

Stepping Stones

A publication of HearthStone of Wisconsin, Inc.
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President's Letter

Hello Friends,

As we approach Thanksgiving and the Holiday Season, we are indeed thankful for the wonderful communities we are privileged to be a part of.

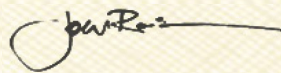
Looking back on the year we are fortunate to have been a part of many partnerships, organizations and events in support of the people we care about. We continue to nurture our relationships with great organizations like RCS Empowers, Foundations of Community Living, Homes for Independent living, Camp Evergreen, the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center, Sheboygan County Health & Human Services, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce, our local, state and federal legislators – and new for 2018 -- a partnership with Costal Connections, the Chamber's Young Professional Network – more news on this exciting relationship to come.

This summer we took part in Disability Pride Day at Fountain Park and helped organize and participated in the first ever "Come Together...a Festival Celebrating Unity in our Community." It was a great event recognizing a community accepting people of differing ethnicity, backgrounds and abilities.

We also awarded our first ever HearthStone Educational Opportunity Scholarship, recognizing the potential for a person with differing abilities to pursue a post-secondary Education. How cool is that!?

Special thanks to all who have played a role in continuing HearthStone's support for people with differing abilities.

Sincerely,
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."

EXCEPTIONAL SOUTH HIGH GRADUATE AWARDED HEARTHSTONE'S FIRST EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

A remarkable young lady, Kaitlyn Taubenheim, earned our first scholarship to help her achieve her goal of post-secondary education.

Kaitlyn has overcome numerous physical, emotional and academic challenges after suffering a traumatic brain injury when she was just eleven. "I have never let any of my medical challenges stand in the way of my future goals and aspirations." stated Kaitlyn in her application.

She is planning to attend LTC and pursue an Associate's Degree as a Radiography Technician.

Her SASD Transition Specialist described her as "...someone who works hard to achieve her goals, works well with others, is caring, empathetic and demonstrates leadership skills in all settings."



*HearthStone scholarship winner
Kaitlyn Taubenheim receives her diploma from
Sheboygan's South High School.*

HEARTHSTONE SUMMER PICNIC AND BOAT RIDE HAS FULL "CREW."

Captain Tom's Elkhart Lake pontoon boat had a maximum crew for HearthStone's Annual Cruise. After a delicious sub sandwich picnic lunch at Firemen's Park Beach on Elkhart Lake, we climbed aboard the Elkhart Queen for a leisurely cruise around the lake. A beautiful day and fun was had by all "hands."



*Nothing like a picnic lunch on
beautiful Elkhart Lake*



*The Garton Family "High Divers"
entertained us along the way.*

Annual “Disability Pride Day” a big success.

HearthStone was proud to participate in this year’s “Disability Pride Day” sponsored by the Sheboygan County Aging and Disability Resource Center.

Entertainment was provided by the RCS Empowers Bell Choir and a few skits from this year’s RCS Play. Ms. Wheelchair Wisconsin, Myranda Gereau, from Plymouth also entertained the crowd with her “We Are Able” program.



Craig, Kathy and Jon staff the HearthStone display and information booth at Disability Pride Day



LEAH ULATOWSKI/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

An information tent at the 2016 Disability Pride Fest celebrates people of all different abilities.

Festival

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a performance by RCS’s handbell choir, and their drama class will take the stage for theatre skits at 1:20 and 2 p.m. In addition, there will also be music from Mark Schorer of Sound Investment D.J.

Services.

Ms. Wheelchair Wisconsin 2017 Pageant winner Myranda Gereau, a Plymouth resident, will be featured starting at 1 p.m. at the event. She will be promoting her platform of “We Are Able” by showing that “people with disabilities can do a lot of things, even if it’s a bit different from the able-bodied community,” according

ing to a press release.

In addition to being an awareness effort and celebratory event, the fest will also be informational with the opportunity for attendees to learn more about local resources.

For additional information on the event, contact the Sheboygan County Aging & Disability Resource Center at 920-467-4100.

The Sheboygan Press featured an article on “Disability Pride Day”

First ever diversity event celebrates “Unity in our Community.”

“With all the divisiveness in the world around us, I thought it might just be time to step back and look around our own community and recognize the strengths we have.” said Craig McFadden, Hearthstone Board Member.”

The result of Craig’s observation is his brainchild: “Come Together...a Festival Celebrating Unity in our Community”. This first of its kind event was held on September 9th at Fountain Park in conjunction with the SCIO’s Farmers Market.

A wide variety of free family entertainment on the Park stage, plenty of Miesfeld’s brats, Coco’s Ice Cream truck and Mayor Vandersteen’s international beer garden drew crowds of young and old alike.

Plans are already underway for next year’s event!



HearthStone information booth at the Unity Event.

COME TOGETHER FESTIVAL Unity in the community



Members of the Plymouth High School Jangle Kammerden do the chicken dance at the Come Together festival on Saturday.

SHEBOYGAN CELEBRATES DIVERSITY WITH ENTERTAINMENT, ACTIVITIES, FOOD AT INAUGURAL FOUNTAIN PARK EVENT

PHOTOS BY LEAH ULATOWSKI/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN



Yes, the Unity event made the Front page of the Sheboygan Press. You’ll recognize the guy on the lower right as Mr. Craig McFadden!

HearthStone helps with “downpayment” on exciting new tracked wheelchair.

Until now, people with mobility issues weren't able to participate in many of the outdoor adventures we take for granted: A walk along a wooded hiking trail -- an afternoon on the beach -- hunting or fishing in a remote area -- all virtually impossible to access with a traditional wheelchair.

Enter the Action Trackchair, a mechanized tracked mobility chair that can master the most challenging terrain, allowing access to locations and adventures never before achievable.

HearthStone Advisory Board Member and Founding Member Frank Sterzen's son Andy provided the perfect inspiration for acquiring this new technology. Together with his dad, Andy is an avid outdoorsman and hunter, but was often hampered by inaccessible locations. Now Andy, and anyone in Sheboygan County with mobility issues may use the mechanized chair free of charge.

HearthStone is proud to have provided the project's first partial funding. Thanks to the efforts of the Northern Kettles Chapter of the National Wildlife Turkey Federation, the Sheboygan Falls American Legion Post 149 and several private organizations and donors, the chair and trailer were acquired in early October.

Anyone interested in access to this chair should contact Dennis Stuckmann at 920-946-9967 or dennisstuckmannconstructionllc.com.



(Standing L to R) Jim Evraets (Sheboygan County Conservation Association President) Jon Rost, and Peggy Feider HearhStone Secretary surround Andy Sterzen for the trial run of the new track chair.



Hundreds enjoy a buffet lunch and awards ceremony at the Bull at the HearhStone/RCS Empowers employers' recognition luncheon.



Andy makes the front page of the Sheboygan Falls News

16th Annual Employers Recognition Luncheon recognizes more than 100 Sheboygan County businesses.

One of the underpinnings of our strong relationship with RCS Empowers is our co-sponsorship of the Annual Employers Recognition Luncheon. Nearly 200 people and more 100 businesses attended the awards ceremony held October 12th at The Bull.

Both first time and long-term employers of people with differing abilities were recognized and honored for their commitment to providing diverse employment opportunities. Festival Foods was honored as the Exemplary Employer for offering employment to a significant number of people this year. HearhStone recognized over 60 employers for their continuing support for employing people with differing abilities

HearthStone Comedy Sportz Fund Raiser... Good Fun For a Good Cause.

What's your favorite? Delicious Culinary Institute buffet dinner? Almost 50 gift baskets? Fabulous silent auction items? Crazy improv from the zanies at Comedy Sportz?

No matter...they all added up to a fun evening! Happily, it was also a financial success to help HearthStone keep our on-going educational, advocacy and social opportunities going strong for 2018.

It will also fund our on-going commitment to the Shaw Family all accessible Playground now under construction in Sheboygan's Evergreen Park.

Audience participation is one of the highlights of Comedy Sportz entertainment.



A great turnout made for a great evening and a successful fundraising effort!



Wisconsin's 27th District Assembly Representative Tyler Vorpapel getting to know Kirby. Thanks to Tyler for joining in the fun.

HearthStone Legislative Bowling Party Scores A Strike!

Once again we invited our local, state and federal legislators to a meet and greet with our HearthStone young people and their families. And, once again a good time and a great learning experience was had by all.

A record number of bowlers rubbed elbows with local and state officials who joined in the fun and got a chance to get to know their special constituents. Tons of free pizza and plenty of soda fueled the fun and it was topped off with Andy Sterzen's Birthday Cake!

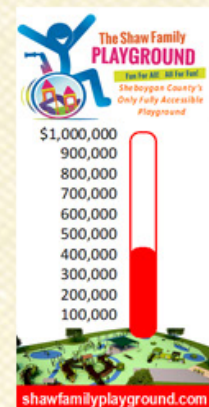
Thanks to hosts Peggy & Bob Feider, organizers Terri and Frank Sterzen and the many, many volunteers who kept things going smoothly!

Shaw Family Playground Nears halfway mark in funding.

Thanks to several major private donors, on-going community support and a bit of help from HearthStone, the all accessible Shaw Family Playground has raised over \$420,000.

Site preparation work has begun in Evergreen Park and several pieces of the custom playground equipment have been ordered for Spring delivery.

Once again, a significant amount of the income raised at our recent HearthStone Comedy Sportz event will be contributed to the playground. We will look forward to seeing the "temperature" rise even higher on the Shaw's fund raising "thermometer".





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)
- Craig McFadden
- Kathy Manny

HearthStone's Advisory Committee

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| • Jennifer Mikalowsky | • Dawn Stearns |
| • Bob Feider | • Drew Wallace |
| • Jack Reindl | • Ron Preder |
| • Carol Rost | • Linda Tolman |
| • Marie Schwinn | • Ashley Streck |
| • Frank Sterzen | • Jill Spielvogel |
| • Christopher Post | • Jody Merenick |
| • Cynthia Sook | • Nathan Taylor |
| • Nick Verhagen | • Mark Ellis |
| • Michele Martin | |

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