



DODGE COUNTY
Advocating Rights of Citizens With Disabilities
P.O. Box 173 Beaver Dam, WI 53916

Web Site: www.arcdodgecounty.org
Email address: arcdodge@sbcglobal.net



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2009

The Arc office is in the Heritage Village Mall (Beaver Dam Mall). We are located at the back of the mall at letter C entrance. Please use rear entrance at Door C or use the private entry to the right of Door C. ***Our meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7PM at the ARC office.*** **Membership is due in January with \$15.00 per member or a family of 3 would be \$35.00. Each additional family member would be \$5.00. Come and make a difference!**

Mark your Calendar for 2009

December *13th Christmas Party at Veteran's Center 12noon-4:00PM

December 15 Membership meeting 7:00PM (Date changed for December)

January 16, 2010- * Membership party at Trausten Haus

Venture Scouts for ARC members

We now have 16 scouts in our Venture group. We had a great time with our "Out door Cooking". The weather sure cooperated with us! We each made our own pizza on the grill. The backyard campfire was a wonderful place to sit around to tell a camp story or two. Dessert of caramel apples and s'mores over the campfire, topped off the evening. Our next meeting will be Jan. 4th at 7:00PM at ARC office. Leader Kathy Armstrong 887-2295.



Christmas Party

Meg McKnight and Pam Sheldon have volunteered to co-chair the Christmas party this year on Sunday, Dec. 13th at the Veteran's Center from 12noon -4:00PM. Anyone interested in being on the committee should call Meg at 356-9669 or Pam at 356-9173. The National Honor Society from Beaver Dam High school has volunteered to help decorate and bring desserts. See attached invite.



Membership Meeting

Our annual Membership Pizza meeting will be held at the Trausten Haus on Saturday, Jan. 16th from 12noon to 3PM. Pizza will be delivered at 12:30pm. Please bring you membership dues and any necessary forms to be filled out (watch January newsletter). Membership dues are **\$15.00 per member or a family of 3 would be \$35.00. Each additional family member would be \$5.00. Come and make a difference!**

Arc of Dodge County Endowment Fund helps YOU!

Please consider donating to YOUR Endowment fund which helps the ARC of Dodge County members. ***Donations are tax deductible.***

Our Endowment Fund is growing thanks to the many people who have supported our organization this past year.

Please remember the ARC Endowment Fund in your estate planning, memorials, and charitable giving and wills. If you know of anyone who would be interested in donating to the Endowment Fund, please call Bernie Hafenstein at 920-885-6479 to request a mailing.

Change of Address? If you have a change of address, please email the new address to arcdodge@sbcglobal.net or mail it to The ARC of Dodge County, P.O. 173, Beaver Dam, WI 53916



THE Arc of DODGE COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEWS

Submitted by Del Yerges, Agency Manager 920-210-7300

Tracy Gabel, Head Coach 920-356-9993

Thank You to:

- * Brian Schuster for selling about 30 Special Olympic T-shirts for our fundraiser. Way to go-Brian!
- * All who sold or bought T shirts to help Special Olympics.
- * Malinda and Lori Fuerstenau for organizing the T-shirt fundraiser.
- * Dee Hundt for the many hours of service for being our record manger.
- * Welcome to Meg McKnight for volunteering to be our new record manager. Any Special Olympic physical questions, please call Meg McKnight at 920-356-9669.

REMEMBER: NO PHYSICAL ON FILE, NO PARTICIPATION, NO EXCEPTIONS,

BOWLING

State Competition in Milwaukee, December 5, 2009.

Tommy Cook and Jessie Fielbach qualified for State Bowling Tournament. Congratulations to all the bowlers for a job well done.

***** Remember to return your bowling shirts with the red bag as soon as possible *****

****Bowling Winter session starts Thursday Jan. 7th at the regular times. Payment of \$25 is now due for those who have not paid for the winter session- please send to:**

ARC of Dodge County
Bowling session
P.O.Box 173
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

BASKETBALL Coaches Eric Clark and Greg Armstrong

Team Basketball Practice will be Saturday, December 5th @ St. Katharine Drexel School @ 9-11 AM. (St. Pat's/ Maple Ave.) Please wear regular shoes to practice and change into basketball shoes in the school. We need to have a clean and safe gym to practice in. Please wear appropriate clothing for practice- T-shirts, shorts or sweat pants. No jeans. Doors open at 8:45AM. Pick up time is 11:05AM. Please plan taxi time accordingly.

Coaches should not be expected to provide transportation and will not provide transportation

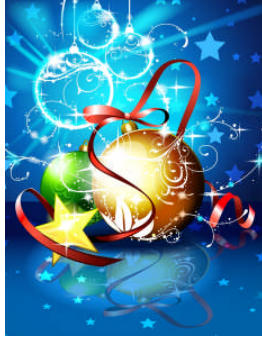
Basketball Skills Coach Malinda Fuerstenau

Practice will begin on Saturday Jan. 9, 2010 at St. Katharine Drexel School St. (St. Pat's/ Maple Ave.) at 8:30AM.

Basketball tournament- Our tournament will be held at the Beaver Dam High school on Saturday, Jan. 23rd, 2010. Watch Jan. newsletter for more details.

Swimming and PowerLifting- please watch January newsletter for more details.

Come join us in the Christmas Celebration!
Come join us in the Christmas Celebration!



When: Sunday Dec. 13, 2009

Time: 12 noon -4:00PM

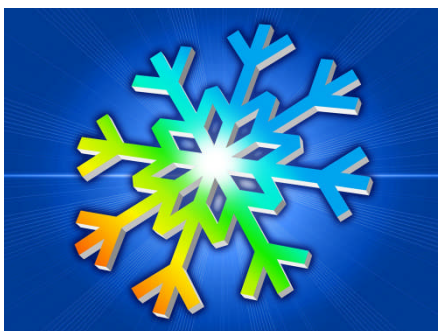
Where: Veteran's Center, Beichl Ave., Beaver Dam

Lunch will be served at 12:30PM

Disco Music and dancing following lunch

Visit from a Special Visitor!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



Protecting our greatest resource

By REP. JEFF FITZGERALD

Guest Column

On Oct. 28th, I received a call from an old friend who needed some help. He shared with me his concerns that his child with developmental disabilities was in danger of losing his job at a local work center and was wondering if I could help.

I thanked him and immediately went to work. What I found was quite upsetting to not only me, but more importantly, to thousands of families across Wisconsin who care for relatives with developmental disabilities.

It seems a decision made by the Department of Health Services (DHS) without any input from legislators or the public, puts thousands of jobs for disabled citizens at risk. This is because DHS is actively working to change the rules concerning prevocational services, specifically eliminating disabled people's ability to choose ongoing placement in a work center.

As someone who understands the importance of work centers



Rep. Jeff Fitzgerald

like Green Valley Enterprises, Inc. in Beaver Dam, it was clear to me that this major shift in policy could have a potentially devastating impact on my disabled constituents and their families. It would also disrupt Green Valley's ability to fulfill contracts with area employers and to continue to be a force

for economic development and community partnerships in Dodge County.

A conversation with Jack Hanks, interim executive director of Green Valley, revealed the disastrous effect this policy change would have on a local level. The jobs of 97 percent of Green Valley's program participants, including my friend's son, would be eliminated. Local employers like John Deere would miss out on the valuable workplace contributions offered to program participants.

Clearly, something must be done to stop this, but what?

Work center advocates' appeals for common sense were already ignored by the department. The state Legislature had very little oversight on the matter. The department issued no reports or testified before any legislative committees for plan review or to provide appropriate public scrutiny. Doing so would have most certainly provided

an uncomfortable arena for disability advocates, families and legislators to sound off on the changes.

Again, what could be done?

My friend and hundreds of other families did what we would all do for our children; they decided to fight for what they believed in. Legislators from every corner of the state began receiving phone calls, e-mails or letters urging them to action. Some contacts were understandably angry, many frightened, but all were deeply concerned.

By the end of the day on Thursday, Oct. 29, 46 legislators had taken a stand on behalf of the people who put them in office and signed a letter to Gov. Doyle asking him and DHS to reverse their decision.

Numerous legislators stood up on the Assembly floor and spoke about this issue to raise awareness and wake up the bureaucrats in Madison. Bipartisan coalitions of legislators in

both houses began penning letters to Gov. Doyle pressing the issue further. Media reports in newspapers, television and radio began popping up across the state. It seems things were moving in the right direction.

At the time of writing, my office received word that an agreement has been reached between DHS officials and advocates. It seems that all of our collective efforts were successful. The work centers will be saved.

Please be assured that I will monitor the situation to ensure DHS follows through with their promise to allow the work centers remain open in my district and across the state.

I am pleased that Gov. Doyle took the time and actually listened to the calls like the one I received from my friend. Doing so obviously went a long way in helping to understand the value and the rewarding work done at these facilities in our shared community.

This article was in the Daily Citizen giving Rep. Fitzgerald's support for our members. We wanted everyone to read this informative and important article.

Please read the article from Jack Hanks at Green Valley about the Dept. of Health Services decisions concerning pre-vocational services.

Thanks to all the people who called or wrote our representatives about the Dept. of Health Services decision. We do count in voice and members. If you have time- please thank Rep. Fitzgerald for his concern and action.



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Date: November 30, 2009

Good morning everyone:

This is an update on the topic of pre-vocational services I addressed a few weeks ago. In a nutshell, the issue raised back then has been resolved largely in the favor of Green Valley's pre-vocational families (as well as the other work centers across the state). To ensure an accurate depiction of the resolution, I am forwarding the exact description as prepared by our statewide organization, RFW (Rehabilitation for Wisconsin), which follows here in italics (it is dated November 20th):

1) Prevocational services are no longer defined as a "time limited" program. The consumer, his/her guardian (if any), and the care management team (with input from the consumer's service provider), are the ones who will make the determination as to what service is most appropriate, under the new definition. If prevocational services are determined as the most appropriate for the consumer, they will be provided for as long as needed.

2) Informed consumer choice has been protected, with a specific reference to it in the definition. We will work hard to ensure that the guidance document that is used by Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) spells out the process for ensuring that consumer choice is respected.

3) Work Centers and the range of employment services they provide have been recognized as a great success and as valuable partners to DHS and the MCOs in providing both prevocational and supported employment services.

RFW goes on to thank those of you who contacted legislators, etcetera, to bring visibility to this issue, and respectfully asks that you take a moment and thank those who were influential in accomplishing these changes (for many of you, that is probably Representative Jeff Fitzgerald). Please add to that my thanks for engaging in this effort, as it makes a world of difference to Green Valley families.

Allow me to extend an early wish for a warm and enjoyable holiday season, and always feel free to contact me with any matters of concern.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hanks', is written over a large, stylized, circular graphic element that resembles a signature flourish or a large letter 'C'.

Jack Hanks
Interim Executive Director

