



Stepping Stones

A publication of HearthStone of Wisconsin, Inc.
Newsletter date: April 2016

Hello All,

Thanks to all for a wonderful 20th Year!

Never would have thought 20 years ago that our fledgling HearthStone organization would still be going strong in 2016.

Thanks to the original members of "The Parents' Study Group" and friends and family who saw needs in the community and then DID SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

At the time, our parents group was shocked to learn that the community support services (employment and residential supports) had waiting lists of 8 to 10 years!

With no one to turn to, we turned to ourselves and some wonderful like-minded people, who found the situation unacceptable.

Fast forward a quick twenty years and while things have improved under Family Care and IRIS – possible changes to these programs meant we are still in the business of helping people with disabilities find support in our community.

Seems the more things change, the more they stay the same.

With that said, however, we sincerely thank our friends, families and community partners who have supported us and the people we care about.

Sincere Regards,
Jon



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Please consider a tax deductible donation to
HearthStone. We need your support.



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





RCS Empowers celebrates 60 Years of Empowering People with Disabilities

Our dear friends at RCS Empowers held a wonderful Open House Gala to celebrate 60 years of helping people with disabilities reach their greatest potential.

Thousands from the community gathered at RCS Empowers' wonderful new facility on Geele Avenue for tours and treats. Staff, volunteers and participants proudly demonstrated the wide variety of services and activities offered by RCS Empowers.

Congratulations to RCS Empowers on your growth and success and for your outstanding service to the community.



HearthStone Comedy Sportz Fundraiser a great success.

A record crowd of over 150 enjoyed an evening of fun and fab food at HearthStone's 20th Anniversary Fund Raising Gala on October 16th.

Cocktails and Appetizers were followed by a wonderful gourmet meal prepared by the talented chefs-in-training at the Lakeshore Culinary Institute on Sheboygan's Riverfront.

And, once again, Comedy Sportz entertained the crowd with their inventive ad-lib comic sports antics.

Special thanks for SueAnn Schuh and the members of her Committee for putting on our most successful fund-raising event ever!



HEARTHSTONE

— presents —

Friday
OCTOBER 16



Lakeshore
CULINARY INSTITUTE

An evening of **FANTASTIC FUN** and **FABULOUS FOOD**
— to benefit —

Sheboygan's own HearthStone of Wisconsin,
celebrating people with disabilities in our community.



5:30 cash bar



6:30 dinner served



7:30 Comedy Sportz!

For information & tickets: www.hearthstonewi.org

Sponsored by HearthStone | Advocating for people with disabilities.





Employer's Recognition Luncheon Honors Nearly 150 County Employers

In what is recognized statewide as a leading public/private partnership, RCS Empowers, HearthStone and DWD's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation held their 14th Annual Employer's Recognition Luncheon on October 22.

After a wonderful lunch at The Bull at Pinehurst Farms, the celebration was kicked off by RCS Empowers Ambassadors Rachael Preston and John Kimme, who shared their successful community employment experiences.

Next were the HearthStone Awards – nearly 100 of them – recognizing employers who have consistently given employment opportunities to people with differing abilities.

"Outstanding", "Welcome Aboard" and "Opportunity" Awards recognized several more participating employers.

And, wrapping up, DWD Deputy Secretary Georgia Maxwell recognized the 2015 "Exemplary" Employers -- the Sheboygan and Plymouth Pick'n Save stores.

Thanks and Congratulations to all!



HEARTHSTONE BOWLERS SCORE A STRIKE

A record number of our HearthStone bowlers attended the Annual HearthStone Legislative Bowling Party on November 21st. Several legislators attended, taking advantage of the opportunity to get to know many of our bowlers.

Rep. Terry Katsma attended and was a real trooper staying for the entire event. Thanks for your time, Terry.

And, between frames everyone enjoyed plenty of pizza, sodas and cookies.

Next year we may need a bigger vehicle to bring in the record number of pizzas and cookies consumed!

What fun!



Santa makes special appearance at the HearthStone Christmas Party

Jolly Old St. Nick added some holiday cheer to HearthStone's Christmas Party held Dec. 6th at Klemme's Wagon Wheel in Howards Grove.

After a "good and plenty" family style dinner and some time for Santa's gifts for all, the crowd sang and danced to the live music of Mike Ammons from the Water Street Hot Shots.

What a great way to kick off the Holiday Season!



BPDD TAKE YOUR LEGISLATOR TO WORK



Wisconsin's Board for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (WPDD), sponsors an annual "Take Your Legislator to Work" initiative to promote understanding and support for employing people with differing abilities.

This March, HearthStone young person, Eric Rost invited Sen. Devin LeMahiew and Rep. Tyler Vorpapel to visit Alaark Tooling and Automation.

Eric has worked full-time (with benefits!) for Alaark for over 10 years and proudly led a tour together with his employer, Mark Koenig, owner and CEO.

Our legislators were very attentive and learned more about Alaark's business and their commitment to embracing a culture of diversity.

Hearthstone Young People

It's Party Time!

We're having a **Birthday Bash!**

Let's celebrate 20,30,**40**,50,60,70 something!

What: Annual Hearthstone Dance and Karaoke Party

Bring a picture from your younger days and we will compile a poster. Let's see how we've grown!

A C Royal DJ will be providing the music.

You provide the Fun!

Pizza, soda, cake & ice cream will be served.

When: Friday, April 8, 2016
7-10 pm

Where: Plymouth Youth Center
609 North Street, Plymouth, WI

Directions coming from the east. Come into Plymouth and turn right at the stop lights by the Plymouth Arts Center. Follow North Street until just before Riverview Middle School. Youth Center is on the right.

Bring your friends and family
There is **no** cost.

This event is sponsored by Hearthstone

RSVP to Terri Sterzen by April 1, 2016
Phone: 467-6801



HEARTHSTONE
of Wisconsin

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 adequately compensate our caring service providers.

Yes, please add me to your list of Members. I understand there is NO CHARGE to become a HearthStone member.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

e-mail _____

Person(s) you are advocating for: _____

Date of Birth _____

Date of Birth _____



HearthStone's Board of Directors

- Karen Post
- Peggy Feider (Secretary)
- Joe Arndt (Youth Rep.)
- Jon Rost (President)
- SueAnn Schuh (Treasurer)
- Larry Samet (Vice President)

✦HearthStone Advisory Committee ✦

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| • Jennifer Mikalowsky | • Nick Verhagen |
| • Bob Feider | • Michele Wangemann |
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