



Brett Favre names Easter Seals Wisconsin the recipient of a grant from the Brett Favre Fourward Foundation.

PUSH America, the national philanthropy of Pi Kappa Phi, whose purpose is to promote lifelong service among fraternity members by serving people with disabilities, has committed to sending at least a dozen young men to clear the land and help assemble the playground structures. They will also contribute \$5,000 to the effort. Another two dozen young people will work with the PUSH team through an AmeriCorps grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The playground will be the second fully accessible structure that Easter Seals Wisconsin has been involved in. The first is Memorial Park's Universal Playground in the Fox Cities, which was completed in May of 2004. Led by Jill Gretzinger, Disability HelpLine Coordinator, it began as a grassroots effort by the residents of the Fox Cities to promote diversity and meet a need in the community for children with and without disabilities.

The Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp is hosting a community build weekend October 7-9. If you would like to help make this playground a reality by volunteering your time and energy, please contact Kelly Housman, Director of Camp and Respite Programs at

Please help us mail smarter. If you are receiving more than one newsletter, if your address has changed, or if we are misspelling your name, please call Nanc Howard at 1.800.422.2324 ext. 115 to correct or update your address or to be removed from our

**THANK YOU!**

## Wish List

Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek & the Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp have need for the following

TV/DVD/VCR Combo	Beanbag chairs
Arts supplies of all sorts	Sleeping bags
Adult clothing protectors	Tarps
Patio furniture for pool area	Pool cover
Electric food pureer	Tents
Wet Wipes	Canoe

If you have any of these items to donate, please contact Val Croissant at 1.608.254.2502.

**The Easter Seals Pick-up Service** is now accepting the donation of cars and other vehicles from throughout the state and is picking up from hundreds of communities in southern, northern and central Wisconsin. Check our website at [www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com](http://www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com) for a complete list of the cities and to learn what items we can and cannot take.

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 136  
Madison, WI



### Easter Seals Wisconsin

101 Nob Hill Rd., Suite 301  
Madison, WI 53713  
[www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com](http://www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com)  
*Creating solutions, changing lives.*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



# Network News

The newsletter of Easter Seals Wisconsin • Summer/Fall 2005

• Services for children and adults with disabilities in Wisconsin •

## Inside

Easter Seals News.....	2
What's New/ Pick-Up Service.....	3
Event Highlights.....	4
Upcoming Events.....	5
Recognition Dinner.....	6
Disability HelpLine/ Commentary.....	8
FARM News.....	9
Camp Wawbeek.....	10
Respite.....	11

## BRETT FAVRE FOURWARD FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO EASTER SEALS WISCONSIN



Easter Seals Wisconsin ambassador Tabby Joski was thrilled to accept a check from Green Bay Packer quarterback Brett Favre. The funds will be used to help build an accessible playground at Respite Camp.

On January 5th, 2005, one of Tabby Joski's dreams came true. A passionate, lifelong Packer fan, Tabby was able to meet NFL legend Brett Favre during a ceremony at Lambeau Field, where she accepted a check from the Brett Favre Fourward Foundation on behalf of Easter Seals Wisconsin. The \$7,500 donation will be used to aid in the building of a fully accessible playground on the grounds of the Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp in Wisconsin Dells.

Easter Seals Wisconsin was one of only 10 groups chosen to receive funds by the Brett Favre Fourward Foundation, whose mission is to help children with disabilities and disadvantaged children in Brett's home state of Mississippi and his adopted state of Wisconsin. Since it was founded in 1996, the foundation has given over \$1.5 million to various charities.

The day made more than just Tabby's dreams a reality. The proposed playground is expected to allow more than 500 children, teenagers and adults to interact with each other and with camp counselors in a fully integrated and accessible setting each year.

The playground will have rubber surfaces to permit wheelchair access, and equipment will be outfitted with seatbelts, neck restraints and backrests. Because some Respite campers have physical disabilities and some do not, the structure will include both adapted and non-adapted elements. This means it will have ramps and transfer stations as well as climbing poles and slides. In addition, sensory boards, such as drum and chimes panels, will appeal to many Respite campers who enjoy and benefit from engaging sensory experiences.

The new play area provides outdoor, centralized fun. The playground will promote socialization, because counselors can use the equipment for informal group play and encourage campers to make friends. Both physically and non-physically disabled campers can challenge themselves physically at whatever level they want.

Since a top-of-the-line play structure such as this can cost more than \$35,000, the construction of the Easter Seals Respite Camp's playground has been a community fundraising effort. In addition to the Brett Favre Fourward Foundation, Easter Seals has received money from the Christopher Reeve Foundation, the Jenni and Kyle Fund of the Madison Community Foundation, Adams Columbia Electric, the Children's Miracle Network of Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation and the Presto Foundation.

**RURAL INSURANCE COMPANIES**  
A Farm Bureau Service  
Printing of the Network News is generously donated by Rural Insurance Companies

**KIWANIS PROVIDE NEEDED SHADE**



The Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District provided funds for the building of a shade structure that was built alongside the pool at Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek in Wisconsin Dells. The structure was Governor Barry Hersh's Kiwanis Governor's Project for camp.

The 35' x 65' shelter was constructed by camp staff and will

provide needed shade over the large concrete area along the west side of the pool. Many campers using the pool are sun sensitive and the canopy will make it possible for them to remain outside for longer periods of time without risk. It also provides a place to store wheelchairs while swimmers are in the pool, keeping them cooler, and an area for non-swimming campers to 'hang out' with friends who enjoy using the pool.

**THE HUMAN RACE**

The Human Race, an event coordinated by The Volunteer Center of East Central Wisconsin has at its heart a truly unique feature. While The Volunteer Center does the planning and organizing, participants are invited to designate whatever charity they wish to be the beneficiary of their efforts.

This year Jill Gretzinger, from Easter Seals Disability HelpLine in Appleton, coordinated the Easter Seals team. On May 14th, 15 people walked and wheeled for Easter Seals, raising a total of \$2,128 which will be used to provide grants to individuals for disability-related equipment. Ann Schwaller, mother of an Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek camper, was the number one fundraiser for Easter Seals as well as the top fundraiser

**IN FOND MEMORY...**

Easter Seals Wisconsin mourns the passing of the following friends, donors and volunteers. They have been deeply appreciated and will be missed.

**Alberta Canepa** Founder of the Canepa School of Dance, Alberta and her husband Tony believed in community, and made Easter Seals the beneficiary of their generosity for nearly 50 years. (See *Recognition Dinner*, page 6.)

**Maria Clark** Long time volunteer for the Rock County Easter Seals Service Unit, Maria's caring for others contributed to her rich, productive and long life.

**Anna Elsen** Wood County volunteer and Camp Wawbeek supporter.

**Arlie Mucks** Wisconsin Badger booster extraordinaire, and a charter member of the Friends of Easter Seals, Arlie's red jacket was a common sight in the halls of the Easter Seals state office in the 1980's and 90's. His wonderful humor and generosity will never be forgotten.

**Melba Svec** Wife of former Easter Seals Wisconsin CEO Ken Svec.

**Tom Towell** A long time volunteer fundraiser for Easter Seals, Tom was a familiar face on the Easter Seals telethon, and served on a number of committees.

**Robert Watkins** Long time Kenosha County Service Unit volunteer.

We also bid a last farewell to Easter Seals Golf Outing for Kids celebrities

**John 'Red' Cochran** and **Fred Negus**.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Christine Fessler, President/CEO  
cfessler@wi.easterseals.com 608.277.8288 x 116

Nance Roepke, Executive Vice President  
nroepke@wi.easterseals.com 608.277.8288 x 117

Nanc Howard, Executive Assistant  
nhoward@wi.easterseals.com 608.277.8288 x 115

Nikki Goelzer, Receptionist  
ngoelzer@wi.easterseals.com 608.277.8288 x 101

**MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS**

Tiffany Niederwerfer, Director  
tniederwerfer@wi.easterseals.com 608.277.8288 x 107

**FINANCE**

Sue Ebert, Director  
sebert@wi.easterseals.com 608.277.8288 x 119

**PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

Ken Saville, Vice President  
ksaville@wi.easterseals.com 608.277.8288 x 108

Elisabeth Marx, Foundation & Government Relations  
emarx@wi.easterseals.com 608.277.8288 x 120

**CLIENT ASSISTANCE**

Jill Gretzinger, Outagamie County Disability HelpLine  
jgretzinger@wi.easterseals.com 920.832.0344

**CAMP AND RESPITE PROGRAMS**

Kelly Housman, Director of Camping & Respite Programs  
khousman@wi.easterseals.com 608.277.8288 x 111

Valerie Croissant, Respite Coordinator  
respitel@wi.easterseals.com 608.254.2502

Aurora Holder, AmeriCorps Coordinator  
aholder@wi.easterseals.com 608.277.8288 x 105

Becky Maas, Administrative Assistant  
bmaas@wi.easterseals.com 608.277.8288 x 124

**FARM & VOCATIONAL SERVICES**

Paul Leverenz, Vice President  
pleverenz@wi.easterseals.com 920.898.9224

Holly Allen, Rural Rehabilitation Specialist  
hallen@wi.easterseals.com 920.884.0005

T. Ellenbecker, Rural Rehabilitation Specialist  
tellenbecker@wi.easterseals.com 715.842.3411

Carlene Volbrecht, Rural Rehabilitation Specialist  
cvolbrecht@wi.easterseals.com 715.877.3402

Bruce Whitmore, Rural Rehabilitation Specialist  
bwhitmore@wi.easterseals.com 920.675.0570

Julie Jensen, Self Employment Services  
jjensen@wi.easterseals.com 920.431.0843

Judith Guttman, Technical Assistant  
jguttman@wi.easterseals.com 608.277.8288 x 125

Brooke Welch, Technical Assistant  
bwelch@wi.easterseals.com 608.277.8288 x 106

**DEVELOPMENT**

Terri Spring, Director/Southern Wisconsin  
tspring@wi.easterseals.com 608.277.8288 x 109

Brenda Thompson, Director/Northwestern Wisconsin  
brendat@ecol.net 715.834.9452

Karen Ziemke, Director/Northeastern Wisconsin  
kziemke@wi.easterseals.com 920.886.3615

Mary Statz, Administrative Assistant  
mstatz@wi.easterseals.com 608.277.8288 x 103

**DONATION CENTER & PICK-UP SERVICE**

Jo Warren, Manager  
dcenter@wi.easterseals.com 608.257.7780

Sue Besler, Assistant Manager  
sbesler@wi.easterseals.com 608.257.7780

*Network News is published by Easter Seals Wisconsin  
101 Nob Hill Rd., Suite 301; Madison, Wisconsin 53713*

**ELKS TO BREAK GROUND AGAIN**



On June 25th, 2005, the Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp hosted Wisconsin Elks Day. With Elks from all over the state gathered in one location, conversation naturally focused on the new building the organization is building for Respite Camp. The Elks have scheduled the ground-breaking for October, 2005. The building will have cedar siding to blend into the natural landscape of camp, and numerous windows will allow campers to enjoy the wooded views. The building will also have a large indoor program area and a storm shelter. But most importantly, the

"Our waiting lists are the longest they've ever been," said Val Croissant, Easter Seals Respite Coordinator. "So we're very excited about this expansion of our facilities. When the new building is complete, Respite will be able to accommodate 10 more campers each session, for an additional 100 campers served each summer. Respite care remains the number one need for the families and caregivers of people with severe disabilities, and the Elks have been extremely generous in helping Easter Seals to meet that need. We're so grateful for everything they've done!"

**SENSORY ROOM A HIT**

This spring, the fall AmeriCorps members finished their major project for Respite Camp - a sensory room. The room, full of special lighting effects, textures, colors and sounds, provides campers with new experiences. For some campers, it goes a step further, becoming a haven from the hustle and bustle of normal

**EASTER SEALS RESPITE CAMP TAKES TO THE ROAD**

The first ever session of Break Away Respite Camp was held April 29th - May 1st, 2005, in Trego, Wisconsin. Seven campers made their way to the Schwan Center in the north woods for a weekend filled with nature projects, arts and crafts, outdoor play and hiking. Campers and counselors agreed that one of the highlights of the weekend took place during an evening walk along the lake when the group came upon a herd of deer.



While the campers enjoyed the beautiful setting and new experiences, their families were able to the round-the-clock caregiving that their loved one requires. Because distance prevents many families from the northern part of the state from taking advantage of our weekend Respite Camp in Wisconsin Dells, we are very excited about expanding this program and offering more opportunities for

**AmeriCorps  
Members**

This summer's AmeriCorps members bring a lot of enthusiasm and experience to Camp Wawbeek and Respite Camp. They are also quite a melting pot of talents and origins. Meet three of our seventeen members:

**Dustin McCormick** served in Kuwait for the National Guard. Through his experience in the military he developed a passion for wanting "to make the world a better place." After he completes his commitment with AmeriCorps he plans on joining the Peace Corps. Dustin attends UW - Richland Center and is pursuing a degree in International Relations.

**Meaghan Sweney**, whose parents first met while working at Camp Wawbeek, is living proof that many good relationships begin there. The AmeriCorps Arts & Crafts assistant, Meaghan is very passionate about volunteering and art education. She played a big part in Kent State's Throw 'N Go program, which is a unique recycling program that utilizes the donations of Kent State University students and staff to benefit the people of Ohio's Portage County.

**Patrick Beal's** "big brother" attitude and his enthusiastic efforts to get everyone involved in camp life has had an amazing affect on his campers. Growing up in Europe, Patrick enjoyed a multicultural education both socially and scholastically. One of his life goals is to open a camp for the differently-abled similar to Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek.

Camp Wawbeek and the Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp consider themselves blessed to have

Transition Team

All teenagers and young adults seek to establish independence, a goal that can be complicated by the presence of a disability. Now in its second year, Easter Seals Wisconsin's *Transition Team* gives

young people ages 16-25 with physical disabilities the tools and experience they need to achieve independence, surrounded by peers who know what they're going through.

*Transition Team* was held at Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek and included field trips, discussion groups and role playing to help teenagers and young adults successfully navigate an increasingly complex world. Programming included trips to a bus station, a community college and an apartment complex. Additionally, *Transition Team* participants took advantage of the wide variety of traditional camp activities available at Camp Wawbeek.

"Easter Seals Wisconsin has a long history of meeting the changing needs of people with disabilities in Wisconsin," says Christine Fessler, CEO of Easter Seals Wisconsin. "*Transition Team* effectively reaches people with disabilities who have gone through school and

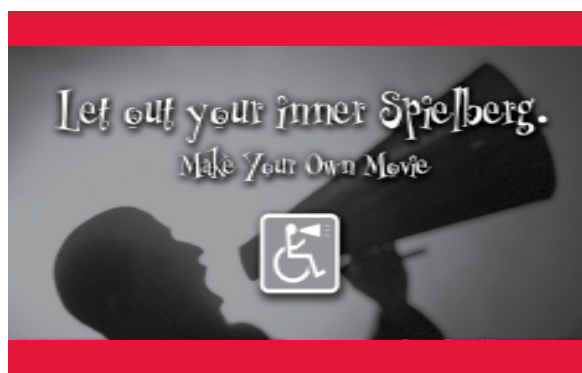
## Spotlight Siblings

The first Spotlight on Siblings weekend, created specifically for children ages 7-14 who have a sibling with special needs, was held in early April at Camp Wawbeek.

The weekend was filled with a mixture of fun and games, teambuilding, and discussions in which the group could share stories that only those in similar situations could understand. For many of the young people present this was their first opportunity to meet others who share some of the same joys, frustrations and challenges of having a brother or sister with a disability, in a caring and supportive environment.

The weekend was a great success and the siblings loved it. The group not only shared with and supported one another, but took time to indulge in traditional camp activities including night hikes and the high and low ropes challenge course. Many children with disabilities spend most of their free time with their brothers and sisters, and Easter Seals is looking forward to continuing this program for siblings.

### IT'S A WRAP! MAKE YOUR OWN MOVIE WEEK DEBUTS



In July, Easter Seals Wisconsin's Camp Wawbeek premiered Make Your Own Movie, a week long session offering teens the opportunity to create their own cinematic masterpiece.

"Easter Seals Make Your Own Movie session

teens with passion and a common interest together," said Kelly Housman, Easter Seals Wisconsin Director of Camping and Respite Programs. "And it brings Camp Wawbeek to a new level of specialty camp. I couldn't wait to see what this talented group came up with!"

The campers were responsible for all aspects of making the film including script writing, direction, casting, scenery, costumes, make-up and editing using professional filmmaking equipment. Campers were assisted by AmeriCorps member Lauren Fillenworth and three volunteers from MATC's film program with input from The Marcus Corporation's Fred Delmenhorst, a member of Easter Seals Wisconsin's Board of Directors.

The end result was a hit with campers and staff. 'The Princess Pat', based on a well-loved camp song, opened to rave reviews. The enthusiastic response to Make Your Own Movie already has camp staff talking about future sessions aimed at a variety of special interests.

### Truck Needed

Camp Wawbeek is seeking the donation of a one ton dump truck in good working order. If you have a truck to donate or a lead on one that might be suitable, please contact Ken Saville at 1.800.422.2324

## WHAT'S NEW

### APPRENTICES BUILD SHED FOR CAMP WAWBEEK

Students from Madison Area Technical College's Madison Campus did a good deed and had a hands-on learning experience in April when they constructed a new storage shed at Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek in Wisconsin Dells.

The students, from MATC's Carpentry ABC Apprenticeship program, are employed at area construction companies and go to school part-time as part of the program to prepare them to be professional carpenters.

The program has been sponsored by Associated Builders and Contractors since 1989. Although the service component is not a required part of the curriculum, classes often create a project and donate it to organizations like Habitat for Humanity. Program instructor Mark McCloskey said he had approached Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek with the idea for the storage shed and emphasized that the hands-on work was especially useful for carpentry students. Because the miniature building, the students, who were in their first and second years of the four year program, had the chance to practice everything from framing to installing doors and hardware.

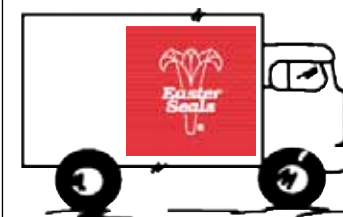
Materials for the shed were donated by Dells Lumber, Kraemer Brothers, Steffes True Value, Waterman Log Crafters, CJC Premier Builders and Corporate Contractors.

*(Significant portions of this article first appeared in the Wisconsin Dells Events; story & photo by Christina Beam; reprinted with permission)*



Students from MATC's Carpentry ABC Apprenticeship program built a storage shed at Camp Wawbeek.

## PICK-UP Service



With the opening of a new donation center in Eau Claire, the expansion in the Pick-Up Service this year has meant a great deal to the children and adults who benefit from Easter Seals services. The expansion and the accompanying increase in net income for the organization has given us the ability to whittle down the waiting list for the FARM program, to expand Respite services to northwestern Wisconsin and to add new teen and sibling sessions at Camp Wawbeek. Thank you to everyone who gathers up their re-usable clothing and household goods and donates them to Easter Seals!

Without the Pick-Up Service drivers, however, there would be no way to get the items you donate into our donation centers for processing. Our wonderful drivers work long hours through the heat of summer and the cold of Wisconsin winters. If you're home when one of our trucks stops at your curb, take a moment to let the driver know how much you appreciate the difference he's making in the lives of children and adults with disabilities. He'll really appreciate it and you'll have a chance to meet one of these great guys:

### SOUTHERN WISCONSIN TEAM

**Tim Sanchez**, Senior Driver, does all the training of new drivers as well as picking up from homes in southern Wisconsin. Tim has been with the Easter Seals Pick-Up Service since the fall of 2000. **Bo Johnson** is a part time driver but can always be counted on to fill in when needed. Resident handyman **Greg Faust** is a great driver who has been with us since August of 2002. **Gary Hanko**, a part time driver since February, 2004, is also a valuable addition to our team. **Dean Peterson** came to us in early 2004 with experience driving a moving truck — he really knows how to pack a truck with all those goodies you set out for

### NORTHERN WISCONSIN TEAM

**Jeff Covill** is the handyman for the Eau Claire office and has been with the Easter Seals Pick-Up Service since we opened our northern Wisconsin Donation Center in April, 2004. **Mike Mitiku**, a great addition to the Pick-Up Service team is a pleasure to work with. **Ben Lambrigton** started in October, 2004 and has taken on the role of "go to" driver when there is a problem or a concern with the trucks. **Paul Larson** is our newest driver and is hired to be the per-diem driver. He is very excited to be part of our mission to help our clients and can't wait to get started.

**EASTER SEALS WISCONSIN GOLF OUTING FOR KIDS**



*Event co-hosts Pat and Barry Richter at the 10th Annual Easter Seals Wisconsin Golf Outing for Kids.*

The Easter Seals Wisconsin Golf Outing for Kids, held June 28th in Wisconsin Dells, celebrated its 10th anniversary in style, raising an astounding \$125,000 for Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek and the Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp! Hosted by Pat Richter and his son, Barry, the outing pairs foursomes of golfers with sports celebrities, including former NFL players and past and present UW athletes & coaches, who act as team captains.

The enormous popularity of the event led to a crowded field, so, for the first time, the outing took place at both Wilderness Woods Golf Club and Christmas Mountain Village. After a terrific day on the courses, golfers traveled to Camp Wawbeek for a cookout and a chance to mingle with campers. Celebrities also posed for pictures and signed autographs.

“I would never miss this event,” one of the celebrities said. “Golfing is always fun, but coming to Camp Wawbeek, meeting the kids and getting a chance to spend time with them, makes this outing truly one of a kind.”

**CENTURY 21 DAIRYLAND REALTY NORTH DOUBLES UP**

Century 21 Dairyland Realty North agents, along with their families, held two events this year to benefit Easter Seals. “Nationally, the Century 21 Real Estate Corporation picked Easter Seals as their charity of choice and we agreed this is a great opportunity for us to continue supporting our community,” said Dan Olson, Broker/Owner.

In February, they braved the winter weather to pump gas and wash windows at Strama’s Mobile Station in Medford in exchange for a donation to Easter Seals, and in July they “Bumped it Up” for Easter Seals by hosting a co-ed volleyball tournament. This first year event was a success with 12 teams signing up and money raised from team fees, raffles and sales of food and beverages. The two events combined to raise nearly \$2,000.

**BUNKO!**

Ladies from the Fox Valley area gathered in February to play the fast paced dice game **Bunko!** and raise funds for Easter Seals. The event, which was held at Appleton’s beautiful Butte de Morts Country Club raised over \$8,000. Volunteers from Century 21 First Realty were on hand to conduct a silent auction and a raffle. “It was the first event of its kind for Easter Seals,” said Karen Ziemke, Development Director for Easter Seals Northeastern Wisconsin. “And it was a great hit, so we’re already making plans for next year!”

**ALLIANT ENERGY BOWLS FOR EASTER SEALS**

On Thursday, February 17, the employees of Alliant Energy hosted their 2nd Annual Bowling Event for Easter Seals Wisconsin. It was a festive afternoon with contests, door prizes and a silent auction accompanying the bowling. With last year’s event having raised over \$10,000, Rod Ripley, Director of Strategic Tax Projects for Alliant Energy and the driving force behind the event, set this year’s goal even higher. “Alliant Energy’s employees really came through for Easter Seals. They raised money through pledges, and with Alliant Energy’s Matching Gift Program, we were able to present Easter Seals with a check for nearly \$12,000,” Ripley said, adding that he would like to see other area businesses emulate the event. “It’s fun, it builds comraderie and teamwork, and, at the same time, helps out a terrific organization. We had a great time.”



*Costumed employees of Alliant Energy got into the spirit of things as they spent an afternoon bowling for Easter Seals. The event raised close to \$12,000.*

**STRONG PARTNERSHIPS MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

**Training, Listening and Sharing Information Contribute to Success of Easter Seals FARM Program**



*Joe Gellings, one of the farmers who hosted an on-site visit, poses with the Polaris Ranger that helped him gain mobility and stay in farming.*

Each year, the partnership between the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), the Easter Seals Wisconsin Farm Assessment and Rehabilitation Methods (FARM) Program, and AgrAbility of Wisconsin (AAW), becomes more beneficial to farmers and farm families throughout Wisconsin. Through the partnership, DVR provides services to farmers with disabilities who need equipment modifications or assistive technology to continue in their chosen profession.

As with all good partnerships, DVR, the FARM Program, and AAW continue to learn about each other’s organizations. One such learning process occurs during on-farm training sessions, which give DVR counselors an invaluable opportunity to increase their knowledge about the agricultural industry and about the culture of the farming community.

Because most DVR counselors are not from farm backgrounds and are unfamiliar with the farm environment, the on-farm training sessions have been very effective educational tools, and many DVR counselors are realizing that on-site experience is important to gain a clearer understanding of the needs of their clients. “The staff gets out of the office and sees this type of vocational rehabilitation in action. They don’t understand the impact when just hearing about it,” says Mike Greco, Director of DVR Workforce Development Area 10.

Training sessions, hosted by current or former FARM and DVR clients, have been offered throughout Wisconsin by Paul Leverenz, Vice President

Development Areas. The DVR counselors in attendance at a training session hosted by Cross Plains dairy farmer Gerald Krantz were eager to ask questions about the assistive technology and about the farm operation in general. Krantz stressed to the group that although some of the assistive technology items purchased were very large and others may have seemed small and insignificant, all of the modifications and equipment have been extremely helpful in performing his day-to-day activities. Having a chance to see farms that have benefited from the partnerships helps counselors understand that farmers can stay in business longer with assistive technology and that sometimes [farmers] just need

Leverenz explained the importance of a mutual agreement on what the farmer wants and needs. If the farmer is not committed to the suggested changes, no changes will be made. These thoughts were echoed through the group of DVR counselors as one counselor commented on the importance of listening to farmers and asking questions when they don’t understand a task, a limitation or a proposed modification. Greco added, “The importance of letting the farmer be in charge and the counselor [coordinate] the team resources results in many [successes].”

The tours emphasize that providing assistance is truly a team effort. The farmer, the DVR counselor, the FARM Program rehabilitation specialist and AAW, working to-

**Easter Seals FARM Program Receives Prestigious Award**

Easter Seals Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation accepted the Good Grant Award from the Donors Forum of Wisconsin at the Statewide Conference on Philanthropy on April 8th, 2005.

Good Grant Award recipients — a funder and a grantee — are recognized for their leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, and creativity in working together to provide an innovative solution to a community need. The Donors Forum of Wisconsin is a professional membership association of funders whose mission is to support and promote effective philan-

**ONE WOMAN'S GENEROSITY MAKES A LASTING IMPACT**

Who would have anticipated the benefits to those with disabilities produced by one woman's generous donation to Easter Seals Wisconsin? In 1992 Easter Seals received word they were named as the beneficiary of an irrevocable trust fund worth over one million dollars set up by Loretta K. Ricker. Ricker, a life-long resident of Appleton, stipulated that Easter Seals use the funds to benefit Outagamie County residents with disabilities.

Since that time, hundreds of Outagamie County residents have benefited from Ms. Ricker's wonderful generosity. In 1996, an Appleton Easter Seals office was opened and staffed to provide local programming in addition to the existing statewide programs already available to Outagamie County residents. Statewide programs include residential Camp Wawbeek, the Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp and the FARM & Vocational Services program. Local programming includes the Disability HelpLine, Individual Grant Program and the KARS (Kids Are Riding Safe) program.

Jill Gretzinger, who staffs the Appleton office, has spearheaded community efforts such as the building of the fully accessible Universal Playground and establishing a parent support group. "The amount of good that has come from Ms. Ricker's thoughtful gift to the people of Outagamie County is quantify in terms of the positive impact it has made in the lives of many local residents with disabilities," said Gretzinger.

As the bulletin board overflowing with thank you notes in the Appleton office attests, local residents are truly grateful for the help the Ricker trust has provided in their time of need. An Advisory Committee meets annually each spring to oversee the trust and ensure the money is being used in the manner and spirit it was given. Due to the foresight of Ms. Ricker when she set up the trust and the careful oversight given by the Advisory Committee, the trust will continue to provide services to Outagamie County residents for many years to come. Gretzinger's goal for the Appleton office

*If you would like more information on how you can make a lasting difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities by establishing a trust, please contact Nance Roepke at 1.800.422.2324 ext. 117.*



*Jill Gretzinger has been the driving force behind the Easter Seals Disability HelpLine in Outagamie County since its inception ten years ago. The HelpLine was made possible through the foresight and generosity of Loretta K. Ricker.*

**COMMENTARY****LANDMARK LEGISLATION CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY**

On July 26th, 2005, our nation celebrated the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The legislation, signed into law in 1990, prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, access to state and local government services, public accommodations, transportation and telecommunications.

The American with Disabilities Act marked a milestone in our nation's effort to guarantee the civil rights of all citizens. It has strengthened the foundation of America where we now, more than ever, celebrate the talents and abilities of every person. Today, individuals with disabilities are better able to develop meaningful skills, engage in productive work and participate more fully in society.

While the Americans with Disabilities Act addressed fundamental civil rights for people with disabilities, the basics of everyday life are still out of reach for too many Americans with disabilities. Accessibility issues still prevent many from working, millions remain without health insurance, the dropout rate remains far above the national average and, shockingly, 84% of polling places nationwide are not accessible.

So while we recognize the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the ADA and celebrate how far our nation has come, we mustn't forget how much further we have to go. Millions of Americans with disabilities are still waiting. Waiting for barriers to be removed, for equal employment opportunities, for accessible polling places and for full participation.

*To keep informed about legislation dealing with disability issues, visit the Legislative Action page of our website at [www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com](http://www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com).*

**UPCOMING EVENTS****RIDE WITH ME**

**Motorcycle Ride organized by A.R.M.**

**Time TBA • Saturday, September 10th, 2005**

This 'Poker Run' around Wisconsin Dells begins at Ho-Chunk Hotel & Casino and ends at Easter Seals Respite Camp where riders and campers have a meal together followed by a dance.

*To take part in the ride, to sponsor a rider, or for more information, call 1.800.422.2324 ext. 111.*

**CENTURY 21 AFFILIATED RAFFLE-RAMA Win Big!**

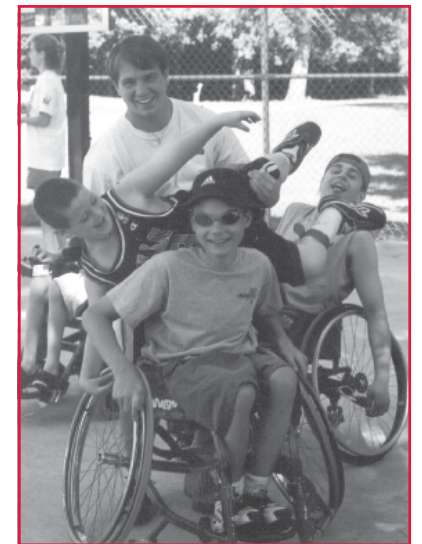
**September 26th - November 22nd, 2005**

Century 21 Affiliated will be holding their 2nd annual raffle benefiting Easter Seals Wisconsin.

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

*Supporting Easter Seals Wisconsin through events and other fundraisers helps us to make a real difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities. Your generosity also generates smiles and helps create memories that last a lifetime.*

# Thank

**13TH ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**All the Pancakes & Sausages you can eat!**

**8:00 AM - 12:30 PM • Sunday, October 2nd, 2005**

**Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek • Wisconsin Dells**

Only \$5.00! After breakfast, take a relaxing trail ride, and enjoy a tour of Camp Wawbeek. Placemat advertisements and table sponsorships available for purchase.

**7TH ANNUAL FALL SPRAWL**

**10K & 5K Run/Walk/Wheel**

**9:15 AM • Saturday, October 1st, 2005**

**Easter Seals 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.

*Call 1.800.422.2324 ext. 111 for more information.*

*Registration forms can be downloaded from [www](http://www).*

**3RD ANNUAL FALL FUN FEST**

**An afternoon of fun & fellowship.**

**2:00 PM • Saturday, October 22nd, 2005**

**Eagle's Club • Hallie**

Be one of 150 to purchase a \$50 raffle ticket, 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**

**Fine wines, fine foods, great cause.**

**6:00 PM • Thursday, October 27th, 2005**

**The Madison Concourse Hotel • Madison**

Join us as we 'tour the world' experiencing delicious wines and foods chosen to complement them. This wine tasting event to benefit Easter Seals Wisconsin is an elegant prelude to the Madison Food & Wine Show.



# Recognition Dinner

Wonderful food, moving personal stories and a good deal of laughter combined to make the Easter Seals Wisconsin Recognition Dinner, held May 3rd at beautiful Nakoma Golf Club in Madison, an evening that will long be remembered by everyone who attended. Easter Seals' Director of Marketing Tiffany Niederwerfer, who coordinated the event, was more than pleased with the night. "We had a great group of people and a terrific Keynote Speaker in Packer legend LeRoy Butler. It was the perfect opportunity for Easter Seals to recognize people who have inspired us and to thank the individuals and organizations that help us out in so many ways year after year."

## Elaine Hendrickson

Recognition of Personal Achievement



Elaine and her husband have been farming for 30 years and currently own and operate a 375 acre dairy farm. After a series of surgeries and a diagnosis of connective tissue disease and auto immune system dysfunction, many people told Elaine to get out of farming. Instead, Elaine chose to focus on the positive, finding partners like Easter Seals FARM Program and the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, looking for ways to fulfill her dream of staying in agriculture. After receiving 2 llamas from her husband, Elaine found her niche. She expanded, and today, she spins her own wool, dyes it, and sells it to

Recognition of Personal Growth & Development



## Curtis Lewis III

It took Curtis (pictured here with LeRoy Butler) nearly a year to learn how to smile again after he was severely beaten by 4 teenagers when he got off a school bus in Milwaukee.

Only 14 at the time, Curtis spent the next 3 years in a rehabilitation facility, re-learning everything from breathing to walking. Today, he no longer needs the wheelchair he became so accustomed to, and only experiences short-term memory loss and problems with his balance. His mother calls him a 'walking miracle'. Easter Seals is pleased to recognize Curtis for his strength and courage, and for maintaining an infectious and positive outlook on life.

## Nancy Z. Schreiber



Lifetime Achievement

Nancy has been deeply involved with Easter Seals Wisconsin since the early 1970's. Known for her community involvement in and around Sheboygan, Nancy originally volunteered to work with Easter Seals through the Sheboygan Service Club, and has given generously of her time and energy ever since. She was instrumental in the creation of a handicapped accessible playground, and in the formation of the Easter Seals Endowment Fund which ensures a flow of support for Easter Seals programs and services. Easter Seals is happy to recognize her invaluable contributions and her 'get it done' attitude.

## The Canepa Family

of Baraboo has been supporting Easter Seals Wisconsin for nearly 50 years. Each year, the Canepa School of Dance, founded by Tony and Alberta Canepa, has presented Easter Seals with the proceeds from their annual recitals. Their dedication and financial support have benefited thousands of people with disabilities in Wisconsin. As heads family, Tony and Alberta instilled in their children and succeeding generations a desire to help the community and Easter Seals in particular. After Tony and Alberta's retirement, their children continued the tradition of giving by participating in dances and benefits for Easter Seals. Easter Seals is pleased to recognize and thank the entire Canepa Family for their years of generosity.

Lifetime Service Award



## The Canepa Family

Outstanding Volunteer Group



## Lodi High School FFA

For 3 years now, the Lodi High School FFA has collected items from parents, friends and the Lodi community to donate to Easter Seals. During the annual week-long drive in early December, the FFA members post flyers, pass out information and rally their classmates to gather goods to be collected by Easter Seals Pick-up Service. So far, the students have collected over 200 bags of clothing and other items - enough to fill an entire Easter Seals truck!



## Desire Rentmeester

Outstanding Volunteer

Desire has been active in her high school Key Club for the

past 3 years. Currently serving as Lieutenant Governor for south-central Wisconsin, Desire is responsible for organizing volunteer projects for some 1,000 students in 6 area high schools. Through the events she organizes to benefit Easter Seals, her leadership and strong sense of community have made a tremendous impact on thousands of children and adults with disabilities.

The Capital Times Kids Fund has awarded a grant to Easter Seals Wisconsin annually for more than 20 years. The Capital Times Kids Fund raises money from Dane County residents and distributes it in the form of grants to non-profit organizations. Supported by the Capital Times newspaper and headed by an all volunteer board of community representatives, the fund aims to help disadvantaged youth in and around Dane County.

## The Capital Times Kid's Fund

Outstanding Philanthropy



## Knupp & Watson, Inc.



Recognition of Promotional Efforts

Knupp & Watson recently donated over \$20,000 worth of time and services to Easter Seals Wisconsin during its Goodstock event, a 24-hour marathon of free advertising and marketing services for non-profit organizations. The firm created a unique media plan to help attract teens with physical disabilities to summer sessions at Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek. (See 'It's a Wrap' page 10.)

## Jack & Mary Waterman

Outstanding Fundraisers



Jack and Mary have been members of the Easter Seals family since the late 1980's. Their boundless energy and their enthusiasm in promoting Easter Seals Wisconsin programs, particularly Camp Wawbeek, have benefited the organization and the Wisconsin Dells community alike. The driving force behind numerous Easter Seals fundraisers and events, the Watermans raised more than \$100,000 by recruiting Dells area businesses this year alone as sponsors for Easter Seals annual Golf Outing for Kids! "It's fun," Jack has said, "doing good things for good people."

The partnership between Easter Seals & Century 21 Affiliated began in 1979 when the real estate group provided volunteers to staff the phones in the telethon.

The days of the telethon have passed, but the relationship remains. In the fall of 2004, more than 300 Century 21 Affiliated agents and staff, led by president Bill Kessler, held the first of what will be an annual car raffle to benefit Easter Seals, raising over \$54,000.



## Century 21 Affiliated

Outstanding Fundraising Group

Not Pictured: **Outstanding Partner**  
Rural Insurance Company  
**Outstanding Service Group**  
PUSH America