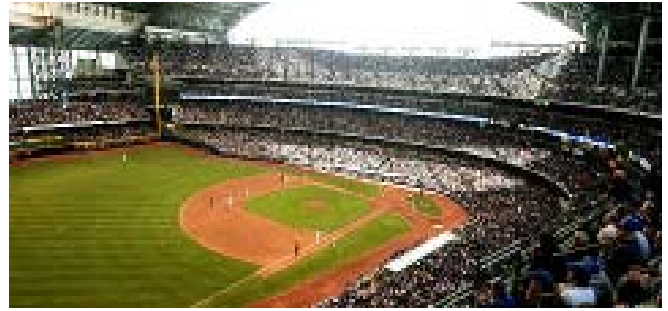
by Barbara Michaels

This story is about a woman, Diana, whose brother suddenly disappears. Although she is an attorney, she disguises herself as a Landscape Expert and goes to work at the last place her brother had been living. She starts investigating and tries to find the answer as to what happened to him. Suspense and tension increase as she searches for clues.



I liked this book because it was a very good mystery. There was nothing I didn't like about it. I would recommend

this book to anyone who enjoys suspense.

**Arc Day Trippers – Brewer's Game**

by Cindy Wegner

I went to a Brewer's game at Miller Park in Milwaukee. We had a picnic lunch in Deerfield before the game. Arc provided sub sandwiches, cookies, string cheese, pop and water.

The Brewer's won the game, 12 to 9. We left for Milwaukee at 9:30 in the morning and got home at 7:45pm.

The River Food Pantry

by Sue Helgesen

I go to Mad City Church. Two members of Mad City Church started a food pantry with a lot of volunteer help from church members. I wasn't really going there because I thought it was junk food. One day I went there with Kathy, the church receptionist. I was surprised to see how much healthy food they had. They had Fiber One products, Quick Quaker Barley, Kettle Chips, Juice, Broccoli, tomatoes and more. Also things like lunch meat and chicken. I was surprised. Some one donated them a

huge garden to grow fresh produce like tomatoes and other healthy veggies. They have clothes and school supplies too. This pantry also serves hot meals. It is nice to have a pantry that serves health food.

Again though, I was surprised or shocked to see all the health food. So if you know some body who doesn't have much money and is on a special diet to lose weight or some thing, there is a good pantry out there called The River Food Pantry. They and we at the church are glad to help people that need it. They are in the North Port apartment neighborhood at 2201 Darwin Rd. There is more information on their web site which is www.theriver-madison.org



Saying Goodbye to Nancy Shook

by Jeffrey Johnson

Although Nancy Shook likes the people she works with and she says that it is a very interesting job, she is retiring this December. Nancy's job title at Waisman is Senior Clinical Nurse Specialist, but professionally she is an



Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber. This has taken a lot of schooling but she still likes to use her basic nursing skills. Nancy likes discovering how people think and prefers working with the brain.

Nancy Shook started working at the UW Waisman Center in September 1996. Nancy had just finished working on her first master's degree in social work. Her

professor, Don Anderson, recommended Nancy for the nursing position at the UW Waisman Center Outreach. When she first started she was teaching some classes and doing basic nursing care.

After Nancy received her second master's degree in nursing focusing on mental health, the kind of work began to change. She started working more with DD clients with health problems, health consultations, and as a psychiatric nurse and nurse prescriber. Nancy started classes for Safe Medication Administration, Seizure Awareness, Mental Health and DD (along with Axel Junker and Paul White) and continued the Blood Borne Pathogens (BBP) class, as well as helped to expand the Waisman TIES Clinics from 2 hours per month to 2 days per month. She also helped increase the amount of recordkeeping for clients.

Nancy is not sure who will be taking her place when she leaves. The things Nancy has been missing now she can do a lot more of, like gardening and bike riding and reading. She will also get to spend more time with her husband who has been retired for 3 years. Nancy says she will miss her colleagues and TIES Clinic patients and teams, but that it makes more sense for her to retire this year, due to WI Retirement System policies. We at Waisman Outreach really enjoyed working with Nancy and we are going to miss her very much.

Dane County Transition Program

by Jeffrey Johnson

Kurt Svensson is one of the two transition coordinators for Dane County. Kurt establishes contacts within the DD System as the Transition Coordinator. Molly Damon is the Systems Transition Coordinator. She does outreach with families and younger consumers, as well as working with EmployAlliance, Partners with Business and Project Search.

The schools help students find employment. The Transition program introduces them to long-term support system in Dane County. Kurt helps pull the team and paperwork together. The teams include family, schools, DVR, and vocational providers. Students with disabilities may be eligible for long term support services through Dane County Human Services. They can stay in high school until they are 21 years old. They will receive vocational support, transition planning support, and advocacy support.

Kurt used to be a case manager at Goodwill, a vocational agency. He became a support broker in 2004. He then became the Transition Coordinator in 2005. He likes helping students with their support plans and helping with jobs in the community. He is on his 5th class of the Transition students.

Kurt found out about being a Transition Coordinator from his supervisor, Alexa Butzbaugh, at Progressive Community Services brokering agency. Kurt's background is in vocational support so it seemed to make sense for him to become the Transition Coordinator.

There is a new support model called Partners with Business (PWB) to help with natural supports with instead of direct vocational coaches. This makes the vocational agency just a point of reference. This puts training and ongoing support in the hands of businesses.

The Self-Directed Services (SDS) program in Dane County gives people with disabilities more freedom and more choices. They can make the choices of how to spend their SDS budget and which vocational agency to hire if they use one.

Life After High School

by Alison Martens

On my first day I was nervous and excited. I met my staff at Nazareth Center. They were happy to see me. I was very excited. I volunteer at Nazareth Center three times a week.

After lunch I went to my office at CLC (Community Living Connections). My whole family helped me set up. My brother got me a job at Select Publishing where I type labels in my office.

I also volunteer at the Senior Center where I get to see my friends. I like watching the line dancers. I go to the library and read to my friend, Tara too.

I have met a lot of cool people while working. I have met new people at CLC, Stoughton Cabs, the library, and new friends at Nazareth Center. I like all of them. I like working. It is a lot different than school. I miss my friends but I still get to see them. I wanted to tell everyone thank you for helping, I love it!

The SOUND RESPONSE Program

An Interview With Christopher Patterson

by Catherine Clodius



I had the pleasure and honor of sitting down with Chris recently to find out some information on Sound Response.

My first question to Chris was when did Sound Response start and if it is statewide. Chris told me that Sound Response is not statewide and is only available in Dane County. Sound Response started in July of 2002.

My next question was how is Sound Response funded and how many consumers does Sound Response serve. Chris told me that Sound Response is funded by CIP and is currently serving 220 consumers and it has expanded by 40 consumers in the last six months.

My last question was how do you see technology expanding and was told that sensors can be used in a variety of ways and Sound Response is exploring new ways to use sensors.

I would like to thank Chris for taking time out of his schedule to talk to me about Sound Response. I think it is a great tool especially when budgets are shrinking and residential agencies are trying to find more effective ways to keep consumers safe when they don't have staff overnight.

Dani Lockwood

by Jeffrey Johnson

Dani used to work for Channels to Employment. Her advisor told her about Sound Response and thought this might be a good place for her to work. She started at Sound Response March 3rd, 2002, the same year the agency began.

Sound Response gives overnight support to clients across Dane County.



They train responders and have them meet clients during the day to become familiar with their individual routines and personalities. Dani attends team and staff meetings and helps with the annual party. She installs new equipment into client's homes. She enjoys S. R. because they help give lots of independence to clients. Dani says she loves all of her co-workers.

When Dani has time off she likes to sleep. She also likes to hang out with her nieces. Dani likes to go to beer gardens to hang out with friends. She enjoys skiing in the winter, and plays kickball in the summer time.

Duane Tempel

by Jeffrey Johnson

Duane Tempel started working as the director for Sound Response on March 3rd, 2002. As the director he talks to families across Dane County to coordinate support plans for new clients. He is responsible for installing equipment at client's houses. Sound Response's equipment and support eliminates the need for over night staff and this helps their clients be more independent. Sound Response support involves a team of responders and a centrally located monitoring site connected to residences through a variety of electronic sensing devices. When the house alarms go off the responder on duty will go over to the clients' house to try to solve the problem or respond to the emergency.

Duane is also the party planner for Sound Response. He likes who he works with at Sound Response. Duane likes to sleep and hang out with his friends. Duane enjoys bicycling, golf, and water polo. He volunteers at the Taste of Madison to help support United Cerebral Palsy.



Ticket requests must be received by Monday, December 21, 2009!

ANNOUNCEMENT: 2010 WINTER BALL

The Winter Ball – sponsored by The Arc-Dane County, Epilepsy Foundation and the Madison Concourse Hotel – will be held on **Sunday, January 10, 2010 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.** at **The Madison Concourse Hotel, 1 West Dayton St., Madison, WI.** Tickets must be **pre-purchased** from The Arc-Dane County for each person. (Sorry, no free tickets for staff, attendants, or family members). The ticket includes the Ball and light snacks. The Epilepsy Foundation will be sponsoring some hot and cold snacks at the beginning of the evening’s festivities ‘til they are gone (2:00-3:00 p.m.)



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

In order to make preparations for food and plan for this event, **ticket requests must be received by Monday, December 21, 2009.** Upon receipt of the ticket request and payment, the tickets will be mailed prior to the event. Each person, family or agency is responsible for distributing the tickets purchased. If you have ordered too many tickets or need more tickets, please network with others so that the tickets may be used. Tickets will be distributed on a first come-first served basis.



NOTE: All clients must carry **emergency contact information** at The Winter Ball. All clients must provide **own transportation** to and from The Winter Ball.

2010 Winter Ball TICKET REQUEST FORM

(Please list name and/or agency of person responsible for distributing tickets purchased)

Name: _____ Agency: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____ Emergency Contact #: _____

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

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

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____



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

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



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 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.

CHOICES Newsletter is published quarterly to provide
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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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The next issue of CHOICES will
be out in March. Contact the
editor with ideas for articles
before January 9. Articles due
by February 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)