

Inside this issue:

President's Report	2
Director's Notes	2
Upcoming Events	2
Dollars & "Sense"	3
Respite Update	4
Technology Tidbit	4
HearthStone Faces	4
Membership Information	5
Donate Now!	6

Volume I, Issue VII

Newsletter Date: March 2010

A "Smooth" Transition

By Lynn M. Justinger

"Maurah, will you help me tie my shoe?" "Maurah, can you help me?" These are questions that Maurah, a 20 year old student from the Oostburg school district, hears daily. Maurah is an employee of the Sheboygan Falls Little Friends Daycare and was able to obtain the job she has, as a part time certified assistant child care teacher, through her involvement with the RCS/DVR/Oostburg School District Transition Program. This program is geared to provide youth with disabilities the opportunity to obtain a variety of work experiences while still in high school with the long term goal of employment by the time they graduate at age 21. Maurah began her involvement with the daycare when she still had a few years left of high school. Because Maurah knew her long term employment goal was to get a job in a daycare, specifically with

the Falls Little Friends program, she also worked very hard to obtain her certification as an assistant child care teacher. This was quite a bit of course work to complete, but was her primary goal while in school. With the support of school staff, she obtained her certification in January of 2010. Shortly after, the Little Friends Daycare hired Maurah on as a part time staff member and provides Maurah with much of the support that she needs to remain successful on the job. She also will have an RCS job coach available to support her when needed as well. Because of the excellent transition planning that has occurred, Maurah will be leaving school in June with a secure part time job that she loves and a team of people in place to support her as she transitions into the adult world.



For more information contact:
Transition Case Manager
Phone: 920-458-8261 ext. 1388
E-Mail: transition@rcsempowers.com

New Caregiver Organization Forming

Sheboygan County Health & Human Services has received a grant to form The Sheboygan County Caregivers' Coalition. Kathy Manny from HHS is leading a organizing committee and HearthStone has been invited to participate. There will be a Strategic Planning Session on April 20 from 8am to 4pm at LTC. If you are interested in participating or want more information please contact Jon Rost @ 920-451-3160 jrost@jonrost.com.

Thanks for Your Support

Thank you for your financial support in 2009. Our apologies if your name was inadvertently omitted.

Robert & Ronna Cline	Tim & Pat Petzold	Jonathan & Carol Rost
Charles Conrardy	Piggly Wiggly - Washington Sq	Tom & Ruth Rost
Early Bird Rotary Club - Sheb	William & Mardyth Pollard	Frank & Terri Sterzen
Richard & Carol Gross	Jack Reindl	Gus & Linda Tiboris
Randall & Judith Hake	Adam Robb	Deb Trcka
Steve Hamer	Jerry & Sandra Robb	Jacob Van Dixhorn
Gilbert Miske	Eric Rost	Corinthia Van Orsdol



President's Report

Spring has Sprung. The Season of Anticipation and Hope.

By Jon Rost

Melting snow. A hint of warmth in the breeze. A peek of green as tulips and crocus sprout. Thoughts of warm and sunny days ahead. We stalwarts in Wisconsin pin our hopes on the smallest signs of progress weatherwise.

I think it's the same for parents, families and caregivers, who rejoice in the signs of progress in the ones we care for and about. Celebrating the smallest signs of progress that many take for granted is a part of the privilege of being a caregiver. While there are many days of doubt, frustration, and exhaustion along the way, the silver lining to these storm clouds are the moments of joy and satisfaction in caring and advocating for the ones we love.

As we celebrate a few extra minutes of Spring sunshine each day, let's take just a minute to recognize and give thanks to ourselves and those who help us make a difference in the lives of others. Let's recognize and give thanks for our own strength and determination, as well as that of the many who share our passion for helping those who need our help. And, to give thanks for the strength and determination of those whose daily struggles we can only partially understand.

Let's anticipate more small victories and hope that those we care about have even more successes in the days, weeks, and years ahead.

Sincerely,
Jon Rost, President
HearthStone of Wisconsin



Director's Notes

By Thomas Gierke

As we all know too well, with time comes change. Recently, HearthStone has experienced some of that change. Longtime Board Member Steve Knox is taking an all too early retirement from US Bank Trust Services and from the HearthStone Board and moving to Canada. We thank Steve for his years of dedicated service and enthusiasm and wish him the very best in this new chapter in his life. HearthStone now welcomes new Board member Ron Preder. Ron possesses a wealth of knowledge and will certainly be an asset to HearthStone.

Congratulations to Steve and Ron!

Regards,
Thomas Gierke, Executive Director
HearthStone of Wisconsin



Upcoming Events

Friday, April 9th, 2010 - 7:00 a.m., HearthStone Monthly Meeting
Fountain Park Restaurant in Sheboygan

Tuesday, April 20th, 2010 - 8:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m., Sheboygan County Caregiver Coalition Development / Strategic Planning Meeting
Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland

Friday, May 14th, 2010 - 7:00 a.m., HearthStone Monthly Meeting
Fountain Park Restaurant in Sheboygan

Friday, June 11th, 2010 - 7:00 a.m., HearthStone Monthly Meeting
Fountain Park Restaurant in Sheboygan

Dollars and “Sense”

Michael Russo, from Met Life and Stanislav Krakovyak from New England Financial came to the Rocca Room at Mead Library on March 9th, through the fog, to talk to a group of about 20 about financial planning for a disabled person and their parents/family. This is important because someone is no longer eligible for many benefits, including medical assistance if their assets go above \$2000.00. There are some exceptions to this; one being a trust for the benefit of someone is not their direct asset.

Trusts need to be set up by an attorney that has current experience in trusts for the states that are involved. There are different options for trusts and what might work best for your family, but it is very important that the attorney setting up the trust does it according to all current laws so that it can help someone with out becoming their asset. Always ask the attorney you are using how many trusts like this they have done in the last year. You'd ask your heart surgeon how many surgeries he's done this year right? Make sure they are the “Trust Attorney” for you.

The importance of a will for parents was also discussed. If you do not have a will your child will be eligible to some of our estate and remember they can't have more than 2000.00 in assets. A will can leave a specific amount to a trust for the benefit of someone with out it becoming his or her assets. There are also financial options that may allow a life insurance policy to go to a trust and continue to provide some support for someone.

Mike also shared a letter of Intent that he has found to be very helpful in specific requests. It would be useful for any new caregiver. Hearthstone will keep one in a pdf file available on our website.

We have folks like this in about every 2 years and we seem to learn something new every time. Wills, financial planning and letters of intent need to be redone and updated because circumstances always change. Below is contact information for Mike and Stas as well as Annette, our last presenter. We are also providing a list of attorney's that some of the advisors have worked with or others have worked with and have all been pleased with their skill and service. That being said, remember, INTERVIEW your Trust Attorney and be sure your financial advisor has some knowledge in planning with a disabled individual being involved.

Financial Advisors:

Michael J Russo Jr.
Met Life
Milwaukee, WI 53214
414-615-4865
mrusso@metlife.com

Stanislav Krakovyak
New England Financial
Brookfield, WI 53005
262-717-6117
skrakovyak@wisconsin.nef.com

Annette Hammortree
O'Malley & Associates
Downer's Grove, IL 60515
630-964-8424
ahammortree@omalleyassoc.com

Attorneys:

Lawrence J. Haskin
Haskin & Book
7300 South 13th Street
Oak Creek, WI 53154

Charles G. Maris
Davis & Kuelthau, S.C.
3000 N. Corporate Drive
Suite 150
Brookfield, WI 53045
Phone: (262) 792-2424
Fax: (262) 792-2474

Eido M. Walny
Gonzalez, Saggio, Harlan
225 East Michigan Street,
Fourth Floor
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: (414) 277-8500
Fax: (414) 277-8521

Amy Kiskiila
Michael, Best & Fredrich
Waukesha, WI 53188
262-956-6560

Patricia Nelson
Nelson, Irvings, Waeffler
Milwaukee, WI 53226
414-777-0220

Jim Jaeger
Hill, Glowacki, Jaeger &
Hughes
Madison, WI 53704
608-244-1354

Barbara Becker
Becker & Hickey
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-273-1414

*Great changes may not happen right away,
but with effort even the difficult may become easy.*

- Bill Blackman



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

www.hearthstonewi.org

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 its fifth full year. Remarkable, it seems like just yesterday that Steve Hendrkse of HSS and yours truly planned a genuinely homegrown project to address respite care needs of the DD population of Sheboygan County. The Project began in the 4th quarter of 2004 with 3 enrollees. The Project ended 2009 with 60 enrollees. The Respite Project was honored in September with a grant renewal for direct services from the Early Bird Rotary Foundation of Sheboygan. The Rotary initially granted the Respite Project in 2008. The renewal for this year recognizes there is a need in our community for respite services. We sincerely appreciate the generosity of this fine group with a special thank you to Bob Feider who again directed our request to a successful outcome.

The Project Advisory Committee which oversees operations and coordinates with Family Resource Center in intake and administration is again requesting the input of all families who use the program. We need your advice to improve and grow the service. Furthermore, we are at a point that the program can offer respite reimbursement to additional families. If you or someone you know with a DD family member, needs that little time away, a sense that people care and want to help; please contact the Family Resource Center (Plymouth - 920 892 6706/ Sheboygan - 920 457 1888).

The Respite Care Project staff, providers and advisors wish you a happy and safe 2010.

Technology Tidbit

The Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) officially launched its first iPhone App specifically designed to help families and teachers plan for educational services for students with disabilities. PEATC's IEP Checklist iPhone app was developed in response to the rising need for families with children with disabilities to have on-the-spot intelligent assistance working with schools to develop Individual Education Programs (IEPs).

The app can be downloaded from the PEATC website - www.peatc.org or by entering "IEP Checklist" into the iTunes store search bar. The app is free, and is compatible with the iPhone and iPod Touch.

HearthStone Faces

By Ray Cary

On July 5th, 2009, Leslie Cary, a member of the HearthStone Young People's Group; celebrated her 15th anniversary of continuous employment. Leslie busses tables "par excellence" at Hobo's restaurant in Belgium, WI. Her success is a result of Leslie's wonderful positive attitude, -"I love my job", and the dedicated support of the Arndt family, Hobo's owners and manager, the waitstaff crew, - thanks Jen, Laurie and Ann and the timeless support of Portal Industries' job coaches—thanks Robin.



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

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