



CHOICES

A Quarterly
Newsletter
about
Self-Determination
in Dane County

Web Version Vol. 11 No. 1
March 2010

Stoughton's Kiwanis Aktion Club

by Jeffrey Johnson

Reporters Get-Together

Our next reporters
get-together is
March 11, from
4-5 pm at 122 E.
Olin Ave., Madison,
in Suite 100

Announcements

ARC-Dane
Spring Ball
March 21
(order tickets by
March 8!), see
Page 9

Infoshare
April 30,
see Page 2

Fashion Show
May 27,
see Page 2

See People First
Meeting Dates
on Page 6

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I met with Mike Millar, David Sharpe and Jennifer Sorenson at the Ancora Coffee shop in Stoughton. I talked to them about the Stoughton Kiwanis-Aktion Club. The Aktion Clubs meets on the first and third Tuesday of every month from 4:30 -5:30 pm. The members of the Aktion Club nominated Mike Millar to be their President, Lisa Deneen to be their Vice President, Donna Schwanz to be their Secretary, Kari Elsner to be their Treasurer. The Board of Directors of the Aktion Club includes Denise Volden, Rollie Keller, Monica Reese and Rob Layton.

What is Dan Up To? Dan Rossiter Talks About Life after Dane County

by Dan Remick

I interviewed Mr. Dan Rossiter. He used to work for Dane County where he spent a lot of time working on the budget. Dan would talk to a lot of people about the budget including people with disabilities, case workers, and brokers to determine the future needs of Dane County.

Now that he is retired Dan is going to talk to others with disabilities about self directed supports that have happened in Dane County. Dan says he will still be involved with people with disabilities in Dane County but more time will be outside of the county working with IRIS

See "Dan" on p. 3

The reason they meet is that they want to help others adults with disabilities build leadership and relationship skills. David and Mike said anyone can join that is living with disabilities. They are looking for more members. They have about 19 members right now. The Aktion Club helps their community by planting trees and picking up trash on the side of the highway.

I learned about what projects they're working on. The Aktion Club helps kids and children in the Philippines by

holding up signs to buy their bed kits. The Aktion Club may partner up with the Children's Miracle Network, the March of Dimes, UNICEF and the United Way of America.

If you want to get involved in the Aktion Club contact Jennifer Sorenson (279-6843, jsorensen@clconnections.org) or David Sharpe (877-8724 or desharpe@sbcglobal.net). They meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, from 4:30-5:30 at the Vennevoll Clubhouse at 400 N. Morris St. in Stoughton.

What is the Call for Art?

by Jeffrey Johnson

Gary Lynch is an artist participating in the Call for Art. Call for Art is part of VSA Arts of Wisconsin which is located at 4785 Hayes Road. Gary has a mentor named Alexis London. She gives Gary ideas for his art projects. Gary makes his art out of acrylics, water colors, and oil pastels. Gary does most of his art work from home. Gary also volunteers at Call for Art.

Crystal Chesnik has been involved with the Call for Art through VSA about 3 years now. She coordinates Traveling Exhibitions, Call for Art and Art for Sale programs. Call for Arts started as a contest and opportunity for folks to get their art work out. A jury reviews art based

See "Art" on p. 8

Who Sez?

After 22 years of service and leadership Dan Rossiter retired his position as the Developmental Disabilities Community Services Manager for Dane County on December 30, 2009. A January blizzard could not deter over 80 people from toasting, roasting or performing silly skits and songs in his honor. Now that the snow has settled, long-term CHOICES readers are left to wonder Who Sez?

In February the county began the recruiting and hiring process for Dan's job. In the interim, Monica Bear, program specialist for case management and broker services is pinch hitting. She appreciates everyone's patience and kindness during

the steep learning curve involved in filling Dan's very large shoes. If all goes well, by next newsletter, we will have renamed the Dan Sez column and CHOICES reporters will have a new Community Services Manager to interview.

Looking into 2010's crystal ball it is a bit early to see what lies ahead. Another tight budget year is likely, however we will continue to adjust and try new things. People throughout our county are forging ahead with creative ideas regardless of budget climate. The state has given Dane County funding to pilot a new quality assurance process. A coalition of children's DD providers is working to expand and strengthen our response to children with developmental

disabilities at risk for out of home placement. In Stoughton people with developmental disabilities and those who support them are partnering with the local Kiwanis Club, the parks and recreation department and others to create meaningful community participation for all. A group of young adults living throughout Dane County recently pooled funding, developed a job description, interviewed and hired a community connector to help them strengthen community relationships.

As county leadership transitions, CHOICES reporters don't miss a beat. In this newsletter you will learn more about the hard working folks at Movin' Out and Community TIES as well as

the happenings at recent and upcoming conferences. If you missed the chance to dance away the winter blues, or attend the sweetheart ball, get out your dancing shoes and make plans to attend the Arc-Dane County's Spring Ball. If dancing isn't your thing, you might want to register for the April Infoshare on Artistic Expression or the May Fashion Show for All Abilities. Winter may linger but there is no need to let that stop you from getting out and having some fun.



Monica Bear
DD Program Specialist

EVENTS by UW-Waisman Center Community Training & Consultation

Save The DATES!

Watch for more information on both events coming soon!



Questions?

Contact
Rachel Weingarten
608-890-0777
weingarten@waisman.wisc.edu

When: Friday, April 30, 2010
What: **INFOShare: Exploring Artistic Expression**
Where: Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall

Infoshare is all about Artistic Expression on April 30th. Karen Crossley, Director of the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission will begin the day talking about how you can include artistic expression in your life. There will be workshops on topics such as: Improv/Comedy, Acting, Music, Creative Writing, Dance, Painting and Crafts (Topics subject to change).

Join us for a day of learning about artistic expression, food, entertainment and more!



When: Thursday Evening, May 27, 2010
What: **4th Annual Fashion Show for All Abilities**
Where: Monona Terrace, 1 John Nolen Drive, Madison WI

The Fashion Show for All Abilities is a community awareness event, highlighting the reality that persons with disabilities are valuable customers and businesses benefit by extending courtesy and respect to them.

We encourage the business community and the general public to attend this amazing event. Last year, over 300 people attended the 3rd Annual Fashion Show for All Abilities, with 45 models, countless volunteers and over twenty participating businesses.



Strong Artistic Ladies Speaking Out

by Jeffrey Johnson

Who Is Mary Myers?

by Catherine E. Clodius

I had the pleasure and honor of sitting down with Mary Myers on a recent Friday to ask her some questions about being a Property Manager for Movin' Out.

My first question was when did you start working for Movin' Out and she told me she started in April of 2009.

My next question I asked about her qualifications and she replied that she had worked as Property Manager for a non profit agency for housing low income people who have home ownership. Mary was the property manager, book keeper and managed working with vendors.

Mary's current job duties at Movin Out are doing marketing, finding tenants housing, applications, checking income certifications, background checks, doing book keeping, making sure that people pay their rent, and pays the vendors for services rendered.

My last question to Mary are you having fun meeting with a variety of people to help them live a happy and productive life and her reply to me was very much so.

I would just like to add that Mary very kindly came around on November 1, 2009 to meet the consumers to find out how they liked their new condo and if there was anything that needed to be done such as having a dishwasher fixed because it wasn't working right. Mary also works very closely with Jessie who is the Property Manager of Stonebridge Condominiums when there is a problem.

I sat down with the SALSO group to see what they were all about. SALSO stands for Strong Artistic Ladies Speaking Out. The group SALSO began by teaching in the community about people with disabilities through art. They reacted against stereotypes and exclusion. They wanted to teach people to respond to people with disabilities. SALSO uses art instead of words alone.

This SALSO group would like people to give feedback to people with disabilities. SALSO uses art to express and educate the public about people with disabilities through their artwork.

SALSO members have a PowerPoint presentation that shows other people with disabilities. They give group talks to the community. They talked at schools like Edgewood and UW-Madison. They also talked to family members of people with

disabilities who communicate through artwork. This group's goal is to speak at all the schools in Madison.

SALSO members' art and media work is well respected by the community. They work on window panes, collages, dyed -fiber, soap, felt pouches, clay, pillows, and puppets. This group gets paid \$50 every presentation. If someone wants to setup a SALSO presentation give Ellyn Zografi a call 608-270-2242 ext 22. The group works for Community Support Network. The members are Kristina Harris, Heather "Frog" Stephens, Laura Well, and Sharon McCarthy.

I believe SALSO wants to teach people to respond and to respect people with disabilities. SALSO helps to eliminate stereotypes. SALSO benefits many people with disabilities. I think it is a very good program for people with disabilities.

Dan, continued from p. 1

and things like that. Dan hopes to still work with People First of Dane County and Wisconsin.

Dan Rossiter is proud that he helped Dane County move people out of centers, and divert 900 people from nursing homes. In Dane County those with disabilities are an essential part of the community. We learned first in institutions, then nursing homes and group homes; we now realize that people want to be integrated in the community.

Dan sees the future like a pendulum. As money is short nationally those with small voices get short-changed. As money starts flowing nationally we will hopefully get more attention.

Dan with People First friends



DORA'S PET CORNER: The Pet of the Week Named Clarisse

by Dora Norland and Diane Christoph

I've owned a cat since I was a small kid. My first cat was Dainty, a cute name for her. She was my grandma's cat. Then I had Scooter, my other grandma's cat. My grandma had two cats and wanted to get rid of one. So Scooter came home with me! My current cat is named Clarisse. She lived on a farm with her kittens. Her owners surrendered her and the kittens to the Dane County Humane Society or DCHS. She was a 1-½ yr old cat then.

My family went to DCHS to look at the cats. We spent a long time with some cats but didn't find the right one. Then the next day, my mom saw Clarisse on TV. She was Monday's pet of the week, looking for a home from DCHS. I knew she was the right one for me and for my family.

Clarisse is ten yrs old now.

Her eyes are an orangish-gold color. Her hair length is short. She has brown, orange and white fur with stripes on the side of her body. The pattern in her fur is called a tabby pattern.

A tabby cat is not a breed of cat; it means the pattern on the cat's body. The **tabby cat** has a distinctive coat that has stripes, dots, or swirling patterns, usually together with an "M" mark on

its forehead. The two most common types of tabbies are the mackerel and classic. The mackerel is the most common tabby pattern. The mackerel tabby pattern has vertical, curving stripes on the side of the body.

Classic tabbies have a similar 'M' pattern on the head, but the body markings are different. They have a swirled pattern with wider stripes on the sides of their bodies.

Clarisse is a mackerel tabby. She has stripes on the sides of her body.

Clarisse likes to run around the house. She loves to sleep. She gets attention from me when I get home. I check her food and water to make sure she has enough. She has a litter box and I take care of cleaning that. She likes catnip, cat toys and cat treats. One of her favorite toys is a fishing pole toy with feathers.

She doesn't like the vacuum cleaner, even if it's not on!! She'll run. She's very cute and loveable. Clarisse likes plastic and paper bags and cardboard boxes to play in. Clarisse does not like going to the vet.

A cat is a good companion in your household. They like to cheer you up. I'm glad I have Clarisse.



Self-Determination Conference

by Jeffrey Johnson

Self-Directed Services Conference was Monday October 12, 2009 though 14th at Hyatt Regency Milwaukee Hotel.

In the general session I learned how to make good decisions from Cindy Bentley, a member and staff of People First Wisconsin. I also learned from Dennis Harkins what this conference was about. I learned from Dennis what the best breakout sessions for self advocates to attend were.

We all welcomed David Pitonyak. I learned from David what supported employment was like for him. David explained that humans have social brains. I also learned from David how 80% of the time how the brain works on self and social relationships.

I learned from David that being left out changes people's minds and body chemistry. I learned it is not enough to only meet people's basic needs. Loneliness is the worst disability there is. I learned about David Pitonyak's challenges on the job.

David didn't know a thing about employment and he was hired to find out and learn about employment

The first breakout session I went to was Family Care and SDS – Imagine the Possibilities. This session was directed towards specific cases of SDS services and how they differ according to different regions. They told different stories of people using SDS and how they succeeded in reaching their goals through self direction.

The next breakout session I went to was hosted by Reena Wagle. I learned about self advocacy and your desired outcomes and how to communicate them. I learned how to communicate with family and friends to achieve goals and to live more independently.

I learned this was a good conference for self advocates to attend. I think everyone learned about thinking about the future.

People First

People First of Dane County January Meeting

by Cindy Wegner

People First of Dane County Award Banquet

by Dan Remick

People First of Dane County had an award banquet and party for People First Wisconsin on December 10, 2009. I was one of people that received an award. This award that I received is a memorial from member who was in People First Wisconsin. Jed Buza passed away in 2009. I was very happy

to get this award. The People First Wisconsin award was given to the Waisman Center. Paul White received the award for the Waisman Center. All of us had a very nice time. We had about 20 people there. Our director of People First of Wisconsin Mary Clare Carlson was there. There was lots of good music, food, and door prizes. Our 10th Anniversary Party was at the James Reeb Universalist Church in Madison Wisconsin.

At the People First meeting on January 19, we talked about the events and speakers for 2010. We had pizza and soda for dinner. We planned the agenda for the year, and when the meetings will be. We decided to sign up for the Dane County Timebank as a group. Dan Remick and I will write articles about speakers at the upcoming People First meetings for Choices.



The Winter Ball

by Cindy Wegner

On Sunday January 10th, Arc-Dane County had a Winter Ball. They had hot appetizers, chips, and free soda. We all got corsages and many pictures were taken. This year more people came, and they had a disc jockey. The disc jockey played all kinds of music – even The Funky Chicken!! They talked about the Sweetheart Dance coming up in February.

People First of Stoughton Open House

by Dan Remick

Sunday Dec 6, 2009 People First of Stoughton had an open house to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of People First Wisconsin. It was a very nice day for the open house which was at a place called Cheesers located at 146 W Main Street in Stoughton. Everyone who attended had a good time at the event. We had about 40 people there. There was a Magic show at the open house and the magicians name was Matt, and there was a lot of cake and refreshments. There were 2 people that received the People First Wisconsin award; their names are Marcie Brost and Howard Mandeville. The Stoughton Mayor was there, and they had a craft sale during the open house. People First of Stoughton was started in 2008 by Tom Veek.

**Howard Mandeville (right)
and Marcie Brost (below, center)
receive their awards**

People First of Dane County UPCOMING MEETINGS

All meetings are at 122 E. Olin Ave, Suite 100, Conference room A

March 16, 6-7:15: Planning meeting for April, May and June meetings

April 20, 6-7:15: Guest Speaker Stephanie Rearick, Dane County Timebank

May 18, 6-7:15 Guest Speaker Monica Bear, Dane County Human Services

June: Date and time to be announced - Fun, free event



Community TIES - Waisman Center Community Outreach

by Jeffrey Johnson

ANGELA RADLOFF

Angela Radloff started working at Community TIES in 2006 as a behavioral consultant. Before that she worked as the director of the Teen Outreach Program at UCP. Angela has her Masters degree in Rehabilitation Psychology and previously worked at Community TIES as a student. She enjoys working with people with disabilities that have challenging behaviors so this job is a good fit. She does situational counseling and writes support plans. She likes it because she does not get bored and every day is different. She also likes to meet and work with different consumers and their teams. She works with people from 5 years old to adult. On her time off Angela likes to run, scrapbook, go on bike rides in the summer, go to sporting events, and spend time with family and friends.



JOSH LAPIN

Josh Lapin started working at Waisman Outreach in 1993 after his internship from college. During his internship he worked part time for Avenues to Community and the other half he worked at Community Ties. Josh was getting social work experience from these jobs. Josh is now a full time Behavioral Consultant at Community Ties. He likes to work with families, teams and adults. He tries to help families as much as he can. He helps figure out strategies to help behavioral challenges. Josh says he has great co-workers and boss. He thinks it's a fun place to work. He says he never gets bored. Josh is always learning and work is different every day. When he's not at work Josh has a son that keeps him really busy. Also Josh likes to play racquetball and enjoys action adventure movies.

AXEL JUNKER

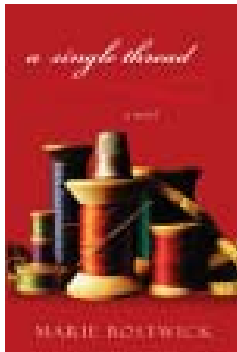
Axel Junker started with Crisis Response in January of 1998. Axel coordinates Crisis Response and helps people through difficult times by providing staff and a place to stay (the Safehouse). Axel makes sure that Dane County SDS clients don't have to go to a hospital or Mendota when they just need a little extra help. Axel says it is a very challenging job and there is a lot of variety. He gets to learn new things and it never gets boring. He has great co-workers and a great environment to work in. Axel has several people working with him, including Willard and Don. He says the job keeps him very busy and on his toes and out of trouble. When Axel isn't at work he likes to chase his son around the house and play soccer. He loves to visit the library to check out books and music, and likes to read the newspaper. He is trying to teach his son how to speak some German.



BOOK REVIEW by Christa Decker

A Single Thread

by: Marie Bostwick



This book was about a woman named Evelyn Dixon who lives in Texas. Her husband of many years has just left her to never come back, because they were not getting along. After her husband leaves, Evelyn takes a trip to Connecticut, where she is looking to open a quilting shop. To open a shop was always her long time dream. This was her way of starting over fresh with her life. Evelyn meets wonderful people along the way who all come together through quilting. The only thing that I did not like about the book was when Evelyn's husband left her. Other than that, I really enjoyed this book.

It was a heartwarming story about some strangers with different backgrounds that become good friends after meeting at a breast cancer fundraiser held in the shop of one of the women. I would highly recommend this book!

Art, Continued from Page 1

on originality, creativeness and craftsmanship. Twenty-six pieces are awarded; ten of the award winner's pieces become part of VSA's traveling exhibition.

To be involved with Call for Art, the artist has to be living in Wisconsin with a disability. It's broken down into ages 5 to 15, 16 to 21, and 22 and older. It is too late to submit art for this year's Call for Art, but if you want to get involved the Call for Art is always looking for volunteers to help hang up the art. Anyone with or without a disability can volunteer.

If you want to check out the Call for Art, the gallery is located at 1733 Thierer Road in Madison. On March 20, there will



BLIZZARD

by Dale Buttke

On one day weather man came to say
That snow is on its way
And then he said winter storm warning
In the morning
A blizzard warning

It came out of nowhere,
People in houses and apartments
Were told to stay there

They were told to stay inside
Because of freezing cold
Temperatures were below zero
I was not no hero

Going outdoors, I did not dare
But then I went out there
In the freezing cold air
It may look very pretty
But then it gets very dirty
It is not for a lizard
On this day of the blizzard



Including Samuel

by Jeffrey Johnson

The documentary Including Samuel was made by Dan Habib. Samuel was one of the children with a disability. He was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. The movie described other people with disabilities who shared their stories.

Samuel's parents wanted to give Samuel the same opportunities as regular students. Samuel parents wanted Full Inclusion for him.

Samuel went to Beaver Meadow School in Vermont. The special education department asked the principal in 1989 to help integrate classes. This was the biggest step for people with disabilities to learn together in the same classroom with the same teacher every day. Beaver



Meadow had separate rooms for students with disabilities, which was a popular trend in the 1970s and 1980s. Samuel's parents pushed for him to be included in a regular classroom. His school allowed Samuel to learn with other students, to have the same teacher every day, and to work together at the same table.

Samuel was always happy. The children welcomed Samuel into the class and everyone benefited from having him become a part of the school community. It was a positive thing for the other students to see someone with a different way of learning.

I think this movie is a good tool for learning about someone's disability. It benefits everyone to show how inclusion works. I would really recommend this movie to everyone. It is a good way to share what school inclusion is about and how it works for different people.



Announcement: Spring Ball



Spring Ball - sponsored by The Arc-Dane County, CUNA Mutual Group, Knights of Columbus # 4527 and The Madison Concourse Hotel - will be held on **Sunday, March 21, 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 Spring Ball, light snacks and some hot snacks (2:15 p.m. ‘til they are gone)

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

In order to make preparations and plan for this event, ticket requests must be received by Monday, March 8, 2010. 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 Spring Ball. All clients must provide own transportation to and from The Spring Ball.

.....

Ticket Request Form for Spring Ball

(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

Note: Ticket requests must be received by Monday, March 8, 2010!

FAX #: 833-1307
 TELEPHONE: 833-1199

E-MAIL: **arc dane@chorus.net**
 Web site: **www.arc dane county.org**

CHOICES Newsletter



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

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And the Oh, Yeah's...

To place a Connections ad:

Submit Connections Ads to:
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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.

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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
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information.

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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 June Contact the editor
with ideas for articles before
April 9. Articles due by May 7
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)