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[www.hearthstonewi.org](http://www.hearthstonewi.org)

## Vacation Time...Start Planning Now!

Are you starting to plan your family vacation?

Does the additional planning required when incorporating a disability seem overwhelming?

HearthStone recently sponsored an event that assisted in providing some valuable insight and new destination options for all. The event featured several presenters, literature, and a good discussion on what things work, what things do not, and extras that are worth planning for.

Kip Ertel from RCS Empowers started the evening by sharing some information on previous adventures, complete with successes and learning experiences. Kip also announced that they are beginning to plan for a Disney trip in November or December of 2009.

Don Douglas from Able Trek spoke and told us about the day, weekend, and 2 week trips they plan each year. To keep things interesting, Able-Trek varies their trips by alternating every 3 years with an overseas trip, a trip to Hawaii and a cruise. Remember, besides these really big trips, they have 1 or 2 week trips, weekend trips and day trips. Able Trek has been doing tours for over 17 years. They usually travel by coach bus and have lots of destination options every year. The closest pick up point they currently have for Sheboygan is Fond du Lac.

[www.abletrektours.com](http://www.abletrektours.com)

Kelli Bruns, from Wisconsin DNR, finished up our presentations talking about the Wisconsin State Parks' seven accessible cabins. Two of the cabins are considered "rustic" and the other five are fully accessible, including Sheboygan's very own, which is located at Kohler-Andrae State Park. A focus was certainly made on making this a total camping experience and yet accessible. Cabins fill up fast but they still have a few opening this year.

[www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/access/](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/access/)

Literature from a number of resources was also provided to attendees.

Welcome Home, a bed and breakfast in Newburg, Wisconsin.

[www.hnet.net/~welcomehome](http://www.hnet.net/~welcomehome)

Sunset Pines Resort in Willard, Wisconsin. Sunset has three accessible cabins that are set around a stocked fishing lake, hiking trails and will even help arrange a fall hunt for any disabled hunters.

[www.sunsetpinesresort.com/redo](http://www.sunsetpinesresort.com/redo)



*Kohler-Andrae State Park  
Accessible Cabin*

Other accessibility-friendly resorts were also suggested. It was felt they were welcoming and were happy to serve people with Disabilities. Stoney Creek Inn, in LaCrosse and Wausau and Kalahari Resorts, in the Dells were highly recommended.

The best suggestion from our discussion seemed to be, is to ask and reask when making arrangements and if it is really important, like width of doors, height of bed etc, ask them to take a tape measure and measure it for you. Saying they are accessible doesn't mean the same to everyone, (inspectors are almost always county inspectors so it can vary a lot.) Also remember, most if not all facilities have good intentions and if everyone keeps a little sense of humor almost all obstacles can be overcome.

So do some planning and get out there and see the world!



## President's Report

### Cautious Optimism for 2009?

Optimism because of all the time, talent and financial support HearthStone has received in 2008. Our first ever Fundraising was a great success. We heard from many of our friends with gifts small and large. It is very gratifying to see people pitch in even when the economic picture is so uncertain.

And, that's where the "Caution" comes in my "Cautious Optimism". The economy is in a turmoil, the State budget is in the neighborhood of a \$5 Billion deficit. Then there's the Federal Government and the giant stimulus package, the effects of which seem pretty much unpredictable. We have heard just recently, that Family Care, which was to be in place and eliminate the dreaded "waiting lists" by the end of 2009, has been extended by another year, which means 2010 (at best). Not a good situation. We have also heard of several issues with Family Care's implementation through Community Care the CMO organization contracted by the State. Community Care is under financial pressures and some services are being reduced. Hopefully we can manage through these issues.

With all of the issues surrounding us, I am however both grateful for your support and confident in our collective ability to help those we care about.

Regards  
Jon Rost, President  
HearthStone of Wisconsin

**"Hearth" to  
symbolize a  
loving, caring  
home; "Stone"  
to symbolize  
permanence"**

## Thanks for Your Support"

Thank you for your financial support in 2008. Our apologies if your name was inadvertently omitted.

Ron & Joni Bowen	Lakeside Bottling Company	Jonathan & Carol Rost
Efrem & Gloria Capetillo	Bruce & Brenda Lisiecki	Tom & Ruth Rost
Robert & Ronna Cline	Brian Lukaszewski	Robert & Marilyn Schneider
Brady Farnsworth	Richard & Kathleen Manny	Gary & Karen Spettel
Steve & Cheri Farnsworth	Eric Olsen	Frank & Terri Sterzen
Lance Fischer	Ed & Annette Pamperin	Gus & Linda Tiboris
William & Patricia Frost	William & Mardyth Pollard	US Bancorp Foundation
Liz Germanotta	Christianne Poppert	Corinthia Van Orsdol
Richard & Carol Gross	Leonard & Roxanne Reedyk	Curt Joa / Laurel Hoppert Joa
Marilyn Hanson	Julie Reichert	Living Trust
Chester & Marvel Harrison	Jack Reindl	James & Jane Weygandt
Hesketh Construction	Adam Robb	David & Mary Ann Zoch
John & Sharon Hoppert	Jerry & Sandra Robb	
Jeanne Kliejunas	Eric Rost	



## Upcoming Events

**Friday, April 10th, 2009 - 7:00 a.m.,** HearthStone Monthly Meeting  
Fountain Park Restaurant in Sheboygan

**Friday, May 8th, 2009 - 7:00 a.m.,** HearthStone Monthly Meeting  
Fountain Park Restaurant in Sheboygan

## Bowling Party a Strike!

By Jon Rost

Not everyone threw a strike, but everyone had a ball at HearthStone's Annual Legislative Bowling Party held on Saturday October 25th. Maple Lanes did a great job of welcoming our record crowd. And the free pizza and sodas flowed all afternoon. Our friend and State Senator Joe Liebham stopped for a nice long visit. Joe has a perfect attendance record at this event! Another Gold Star for Joe! And one each for Roger Otten and his charming wife Audrey who also have attended all of our bowling parties. Thank you both. And, it was a pleasure to welcome Sheboygan Alderperson Jeanne Kliejunas. She jumped right in and enjoyed bowling with an eager group of HearthStone bowlers. Special thanks to Peggy Feider and Terri Sterzen for organizing and pizza delivery.



Sheboygan Alderman Jeanne Kliejunas, Eric Rost and Dana Frost enjoy a laugh together



Eric Rost, State Sen. Joe Liebham, Jana Smith-Gierke, and HearthStone Executive Director Tom Gierke.

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## HearthStone Respite Update

By Ray Cary

The Hearthstone Respite Care Project, a collaboration of The Family Resource Center, Sheboygan County Health and Human Services and Hearthstone of Wisconsin, completed it's fourth full year. The Project began in the 4th quarter of 2004 with 3 enrollees. The Project ended the 2008 year with 55 enrollees.

The Respite Project was recognized and honored in September with a grant for direct services from the Early Bird Rotary Foundation of Sheboygan . The generosity of this fine group will allow us to continue to offer much needed respite services to Sheboygan County families. A special thanks to Bob Feider, chairman of the Early Bird Rotary Foundation, who "shepherded" our grant request to a successful outcome.

The Project Advisory Committee welcomed a new member in 2009. Erika will bring a much needed consumer perspective to our program. We appreciate and truly need the input of all families who use the Respite program to continue to improve and grow the service. In December a survey was sent to all families enrolled in the Project. The evaluations received have been very positive. We encourage those families reading this newsletter, there is still time to send back your survey. Thank you.

The Respite Care Project staff, providers and advisors wish you a happy and safe 2009. Sheboygan County families with developmentally disabled members who need that little time away, a sense that people care and want to help; contact the Family Resource Center (Plymouth - 920 892 6706 / Sheboygan- 920 457 1888).

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***"Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass...  
it's about learning how to dance in the rain!"***



We're here to help you unlock the right doors.

HearthStone of Wisconsin is a not for profit organization based in Sheboygan, WI. Our members are people with developmental disabilities, their families and friends and people within our communities who care about them. We offer assistance, guidance, advocacy and support in transition to and in perpetuation of community-based living. We believe in working together to help dreams come true. Dreams of Independence. Dreams of Respect. Dreams of Achievement. Dreams of Laughter.

For many people dreams like these may seem impossible or impractical. HearthStone members are dedicated to helping one another break down the barriers that appear to prevent those dreams from becoming reality. Our role as an organization is to facilitate, communicate and educate ourselves, our families and our communities to enable all people to achieve their highest potential. To dream the dream, and strive to live the dream. If you and your family are interested in designing and implementing sustaining individualized support systems for a family member who has a developmental disability, then you may benefit from HearthStone. Our members share a common concern and willingness to actively support individuals with developmental disabilities within our communities.

Our ultimate objective is to help people achieve their highest possible levels of community integration and independent living and to do so safely, securely and meaningfully.

### Go Paperless!

Would you like to go "paperless?" Sounds intimidating, right? Actually, all it involves is sending us your current email address, so you can join the over 120 other HearthStone members that have made the transition.

So, what are the advantages? You will not only get your newsletter in full color, universally readable pdf format, you will be included in the exclusive HearthStone electronic database which will provide you with instant access to all of the "hot topics" with a click of a mouse. Most importantly, it saves us money, so we can continue to provide you with informational

seminars, recreational outings and all of the other great things that HearthStone is known for.



Are you interested?  
Contact Thomas Gierke at [thomas.gierke@hearthstonewi.org](mailto:thomas.gierke@hearthstonewi.org)

## FREE MEMBERSHIP REQUEST

### WHAT IS HEARTHSTONE

HearthStone is a self-help and advocacy organization for people with disabilities and their families. Our mission is to make our communities a welcoming place for people of disabilities and to support and encourage positive life experiences.

### BENEFITS OF JOINING HEARTHSTONE

- Free Quarterly Newsletter with news & information you can use
- Free subscription to HearthStone’s email listserve
- Free Quarterly Social Events for Young Adults
- HearthStone sponsored respite program for qualifying families
- Advance notice for Free Community Meetings & Educational Programs
- Free P.A.T.H. Planning resources to help move your dreams forward
- Help, family mentoring, referrals, resources
- Add your “voice” to the hundred plus Lakeshore area families to help us advocate for funding for programs for people with disabilities and service providers – help us end “The WAITING LIST” game here and throughout Wisconsin and adequately compensate our caring service providers.

Yes, please add me to your list of Members. I understand there is NO CHARGE to become a HearthStone member.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Person(s) you are advocating for: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs, Interests and/or Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Donations and volunteer activities are always welcome.  
 (HearthStone of Wisconsin is a 5013C non-profit, making your contribution fully tax deductible)

HEARTHSTONE OF WISCONSIN

P.O. Box 1444 – SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN 53082-1444 - 920.451.3179 - WWW.HEARTHSTONEWI.ORG

HearthStone of WI  
P.O. Box 1444  
Sheboygan, WI 53082-1444

## Yes, I'd like to help HearthStone help our special population

Please help us help others right here at home. Your contribution is fully tax deductible  
HearthStone of Wisconsin is a 501(C)3 non-profit corporation.

Yes, I'd like to donate:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$75    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$250    \_\_\_\_\_ \$500    \_\_\_\_\_ other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

If you'd like to donate  
securely on-line, visit:  
[www.hearthstonewi.org](http://www.hearthstonewi.org)

You can make a difference. Volunteer for HearthStone  
In addition to your financial support, you can help HearthStone with your  
donation of time and energy. We are an entirely volunteer organization. With your help,  
our expenses are minimized and more goes to the people we serve.

### *Volunteer opportunities*

- Educational meetings     Fundraising     Maintain our growing database  
 Website update     Newsletter production     Events for our young people

**HEARTHSTONE OF WISCONSIN**

P.O. Box 1444 – SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN 53082-1444 - 920.451.3179 - [WWW.HEARTHSTONEWI.ORG](http://WWW.HEARTHSTONEWI.ORG)