

## RESPIRE EXPANSION

### Major Donors to the Respite Expansion

**\$50,000 +**  
Mary Krall

**\$20,000 +**  
Appleton Papers  
Paul & Ann Karch  
GE Healthcare  
A beloved, long-time friend who prefers to remain anonymous

**\$5,000-10,000**  
Eileen Ahearn & Mark Kliwer  
Charles & Jean Balsmeider  
James & Marilyn Karch  
Carol Sontag

**\$1,000-4,999**  
Frank Ahearn  
Richard Davies & Gayle Haller  
Children's Miracle Network  
Christine Fessler  
James & Marcia Fourness  
Virginia Furth  
Tony & Amy Gallagher  
Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation  
James Joseph  
Gary & Anne Karch  
Sara Investment Real Estate  
Ken & Lois Saville  
Jeffrey R. Smith  
John Teevan  
Wisconsin Dells Rotary Club



### *You can still be an Angel of Change!*

When she pledged \$50,000 to the Respite Expansion Campaign, Mary Krall mentioned to Easter Seals President and CEO Chris Fessler that she wanted to do something for children as she didn't have any of her own. "Yes, you do," Fessler told her. "You have hundreds of them, right here at Respite. And every one of them is grateful to you."

Krall tops the list of the Angels of Change, the wonderful people who generously have given to make a difference in the lives of people with severe or multiple disabilities and their families.

Even though Elks Village – the most visible part of the expansion at Respite Camp – is complete and 'open for business', the fundraising goal for the remainder of the project has not yet been met. We're almost half-way there, and the effort is continuing!

**Total Estimated expenses (Easter Seals portion): \$443,820**

**Total Raised to date: \$198,395** (from private & corporate gifts; grants)

**Remainder Needed: \$245,425**

*You can still be an Angel of Change!* Gifts, earmarked for the Respite Expansion Campaign, can be sent to Easter Seals Wisconsin; 101 Nob Hill Road, Suite 301; Madison, WI 53713

#### Easter Seals Wisconsin

101 Nob Hill Rd., Suite 301  
Madison, WI 53713

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

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101 Nob Hill Rd., Suite 301; Madison, Wisconsin 53713

# Network News

The newsletter of Easter Seals Wisconsin • Summer/Fall 2006

• Services for children and adults with disabilities in Wisconsin •

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## WISCONSIN ELKS DREAM FOR EASTER SEALS BECOMES REALITY



Each June for the past several years, Wisconsin Elks have gathered at the Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp just north of Wisconsin Dells to celebrate their commitment to Wisconsin families who have loved ones with severe disabilities.

This year's gathering, which took place on June 24, 2006, was particularly memorable because it marked the grand opening of 'Elks Village', the new 10,000 square foot addition to the Respite Camp. Over 200 Elks took the opportunity to tour the building and hear first-hand from Easter Seals board and staff how much their loyalty to the Respite program is appreciated.

The dream of expanding the program through the building of a new facility started six years ago. In the six years it took to make that dream a reality, the number of Respite campers being served by the program grew by 500%, clearly demonstrating that the expansion was badly needed.

In 2005, Respite Camp provided 49,500 hours of service. The new facility will allow Easter Seals Wisconsin to serve an additional 200 campers per year - campers whose complex medical conditions require one to one care and, oftentimes, non-traditional accommodations.

In addition to additional sleeping quarters, Elks Village has a new program area so the campers can have multiple indoor activities happening at the same time on rainy days and on very cold weekends. The building also has a basement which serves as a shelter area during severe weather.

This enormous commitment by the Elks is unique, but not new. Over the past 10 years, *the Wisconsin Elks have raised over \$1 million for Easter Seals*. In addition to yearly financial assistance, the Elks have also taken on major projects to improve and expand camp facilities. Since the Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp opened in 1992, the Wisconsin Elks have funded a Respite Center, a recreational building, a wheelchair lift-equipped van as well as many other camp necessities.

"The Elks have done a magnificent job of embracing the campers and their families, providing the sense of security and fulfillment they need in their daily lives," says Kelly Housman, Director of Camp & Respite Services. "Their commitment to Respite Camp is the only way this expansion could have ever happened. Their belief in our program has helped it to grow to be one of the best and most unique respite programs in the country."

*See back cover for more on the progress of the Respite Expansion Campaign*

## BOARD CHAIRMAN PAUL KARCH HONORED

Paul Karch, chairman of the Easter Seals Wisconsin Board of Directors, was awarded the EP Maxwell J. Schleifer Distinguished Service Award by MassMutual on August 24th. Announcement of the award was made at a ceremony preceding a Wisconsin Timber Rattlers game in Appleton. Paul was chosen for this award for the exemplary leadership he has given to Easter Seals Wisconsin and for his contribution to furthering the cause of the 54 million Americans with disabilities and their families and caregivers. The award was part of Disability Awareness Night at the stadium which was sponsored by MassMutual, in conjunction with Exceptional Parent Magazine and the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers. A number of Easter Seals clients were provided with complimentary tickets to the game to join the festivities.

## EASTER SEALS WELCOMES NEW STAFF



**Melba Brown** joined Easter Seals as a Technical Assistant in the FARM Program. Melba helps the Rural Rehabilitation Specialists schedule appointments with farmers, gathers information, researches assistive equipment and technology, maintains the FARM database and helps with ongoing training for our partners and staff. "Helping farmers with disabilities to stay on the farm is not only good for them, it also helps keep our state economy strong," says Melba.



**Amy Gallagher** is a CPA with 17 years of accounting experience, who has joined Easter Seals as Accounting Assistant. "Just twenty minutes spent at Respite Camp is likely to make anyone a supporter of Easter Seals," says Amy. "The volunteers and staff are incredibly caring, patient and dedicated. And that's just one of the great programs Easter Seals has to serve families in Wisconsin." Amy lives in Lodi with her husband, Tony, and their daughters, Olivia and Meredith.



**Pattie Lambrigtsen** feels that her years of experience in the trucking industry enhanced her ability to work in a fast-paced atmosphere and to deal efficiently with team members. Those same qualities have helped her in new job as Eau Claire Donation Center Manager. "I like what I've learned about Easter Seals," says Pattie. "And I'm looking forward to making the ECDC a strong contributor to the organization."



**Brian Schuetz** has joined Easter Seals as Director of Marketing & Communications, bringing with him seven years of experience in non-profit management, marketing and promotion. "Meeting with clients, hearing their stories and finding out how Easter Seals has changed their lives is motivation to get information about our services out to as many people as possible," says Brian. Brian lives in Portage with his wife Dorothy and their children, Cassandra, Korey and Sadie.

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## LEGACIES THAT BUILD OUR FUTURE

When it's time to begin planning your estate, you think about the people and organizations that have played a role in your life. Your support of Easter Seals Wisconsin during your lifetime shows your belief in our mission and your confidence that we will continue to provide unique programs and services for children and adults with disabilities in Wisconsin. By naming Easter Seals in a charitable bequest you can help provide for our future.

A charitable bequest is a provision in either your will or your living trust which provides that all or a portion of your estate is to pass to a charitable organization such as Easter Seals Wisconsin. Bequests can be stated in a number of ways:

- You may deliver a specific dollar amount, asset, or percentage of your estate
- You can give all or a percentage of the balance remaining in your estate after expenses, taxes, and the specific bequests have been paid
- Your bequest can be payable if the initial beneficiary is unable to inherit it

Other benefits:

Bequests are not payable until death, so it does not affect your assets or cash flow during your lifetime.

Bequests are private – your will is not filed or made public until your death.

Bequests are revocable – you can change the provisions in your will or trust at any time until death.

Bequests will likely reduce your tax liability if your estate is subject to estate taxes.

Bequests made with tax-qualified assets (IRA, 401K, Keogh plans) may eliminate some income tax to your heirs.

If made through your living trust, probate will likely be eliminated.

*Please Note: Laws dealing with estates are subject to change. Please consult your legal and tax advisors before making any material decisions based on this information.*

## MORE WAYS TO SUPPORT EASTER SEALS

### CAMP GROUP RENTALS

If you're planning a group meeting, retreat or family reunion, you can help support Easter Seals programs by renting either Camp Wawbeek or Respite Camp between September and May for your gathering. The camps, located just outside Wisconsin Dells, have hosted college groups, religious organizations, band camps, educational groups and others. Visit [www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com](http://www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com) for more information or call 1.800.422.2324.

### MATCHING GIFTS

Make your donation work harder! Many companies will match your gift to Easter Seals. Check with your employer to see if they have a matching gift program. Forms, which should be mailed with your gift, generally only take a minute to fill out.

## How Will Easter Seals Handle My Bequest?

Your bequest can create a non-endowed fund or an endowed fund.

A non-endowed fund can be established for any amount and is spent until it is depleted. An endowed fund exists in perpetuity, with only the earnings spent for the purpose specified.

Your bequest can support a particular program or a particular use, such as camperships. Unrestricted bequests provide the greatest flexibility, enabling Easter Seals to direct the funds where they are most needed.

### VEHICLE DONATIONS

The donation of your used car, truck, trailer, boat, RV or snowmobile could make a big difference in the lives of people with disabilities right here in Wisconsin. We can accept most vehicles in road-worthy condition and will make arrangements to quickly pick up your vehicle donation at no cost to you. Title transfer requirements will be handled and you will be provided with a tax deductible donation receipt.

### CARTRIDGES FOR KIDS

Easter Seals accepts used inkjet or laser printer cartridges and wireless phones which we then redeem for cash, using the funds to support our programs. The cartridges and phones are recycled and later sold as refurbished. Cartridges and phones can be turned in to your local Century 21 office or mailed to: Easter Seals Wisconsin.

**STEM: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS**

Are you a junior high, high school or college student interested in science, technology, engineering or math? Do you have a disability? If so, we have a new opportunity for you!

Easter Seals Wisconsin is partnering with a group of educators and scientists from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Northern Iowa to increase the quantity and quality of students with disabilities completing high school, college and graduate work in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Easter Seals will be conducting a weekend specialty camp at Camp Wawbeek March 16 - 18, 2007 with projects and trips focusing on STEM related themes. "We're very excited about this opportunity," says Ken Saville, Vice President of Program Development. "It's something new for us and we expect to see a lot of new faces who will love this session."

**8TH ANNUAL FALL SPRAWL**

**10K & 5K Run/Walk/Wheel**  
**9:15 AM • Saturday, September 30th, 2006**

**Camp Wawbeek • Wisconsin Dells**  
 This cross country course over pavement, gravel and grass covers two distances: 5K & 10K. Participants in wheelchairs may run the course over partially accessible trails. The \$15 registration fee benefits Camp Wawbeek and includes a Fall Sprawl t-shirt, fresh fruit, beverages and a complimentary lunch. Business teams are welcome. Call 1.800.422.2324 ext. 108 for more information, or register online at [www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com](http://www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com).



**14TH ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
**8:00 AM - 12:30 PM • Sunday, October 1st, 2006**

**Camp Wawbeek • Wisconsin Dells**  
 Only \$5.00 for all the pancakes and sausages you can eat! After breakfast, guests are invited to take a relaxing trail ride and enjoy a tour of Camp Wawbeek. Placemat advertisements and table sponsorships available for purchase. Call 1.800.422.2324 ext. 108 for more information.

**Upcoming Camp & Respite Sessions**

**CAMP WAWBEEK**

**2006-2007 SPECIALTY SESSIONS:**

- ADHD Weekend*  
February 2 - 4, 2007
- Teen Weekend*  
February 23 - 25, 2007
- STEM Weekend*  
March 16 - 18, 2007
- Trailblazers Weekend*  
March 23 - 25, 2007
- 3-Day Spring Break Session\**  
\*Dates to be determined

**RESPITE CAMP**

**2006-2007 RESPITE WEEKENDS:**

- September 8 - 10, 2006
- September 29 - October 1, 2006
- October 20 - 22, 2006
- November 17 - 19, 2006
- December 1 - 3, 2006
- January 19 - 21, 2007
- February 9 - 11, 2007
- March 2 - 4, 2007
- March 23 - 25, 2007
- April 13 - 15, 2007
- May 4 - 6, 2007

**2006-2007 SPECIALTY SESSIONS:**

- Holiday Session*  
December 27 - 30, 2006
- Aspergers Weekend*  
Jan. 19 - 21, 2007
- Break Away Respite (Trego, WI)*  
April 20 - 22, 2007
- Spotlight on Siblings*  
April 13 - 15, 2007
- Siblings are welcome at all sessions on a space available basis.*

Visit us for more information:  
[www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com](http://www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com)

**Call 1.800.422.2324 to Register!**

**EASTER SEALS LAUNCHES NEW EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The tendency to fear or avoid someone who is different is understandable for both children and adults. In many cases, that fear can lead to discomfort or to misunderstandings. In more extreme cases, it can lead to prejudices or to harassment and bullying.

Because people with disabilities are so often among those viewed as 'different', and to help prevent habits of avoidance that sometimes take root, Easter Seals has created a new disability awareness educational program, *Avenues to Understanding*.

"We've been offering disability awareness materials to the public for nearly 20 years," says Mary Statz, who oversaw the creation of the new program. "*Avenues* differs in that it's designed not only for very young children, which was our main focus before, but for older kids and teens as well."

The *Avenues to Understanding* Educational Guide provides an expanding knowledge of disability issues for participants as they age. Young children will be presented with an introduction to disabilities and will be helped to look for similarities rather than differences when meeting someone

with a disability. Older kids will begin to explore the architectural and attitudinal barriers that may provide stumbling blocks to integration for people with disabilities and look at them in conjunction with their own need to 'fit in'. High school students are encouraged to explore their communities, to look at how people with disabilities are regarded and portrayed and to consider how people with disabilities might be affected by the same 'real world' challenges they themselves are facing – independent living, college and jobs.

"There will also be supporting materials on our website," adds Statz. "I'm excited about the web support, which launches the first week of October, because it has the potential to get the informa-

tion into more hands. It's also easy to expand upon as the program grows." To start, the webpage will feature additional resources, printable photos, coloring pages for kids and helpful links.

*Avenues to Understanding* is available without charge to public and private schools, early childhood programs, youth organizations and community groups across our state.

For more information contact Mary Statz at 1.800.422.2324, ext. 103.



**PICK-UP SERVICE**

**EASTER SEALS PICK-UP SERVICE EXPANDS INTO THE FOX VALLEY**



In June, Easter Seals Wisconsin expanded its popular Pick-Up Service into the Fox Valley. Residents can take advantage of this opportunity to donate gently used clothing and household goods and receive a tax receipt at the same time. Easter Seals Wisconsin conducts the collection service, which raises over \$175,000 annually, to support its programs for children and adults with disabilities throughout Wisconsin.

"We are excited to offer a convenient way for individuals to donate items in a way that will help support their community," says Jo Warren, Director of Easter Seals Donation Centers. "The Easter Seals Pick-Up Service provides funding necessary to further our mission to create greater independence for individuals with disabilities in Wisconsin."

Residents can leave items to be collected by Easter Seals trucks on specified days. You should receive cards in your mailbox letting you know when the service will be coming through your neighborhood. Boats, RVs, and vehicles are also accepted following special arrangements.

To learn more about Easter Seals Pick-Up Service, visit [www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com](http://www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com).



*Austin, a Camp Wawbeek camper, spends some time with former Wisconsin Badger and Washington Redskin Chris Osswald.*

**GOLF OUTING FOR KIDS - EASTER SEALS PREMIER EVENT CELEBRATES 11TH YEAR OF SUCCESS**

Nearly 200 golfers came together on June 27th at Christmas Mountain Village in Wisconsin Dells for the 11th Annual Golf Outing for Kids. Perfect weather enhanced a day filled with fun on the course which was followed by a cookout with campers at Camp Wawbeek. The event raised over \$100,000 to support Easter Seals programs for children and adults with disabilities.

Easter Seals extends heartfelt thanks to the Golf Outing for Kids sponsors: Great Wolf Lodge, Ho-Chunk Hotel & Casino, AE Business Solutions, Chula Vista Golf Resort, Dells.com/Wistravel.com, Fish & Schulkamp Inc., Holiday Wholesale, Kalahari Resort, Kraemer Brothers, Moosejaw Pizza & Dells Brewing Co., Mortenson, Matzelle & Meldrum Inc., Mt. Olympus, Neuman Pools, Noah's Ark, Stevens Construction, Virchow Krause Capital, Water Technology, Wilderness Hotel & Golf Resort. Easter Seals also recognizes C & H Distributing of Reedsburg, Christmas Mountain Village and Large Format Digital for their support.

**ALLIANT ENERGY BOWLS FOR EASTER SEALS**

Things were rockin' and rollin' as employees from Alliant Energy hit the lanes for the 3rd Annual Alliant Energy Bowling Event for Easter Seals. Bowlers of all abilities took part in the afternoon of fun and camaraderie at Badger Bowl in Madison and were joined by Easter Seals clients Stacy Opsal, Hannah Berg and Mark Sobrilski. The event, which was the brain child of Alliant Energy Director of Strategic Tax Projects (and Easter Seals board member) Rod Ripley, raised over \$16,000.



*Easter Seals thanks everyone who contributed to the success of these events! You are all appreciated!*



**DIAMONDS & CHOCOLATE**, held in the Fox Valley, gave purchasers of a \$10 raffle ticket a one-half pound box of Vande Walle's chocolates and the chance to win a pair of diamond earrings. The lucky winner was Kathryn Correia of Appleton.



**BUMP IT UP FOR EASTER SEALS** was held July 15 & 16 in Medford. Century 21 Dairyland Realty North agents and their families organized the volleyball event, raising over \$1,200 for Easter Seals. *Photo courtesy of The Star News • Medford, Wisconsin.*

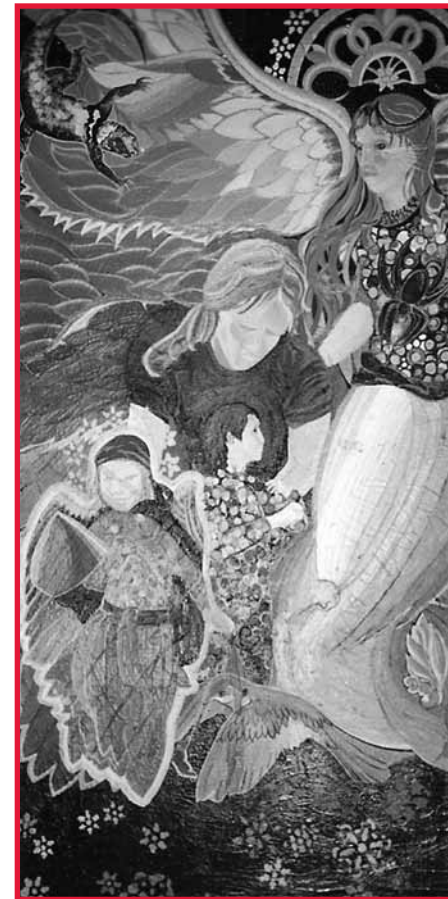
**EASTER SEALS' NEWEST PROGRAM OFF TO A GREAT START**

"I hope the one thing people take out of my art is the fact that we make our own reality, and we can either make it a positive or a negative place," says Jon Wos, a nationally recognized artist and a recipient of Easter Seals Self-Employment Services. Jon has Osteogenesis Imperfecta, also known as 'brittle bone' disorder. He coped with the disorder – which led to frequent hospitalizations during his childhood for surgeries on his easily-fractured bones – by immersing himself in painting, drawing, sculpting and creating stained glass. "Art is a window to my life, so viewers will find my disability all over my art. Art was one of the few things that helped my self esteem because I could say I was really good at something."

Jon was referred to Julie Jensen, Self-Employment Specialist, by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). With Julie's assistance, Jon is exploring ways he might support himself through his art, and together they developed a business plan to help him meet that goal.



*Mom 'n Gage by Jon Wos*



*Spirit of My Children by Jamie Winter-Schira*

"I work with such a variety of people," Julie says. "They have different talents, different skills and different disabilities." Most of Julie's clients are referred to her through DVR. Julie helps them assess their skills and determine if there is a market for those skills and talents. She also helps them assess what they may need to do to accommodate their disability and what financing they might require in order to become successfully self-employed. Once a business plan is developed, it is submitted to DVR for possible funding.

Julie also developed a business plan with another artist, Jamie Winter-Schira, who has been painting since childhood and currently works in watercolor and oils. Jamie has struggled with multiple illnesses, including bipolar disorder and early onset Parkinson's disease. "My subject matter comes in periods of 'mania' and I will work on up to 14 various pieces at once," Jamie says.

Jamie has master's degrees in both art and social work from the UW-Madison. In addition to her art, Jamie is active in the community. She was instrumental in creating the Shawano Art League, an art association for older artists and artists with disabilities.

Jon and Jamie are among the more than 60 clients who have been referred to Self-Employment Services since the program launched last year. The clients are developing a wide variety of businesses including chemical cleaning, lawn care and manufacturing toys for birds. A client with dyslexia is tutoring others with dyslexia.

Although the program is currently limited to northeastern Wisconsin, there are plans to expand the area served. A second full-time Self-Employment Services Specialist will be hired this fall.

*To learn more about Jon and Jamie and to see their winning entries in the Very Special Arts (VSA) Wisconsin program, visit the VSA site at [www.vsawis.org/2006bios.htm](http://www.vsawis.org/2006bios.htm). Jon's web site is at [www.wosart.com](http://www.wosart.com). Jamie's artwork can be viewed at [www.disabledartistsnetwork.net](http://www.disabledartistsnetwork.net).*

## FARM PROGRAM CONTINUES TO PROVIDE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP



As part of National AgrAbility New Staff training, Bruce Whitmore conducts an onsite workshop at a local farm.

For the third consecutive year, Easter Seals Wisconsin's FARM program was chosen to host the National AgrAbility New Staff training conference.

The three day conference, held in May, had attendees from Colorado, Wyoming, Texas, Idaho and Montana. During the conference, participants learned about collaborations, how to conduct an assessment, identifying job tasks and the barriers that might result from various disabilities. They then focused on how to define options to remove those barriers.

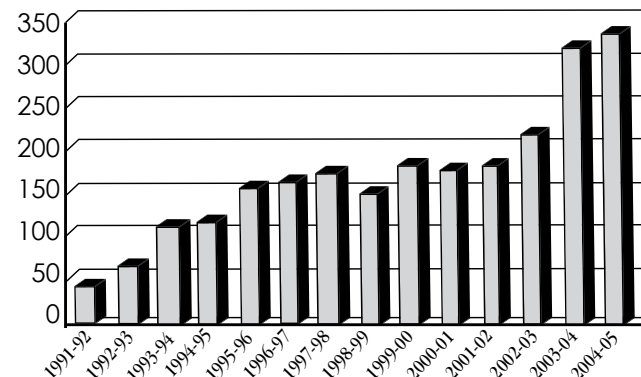
Bruce Whitmore, Rural Rehabilitation Specialist, led a tour of an area farm where the FARM Program had successfully worked with the farmer to accommodate the barriers he was facing.

AgrAbility Wisconsin is the partnership of Easter Seals Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin Extension. It is the longest continuously-running AgrAbility program in the nation, and has become a model for other states who wish to start their own AgrAbility program or strengthen their existing program.

Paul Leverenz, Vice President of FARM and Vocational Services, credits the strength of the Wisconsin program to innovative thinking on behalf

of a motivated staff and to the strong partnerships that have developed over the years.

FARM Program



Number of farmers and farm workers served

The Easter Seals Wisconsin FARM program has experienced tremendous growth since its inception in 1991. This year over 360 clients will be served.

# DISABILITY HELPLINE

## COLLABORATION IS THE TOOL TO USE!

Collaboration is often the key to making a project successful and Easter Seals' involvement with the Larsen/Winchester Lions Club is a good example of how collaboration can work. Last fall the Disability HelpLine of Outagamie County received a call from one of the Lions Club members looking for possible financial resources to help fund tools for their medical equipment loan and ramp building programs. Because these programs are essential to many of Easter Seals' Fox Valley area clients, the HelpLine staff took the time to research possibilities and eventually agreed to write a grant proposal on their behalf and serve as fiscal agent for the project.

In February an \$8,000 grant from the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region was approved. The project has been a win/win for everyone involved. The Lions have a state-of-the-art repair shop and Easter Seals continues to have an excellent, reliable place to refer clients for used medical equipment and ramps. Most important, families with no insurance or other options have a place to turn in a time of need. Collaboration was the tool needed to fix this community need!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars now for these great events!

## CENTURY 21 AFFILIATED CAR RAFFLE

September 25th - November 21, 2006

Century 21 Affiliated will be holding their 3rd annual car raffle benefiting Easter Seals Wisconsin.

Visit [www.21.com](http://www.21.com) or [www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com](http://www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com) for details and information on purchasing your tickets.



## BUNKO'S BEST!

6:00 PM • Thursday, October 17th, 2006

The Meadows • Neenah

An evening of food, fun, and the popular dice game is open to adults aged 21 and over. Appetizers, dessert and a coffee bar are included in the \$35 ticket price. Cash bar. Call 920.886.3615 for more information.

## 4TH ANNUAL FALL FUN FEST

An afternoon of fun & fellowship.

2:00 PM • Saturday, November 4th, 2006

Eagle's Club • Hallie (near Eau Claire)

Be one of 150 to purchase a \$50 raffle ticket (top prize \$1,000), and enjoy an afternoon of food, fun and more raffles. All proceeds benefit Easter Seals Wisconsin. Call 1.715.834.9452 for tickets or more information.



Wines Around the World moves to beautiful Nakoma Golf Club and returns to the popular Mardi Gras theme. The date? Fat Tuesday, of course! (February 20th, 2007) Watch our website for details.



Easter Seals Wisconsin was one of 40 area nonprofit organizations taking part in Appleton's HUMAN RACE in May. Over \$5,000 was raised to help people in Outagamie County purchase disability-related equipment.



THE WAUSAU DANCE AND RAFFLE, held in March at Schmidt's Ballroom in Wausau, raised over \$10,000 and enjoyed record attendance. The event began with a luncheon and concluded with a dance featuring music by the country band SouthBound.



CASINO NIGHT was held in February at the Crossroads Inn in McFarland. The event, organized by the Dane County Council of Snowmobile Clubs, included raffles and a silent auction along with the casino games and raised over \$8,000.

## OUR NEW AMBASSADORS - RESPITE CAMP



Hannah (seated) and Molly

**Hannah Berg** was born with a chromosomal abnormality so rare that, according to her mother, Cheryl, 80-85% of such pregnancies end in miscarriage. The fact the Hannah beat the odds even before birth helped to convince her family that there is truly a reason for her to be here and has renewed their determination to help her achieve her highest potential and see that she has a quality life.

Hannah is non-verbal, but is able to answer simple yes and no questions, and walk with assistance. She is very trusting of people, but she can also sense when people are uncomfortable around her, which is one of the reasons Hannah feels so at ease at Respite Camp. "It's nice that they have repeat counselors who remember Hannah from previous years," says Cheryl.

"I'm not sure how we would manage without Respite Camp," she adds. "What a great place, what a great group of caring people! Hannah loves the one-on-one interaction she experiences there, and enjoys many of the activities offered – swimming, tractor trail rides, campfire singing, sensory activities and the ropes course. And because Hannah requires total assistance for all her daily needs, her stay at camp provides a much needed respite for me."

Hannah has been attending camp for 8 years, and is often accompanied by her sister Molly, 10, who attends under the 'Bring a Buddy'

program. Hannah enjoys having her sister's familiar face nearby, and Molly loves camp as well, hoping to work there when she is older. Outside of camp, Hannah enjoys swimming, sensory activities, stories and music videos. She also loves Wheel of Fortune and Lawrence Welk.

*Hannah is a 7th grader who lives with her parents, Dennis & Cheryl, her sister, Molly and their cats, Fergy & Rollie.*

According to his camp counselor, Melanie Pare, fourteen year old Justin is a very happy-go-lucky kid. "He loves to entertain people and make them laugh," Mel says. "He gets along with everyone and participates in everything. He loves camp."

Justin's mother, Julie, agrees. "Justin counts down the days until he can go back to camp," she says. "He is very much a social kid and it is hard to find places for him to go to have that. The camp staff is so loving and accepting, and the campers get to do all the camp stuff 'regular' kids do. I am just thrilled that we found this." Justin has been going to Respite Camp for three years. "Respite gives me some time to get lots of stuff done and to relax," Julie adds. "And it gives me time with my other son."

Justin enjoys everything Respite Camp has to offer. "He sings on the boat trips and dances up a storm at the dances," Mel adds. "He particularly loves making new friends. Back home, Justin bowls, plays basketball and competes in track and field events in the Special Olympics."

*Justin lives with his mother, Julie and his brother Jared, and spends some weekends with his father, Jeff. He is in junior high.*

### Justin Fait



### Daniel Malnory

"Daniel," says his mom, Lauri, "is a complicated kid. He enjoys being around people, but doesn't join in. He's engaging once the barriers of his autistic behavior have been broken through and he enjoys people. But he's more of an observer."

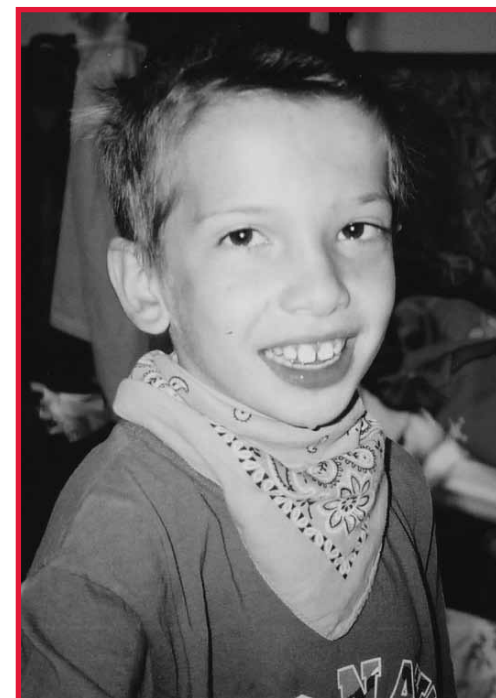
A junior in high school, Daniel was born with Rubinstein-Taybi Syndrome. When he's on his own turf – at home, at school, with his family at the lake or at Respite Camp – he's relaxed and as independent as he can be. He enjoys country music and watching television, and particularly enjoys Shania Twain and the Little Rascals. He also loves riding around in a golf cart.

"Daniel's disability has changed the ways of our entire family," says Lauri. "It has changed how we raise our children, changed our jobs. It has changed the family's world. It's been difficult, which is not the same as being bad. God has a plan, but it took our family some time to learn how to navigate forward."

The Malnorys learned about Respite Camp from Leslie Connor, whose daughter, Kaitlin, attends. "Without Leslie's urging, we never would have sent Daniel. The first few times Daniel attended I refused to leave the Dells area, afraid to be too far away. But I've been able to wean myself away now, and the break our family has while Daniel is at camp means as much to us as attending camp does to Daniel."



*Daniel lives with his parents, Mark & Lauri, and his sisters, Karyn and Jayme.*



### Matt Thurber

Only two weeks after a normal delivery, breathing problems led to the discovery that Matthew had an extremely rare and life-threatening condition known as an arterio-venous malformation, in which the circulation of blood to the brain is interrupted. A number of surgeries over the next several years, followed by therapy, helped Matthew to grow and develop into a very happy young boy with a seemingly unlimited amount of energy. Although he has severe developmental disabilities, Matthew loves school and is enthusiastic about attending every day. His teacher and the classroom aides are some of his favorite people. Matt's favorite activities include shooting baskets, biking with Mom & Dad, wrestling with his brother, playing in the sandbox, shopping, playing in the snow, sledding, listening to music, dancing and pulling his dog's tail.

According to his mom, Tiger, his favorite activity of all is attending Respite Camp. "Matt always looks forward to the awesome adventures he has there.

He loves his counselors and fellow campers. We have an unspoken rule in our house not to mention the word 'camp' more than a day before his stay begins or else Matt is packing and going to the van every morning for the entire week leading up to camp! Respite Camp has been a blessing for us!"

*Matthew is a 6th grader who lives with his parents, Allen & Tiger, his older brother Kyle, and the two family dogs, Rosie & Sunny.*