

Stepping Stones

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Lots to be thankful for...

As we approach the holiday season, it reminds me that it's time to slow down a bit, take stock and recognize that we have much to be thankful for. Hopefully as this painful and divisive election season passes, we can take a moment, take a deep breath, and count the things for which we can be thankful.

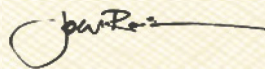
Personally, as I recount the events shared in this newsletter, it reminds me of all the kind and generous people that we come in contact with through our HearthStone "family".

And, the organizations we partner with like RCS Empowers, Homes for Independent Living, The Aging and Disabilities Resource Center, Foundations of Community Living, and many other community-focused groups are filled with wonderful, caring people.

And, my thanks wouldn't be complete without recognizing the Shaw Family. Their playground project is living proof that following a seemingly impossible dream, can turn out to be possible after all -- with love, passion, belief, tenacity, kindness and generosity.

All traits for which we can be thankful.

Highest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Rost".

Jon Rost,
President



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."

Official Ribbon Cutting for The Shaw Family Playground



After a decade of dreaming of the ultimate accessible playground, the Shaw Family cut the ribbon officially opening the fully inclusive play space. Years of planning, negotiating, advocating, developing partnerships and searching for funding finally paid off on Saturday October 27, when Angie Shaw picked up the ceremonial scissors and cut the red ribbon to open the playground.

On hand was Mayor Mike Vandersteen, who recognized the Shaw Family for their tenacity in never letting go of their dream to create a common play space for their sons Mateo, McHale and Maddux as well as children of all ages in Sheboygan and beyond. The mayor recognized the playground as a great community asset and was grateful that the City of Sheboygan was able to help by providing the 19-acre site in Evergreen Park. Impressed with the size of the crowd gathered for the event, the Mayor stated,

“I’ve been to a lot of ribbon cuttings over the years, but I’ve never seen this many people attend!”

Happily, the crowd included a record number of children.



**The Shaw Family
PLAYGROUND**

Fun For All! All For Fun!



Shaw family playground open for Fun!

Steven Schmitt of Jos. Schmitt & Sons Construction, who spearheaded the two-year fund raising drive and also served as the construction consultant was also on hand to celebrate the opening. He literally shed tears of joy in an emotional tribute to Ryan and Angie Shaw and their family.

HearthStone has been a proud supporter of the playground, donating the majority of funds raised at our annual fund raiser for the past three years to the playground project.



Congratulations to the Shaw Family and to the many friends and supporters who made this possible.

HearthStone Summer Picnic

A beautiful August afternoon was enjoyed by all at HearthStone's Annual Picnic and Boat Ride on Elkhart Lake. A capacity crowd enjoyed a sub sandwich picnic lunch at Fireman's Park in Elkhart Lake followed by an interesting narrated cruise around historic Elkhart Lake.

"Captain Tom's" extra-large pontoon boat can accommodate about 30 passengers in comfort. A perfect way to relax and enjoy a lovely afternoon on the water.



HearthStone's Annual "Legislative" Bowling Party Scores A Strike!

One of our most popular "young persons" events, this year's "Legislative" Bowling Party was very well attended. Nearly forty bowlers took over 10 lanes at Maple Lanes on Saturday October 26.

On hand to mix n' mingle with our HearthStone group was Sheboygan Mayor Mike Vandersteen, State Senator Devin LeMahieu and Representatives Terry Katsma and Tyler Vorpagel. In addition, two hopeful candidates, Kyle Welton (State Senator, 9th district) and candidate Sarah Godlewski, State Treasurer) were on hand.

Our annual bowling party gives local legislators the opportunity to meet our members and their families.

Everyone enjoyed free pizza, soda, fruit and cookies.

And, between the fun and the food, no one left empty!



HearthStone Advisory Board member Nathan Taylor and his son Alex helped at the "check in" desk.

(left to right) State Senate candidate Kyle Whelton, HearthStone member Kirby and Rep. Terry Katsma enjoy a moment together.



Bowling was fast and furious at our annual bowling party.

HearthStone and RCS Empowers partner to recognize Sheboygan County Employers who embrace hiring people with differing abilities.

Nearly 200 people attended the 17th Annual Employer's Recognition Luncheon held at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake on October 18th.

Over 100 employers were recognized for their efforts in employing people with differing abilities in Sheboygan County. Awards were given in the following categories:

Exemplary Award - One employer (or multiple locations of same business) who, during the previous year, demonstrated a high degree of commitment to hire people with disabilities, provided the supports needed, and expanded opportunities for people with disabilities.

Outstanding Employer Award - An employer who has hired one or more people in the previous year and goes above and beyond in supporting and promoting employment of people with disabilities. This may be demonstrated in the form of employer involvement beyond hiring, such as advocacy efforts, service on a Hearthstone or RCS advisory group, providing multiple opportunities (permanent or temporary) for employment, or extraordinary natural supports.

Welcome Aboard or New Employer Award

Any employer who has hired a person with a disability through referral of RCS for the first time. If an employer has previously hired but it has been more than five years, they will be considered a New Employer.

Opportunity Award - An employer who allows multiple opportunities for career exploration within their business, with limited ability to hire.

HearthStone Award - An employer who has hired, continued to employ, or provided temporary work opportunities to a person with disabilities.



The Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake was recognized as the 2018 "Exemplary Employer". Lola Roeh, general manager of the resort (center), accepted the award, surrounded by some of her exceptional staff, including HearthStone member Jerry P. (second from left).



Among those honored for "Longevity", was HearthStone member Andrew S. (second from the right), for more than a dozen years of employment at Pine Haven Christian Home. Andy was joined by his parents (left of Andy), former board member and current advisory board member Frank Sterzen and wife Terri who volunteers tirelessly to put on HearthStone's Bowling Party, Christmas Party and Spring Dance.

FUNdraiser Update:

THE PIANO PLAYERS MIGHT HAVE BEEN DUELING, BUT IN THE END, EVERYONE WON!

The talented piano duo, “N.E.W. Dueling Pianos” proved a winning change of pace for our annual FUNdraiser. And, as advertised, they put the FUN into this great event.

Once again, Chef Bill Gottsacker, Nathan Meinert and the creative “chefs-to-be” from Lakeshore Technical College’s Culinary Institute provided a delicious gourmet buffet. We started the evening with cocktails, tasty passed hors d’ouvres and a bountiful selection of Sartori Artisan Cheeses thanks to the generosity of Jim & Jan Sartori.

Then the fun began. Taking requests from the audience and adding their own blend of incredible musical talent and mixed with a bit of craziness, Peter Hernet and Dan Rafferty filled the evening with music and merriment.



Once again this year, the majority of the proceeds – a pledge of \$10,000 -- will be going to the Shaw Family Playground.

In addition, our new initiative, the HearthStone Opportunity Scholarship will also provide a modest scholarship to a deserving person with a disability to further their education beyond secondary school. The 2018 recipient, Emma Leonhard, captivated the audience with her story and heartfelt thank you speech.

Thanks to the generosity of so many individual and corporate sponsors and donors, the event will also provide funds for our continued advocacy, education and social programs. Special thanks to Dennis Fiedler who generously donated his Florida Condo for our Great Condo Giveaway! And, more thanks to Jill Spielvogel, for her incredible prize patrol and Denise Drews for her administrative magic...and all the volunteers!

So, it was indeed a good time for a good cause. Thanks to all who attended and for your continued support of HearthStone.

HEARTHSTONE'S FIRST EVER POOL PARTY WAS A SPLASHING SUCCESS!



POOL PARTY
JOIN YOUR HEARTHSTONE
FRIENDS FOR A SPLASHING
GOOD TIME

HEARTHSTONE'S FIRST EVER POOL PARTY
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17TH
11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM
SHEBOYGAN FALLS AQUATIC CENTER
FALLS HIGH SCHOOL WEST PARKING LOT 220 AMHERST AVE. SHEBOYGAN FALLS
Doors open at 10:45 am - Bring your own swim suit and towel
FREE FOR ALL HEARTHSTONE YOUNG PEOPLE
11:00 TO 12:00 OPEN SWIM - THERE WILL BE THREE LIFE GUARDS ON DUTY
12:00 PM TO 1:00 PM **FREE PIZZA**, JUICE & WATER

PLEASE CALL JILL SPIELVOGEL AT 920-451-6949
OR TEXT 920-627-4821 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT



HEARTHSTONE'S HOLIDAY PARTY!



Join us for **HearthStone's**
Holiday
Party

Klemm's Wagon Wheel
Tuesday, December 4th, 2018
Registration: 5:30pm Dinner: 6:00pm

Please RSVP by 11/27/2018
to Karen Post at 920-889-8326

HearthStone members: \$5.00
Parents, friends, & caregivers: \$15.50

Please make checks payable to:
HearthStone of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 1444
Shzboygan, WI 53082-1444

Founding Board Members Bob & Peggy Feider honored for their years of service.

Having served as HearthStone's recording secretary since day one...that's at least 22 years of board of director's minutes (264 board meetings recorded!)... countless committee assignments, and inspiring, manning and funding our signature "Legislative Bowling Party"-- Peggy deserves a break! And, so it will be!

Dr. Bob and Peggy were in it from the beginning and continued to give their time and talents throughout HearthStone's history. As an organization, we can't begin to express our gratitude. As friends, we can't begin to express our love and admiration.

After each has been challenged with serious health issues, we are happy to report they are healthy and ready to enjoy some well-deserved leisure time in Sunny Florida. We hope to see them again when the weather here is more conducive to golf!



HearthStone Board and Advisory Board members recognize Bob and Peggy Feider for their years of Service to HearthStone. (Peggy, holding recognition award, second from left, Bob seventh from left.)

Sue Ann Schuh honored for her exemplary service to HearthStone.

"Sure, I can do that." sums up Sue Ann and her years of service to HearthStone and the community at large. For years Sue Ann was a key member of the Sheboygan County Aging and Disability Resource Center, serving the aging and disability community. She brought that experience and caring attitude to her many "volunteer" efforts on behalf of HearthStone.

Sue Ann served as Treasurer, headed up our Education Committee and took the lead in planning, organizing and implementing HearthStone's Annual Fundraising events for several years. Talk about someone "stepping up to the plate"? Sue Ann even brought the plate!

By now, Sue Ann is off on her next life adventure in South America, where we wish her the very best, and appreciate her generosity, kindness and friendship. We miss you Sue Ann!



Sue Ann Schuh receives much deserved recognition for her tireless service to HearthStone and the people we care about.

HearthStone's Board of Directors

- Karen Post
- Leah Ulatowski (Secretary)
- Jon Rost (President)
- Becca Sher (Treasurer)
- Larry Samet (Vice President)
- Craig McFadden
- Kathy Manny
- Christopher Post (Youth Rep.)
- Jill Spielvogel

HearthStone's Advisory Committee

- Dr. Robert Feider
- Peggy Feider
- Carol Rost
- Ron Preder
- Linda Tolman
- Frank Sterzen
- Jennifer Mikalowsky - DVR
- Chad Kahles - DVR
- Cynthia Sook - ADRC
- Nick Verhagen - TLC homes
- Michele Martin - HIL
- Denise Drews - HIL
- Dawn Stearns - Community Cares
- Drew Wallace - Paragon
- Ashley Streck - Twingenuity Graphics
- Jody Merenick - RCS Empowers
- Nathan Taylor - Foundations
- Mark Ellis - Camp Evergreen

"Our mission is to make our communities a welcoming place for people with disabilities and to support and encourage positive life experiences."