

# Stepping Stones

A publication of HearthStone of Wisconsin, Inc.  
Newsletter date: February 2014

## ✦ President's Letter ✦

We had an excellent year in 2013 with several outstanding educational programs open to the public and as well as our traditional favorite social events for our young people. We are grateful to the many people on our Advisory Board and in the community for supporting our efforts with their time, talent and financial donations.

We start the new year on a hopeful note. We welcome two new Board Members: Larry Samet and Karen Post. Both are parent advocates and bring added ideas and energy to the board.

In addition, we welcome Paula Burkart as our new Development Director. Paula brings a wealth of fund-raising experience as well as a can-do attitude and positive energy to our organization. She is brimming with ideas on how we might spread the word about HearthStone. Welcome Paula!

We also are very fortunate to have a wonderful volunteer Communications Intern from Lakeshore Technical College, Ashley Streck. Ashley is hard at work updating our website, setting up Social Media, produced two invitations and produced the very newsletter you are reading!! Ashley is graduating in May and will be looking for work...so if you know anyone? She has also kindly agreed to continue her internship with us through the summer, so she can help with a Fall Fundraiser.

Also, coming off of another even more successful Employer's Recognition Luncheon (in concert with RCS Empowers and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation) we are very encouraged by Gov. Walker's initiative to increase funding to DVR, thereby focusing job creation efforts on people with disabilities.

In 2014 we are increasing our outreach efforts with the objective of engaging more families with teens and young adults who are planning for or are in transition from school to work. They are our future and we hope to get them involved in HearthStone. If you know of a family that might like to be involved, please let us know.

In closing, I'd like to personally thank our Board Members, Advisory Board Members and community members for their help, support and encouragement. Let's make this a great year!

Kindest Regards,  
Jon Rost  
President, HearthStone of Wisconsin



## CONTACT US:

HearthStone of WI  
PO Box 1444  
Sheboygan, WI 53082-1444

Phone: (920) 917-5686

<http://www.hearthstonewi.org/>

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*"HearthStone is a self-help and advocacy organization for people with disabilities and their families."*

# Events

## HearthStone, RCS Empowers and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Partner to Recognize Sheboygan County's Outstanding Employers.

Our 12th annual Recognition Luncheon was an exciting and memorable event. Highlighting this year's luncheon was the visit and remarks made by Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch. In addition, Secretary of Workforce Development, Reggie Newsome attended in support of recognizing over 100 Sheboygan County Employers, who support employment of people with disabilities. We are so very fortunate to have so much support from our business community.



Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, far left joins the Sheboygan County Kwik Trip team's recognition as our Exemplary Employer for 2013



Nearly 200 people packed the conference center at The Bull at Pinehurst Farms for the 2013 Employer's Recognition Luncheon.

## Plenty of Holiday Cheer at the HearthStone Christmas Party

Young and old alike spread some holiday cheer and celebrated the season together at Klemme's Wagon Wheel. A hearty Christmas dinner was followed by live entertainment and a visit from Santa, with gifts for all!



HearthStone families celebrate the Holidays at the Annual Christmas Party, held this year at Klemme's Wagon Wheel in Howard's Grove.

# disabilityrights | WISCONSIN

## Disability Rights Wisconsin Sheboygan Listening Session



The Board of Directors of Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW)

will conduct a **LISTENING SESSION** on

**Friday, March 14, 2014** in Sheboygan.



DRW is the designated protection and advocacy agency for people with developmental, physical, or sensory disabilities and people with mental illness in Wisconsin.

DRW engages in a variety of advocacy strategies, including:

- one-on-one advocacy for individuals and their families
- systems advocacy (influencing state and county policy, legislative advocacy and coalition building)
- class action and impact litigation
- providing training to people with disabilities, their family members, human service professionals, attorneys and others on a variety of disability related topics

The DRW Board wants to hear from people with disabilities, their families, friends, disability activists, service providers and other concerned individuals about your ideas for the future of disability advocacy and the issues that need to be addressed in the areas of special education, developmental disability, mental health and physical disability services and disability rights.

**WHEN:** Friday, March 14 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Holiday Inn Express  
3823 Germaine Ave.  
Sheboygan, WI

**PARKING:** Parking is free at the Hotel.

**BUS:** Bus stop located next store to hotel at WalMart. Sheboygan also provides Wheel Chair Taxi & Transportation.  
Call 920-457-6666.

**QUESTIONS:** 608-267-0214 Voice or WI Relay 711

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** If you need an accommodation or language interpretation to participate in the Listening Session, please contact Linda Apple by March 1 at [applel@drwi.org](mailto:applel@drwi.org) or 608-267-0214.

**WRITTEN COMMENTS** If you would like to submit written comments, you may send them via email to [applel@drwi.org](mailto:applel@drwi.org) or by mail to Disability Rights Wisconsin, 131 West Wilson Street, Suite 700, Madison, WI 53703

drw

### Shamrocks and Shenannigans !!!

It's never too late to celebrate Good Luck and St. Patty!

Wear your favorite green and get ready to party!!!

What: Hearthstone Dance and karaoke Party

Pizza, soda and snacks will be provided

When: Friday March 21, 2014

7-10 pm

Where: Plymouth Youth Center

Riverside circle, Plymouth, WI

(Coming from the East, Take Eastern Ave into downtown Plymouth. Turn right onto North St at the stop light by the Plymouth Center. Follow North St along the river. The Youth Center is on the right just before Riverview Middle School.)

Bring your friends and family.

There is no cost. This event is sponsored by HEARTHSTONE.

A special moment will be set aside to remember our friend Jamie Tolman who recently died. Please bring a card or note to share with his mom Linda and for sure we will dedicate the Chicken Dance to Jamie.

RSVP to Terri Sterzen by March 17

Phone: 467-6801

PLEASE ARRANGE FOR YOUR OWN TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM  
THE DANCE

*Thank You* to Terri Sterzen and her son, Andy for putting together and mailing out the invites to the Spring Dance.

# Legislative Update

## PENDING LEGISLATION

### FEDERAL

Reintroduction of Keeping All Students Safe Act. This bill has been introduced previously in the Senate and the House, but did not get enough votes for adoption. Some of the key components of this reintroduced bill are to:

- Eliminate the use of seclusion completely.
- Adopt policies that state that restraint should be used only in emergency situations.
- Give support and training to school staff.
- Ensure that families are notified when restraints are used on their children.
- Eliminate the use of restraint and seclusion in a child's IEP.
- Provide families the right to civil remedies.
- Require annual data collection and reporting to the US Department of Education and make this data readily available to the public.

Contact your Senators and ask them to co-sponsor this legislation!

### STATE

**AB 462 Special Needs Scholarships.** These scholarships could negatively affect students with disabilities and drain critical resources that support all students in Wisconsin school districts. Families lose all their federal protections when they leave public schools, and private schools are not accountable for student outcomes. This bill is currently in the Assembly Committee on Education which is chaired by Representative Steve Kestell. There is a public hearing scheduled for Feb. 19th. You can follow this bill and others at this web page.

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

## ENACTED LEGISLATION

### STATE

A number of Mental Health Bills were recently signed into law in February. An estimated 30-35% of all persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities also have a psychiatric disorder.

**Assembly Bill (AB) 450** - This bill will provide additional funding to the Department of Health Services (DHS) to award grants for mental health crisis intervention team (CIT) training for law enforcement agencies and correctional officers. CIT is special training that is designed to ensure that officers are able to effectively respond to incidents involving mentally ill individuals. When I met with the Sheboygan County Mental Health Association, this effort was stressed as a top priority and I was pleased to help advance this important initiative.

**AB 452** - This bill will provide funding to establish a child psychiatry consultation program. This program, administered by DHS, would consist of mental health professionals who would make themselves centrally available for consultation. Physicians, such as primary care providers, would be able to consult with these professionals either remotely or in person when serving a patient with complex mental health needs. This will allow for greater collaboration and sharing of information with respect to effective mental health treatments.

**AB 454** - This proposal will create an incentive grant program for doctors and psychiatrists who serve in underserved (primarily rural) areas of the state. The goal is to encourage physicians just beginning their careers to choose to practice in areas of Wisconsin most in need of new physicians.

**AB 455** - This bill would support peer-run respite centers that individuals can visit when they are experiencing traumatic events or severely stressful situations and are having difficulty coping. Unlike other available options, peer-run respite centers offer these individuals guidance and support from councilors who themselves have gone through mental health/substance abuse treatment programs. This approach offers participants a unique perspective as they seek to cope.

**AB 457** - This bill, which I was pleased to author with Representative Paul Tittel (R-Manitowoc) will expand services provided under Treatment and Alternatives Diversion (TAD) programs. Currently, the TAD program provides state funding to counties who establish suspended and deferred prosecution programs which provide treatment alternatives to prosecution for individuals who abuse alcohol or other drugs. This bill would expand the TAD program to offer these same opportunities for individuals with a mental illness.

**AB 459** - This bill will provide funding for DHS to operate a program that will provide grants for individual placement and support (IPS) services for individuals with mental illness. IPS services are offered at various locations throughout the state, and provide a specialized program to help individuals with mental illness find employment. These services are a helpful way to ensure individuals with mental illnesses are still able to contribute positively to their community through a fulfilling job.

**AB 460** - This bill will provide grants to counties or multi-county regions to establish certified crisis programs that create mental health mobile crisis teams. These teams provide immediate in-person mental health services for individuals who are experiencing a specific mental health crisis in either their homes or the community.



# Paula Burkart

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Hello, I am Paula Burkart, the new Director of Development for HearthStone of WI. I am a lifelong resident of Sheboygan, WI. I have an Associate's Degree in both Business Management and Human Resource Administration. In 2009, I was diagnosed with MS. I had my first relapse in the spring of 2012. Long story short, I was having a hard time trying to find employment that went along with my doctor's restrictions. I signed up for the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation services, which led me to HearthStone of WI. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have employment that meets my doctor's restrictions and has a meaningful purpose. It is a privilege and an honor to help others with disabilities achieve their goals in life.

My goal is to help HearthStone to become a strong and vital force of advocacy for the disabled in our community. I would like to see more educational programs and activities sponsored by HearthStone. To achieve this, I will do some grant writing, sending letters for contributions, and organizing a fundraiser. All ideas of new contacts to add to the contribution list, fundraising ideas, or names companies for grant writing are welcome. Together we can help HearthStone to become a strong and vital force of advocacy for the disabled in our community.



# Ashley Streck

COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

Hi, I'm Ashley Streck, HearthStone's new communications intern. I live in Plymouth, WI and attend Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland, WI. I am enrolled in the Graphic & Web Design program, with graduation in the spring of 2014. Additionally, I have also completed a year and a half toward a second degree in LTC's Marketing program.

While researching possible internship opportunities, HearthStone instantly caught my attention. It has become a wonderful experience to fine tune my craft, while hopefully informing and spreading the cause of this fine organization.

I am very excited to be graduating and look forward to beginning my future career in design. My dream is to one day open a graphic design firm in partnership with my twin sister, Brittany, who is also a designer.

If you hear of a great movie or concert, let me know. Throw in a pizza and anything chocolate and my day is complete.



## 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 Quarterly Social Events for Young Adults
- 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 ad equately 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 \_\_\_\_\_



### HearthStone's Board of Directors

- Ray Cary ('14)
- Peggy Feider ('15) (Secretary)
- Joe Arndt ('14 ) (Youth Rep.)
- Karen Post ('16)
- Jon Rost ('15) (President)
- SueAnn Schuh ('16) (Treasurer)
- Bruce Lisiecki ('16)
- Larry Samet ('14)
- Kathy Arndt ('15)

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### ♣ HearthStone Advisory Committee ♣

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| • Jennifer Mikalowsky | • Cynthia Sook                              |
| • Bob Feider          | • Nick Verhagen                             |
| • Steve Hamer         | • Michele Wangemann                         |
| • Libby Gilbertson    | • Dawn Stearns                              |
| • Craig McFadden      | • Paul Seymour                              |
| • Edward McKelvey     | • Christopher Post                          |
| • Jack Reindl         | • Paula Burkart<br>(developmental director) |
| • Carol Rost          | • Ashley Streck<br>(communications intern)  |
| • Marie Schwinn       |   |

*“Our mission is to make our communities a welcoming place for people of disabilities and to support and encourage positive life experiences.”*