

# Stepping Stones

A publication of HearthStone of Wisconsin, Inc.  
Newsletter date: Spring 2018

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## HearthStone Annual Spring Dance Rocks!

Major thanks to Terri Sterzen, Jill Spielvogel and their many helpers for organizing our most popular "Young Person's" event of the year...our annual Spring Karaoke, Dance and Pizza party. The event drew record attendance by our Young People, parents and friends – and our special guests from the Sheboygan Chamber of Commerce "Costal Cares" Young Professionals Network.

The event was held at the Plymouth Youth Center on April 6th, music by DJ A.C. Royal.

Here is Terri's report:

*"Hi All, this is Terri sending report from 19th Annual Hearthstone Young Peoples Dance held Friday, April 6, 2018 at the Plymouth Youth Center.*

*The dance was great fun and a great success again. It is hard to have an exact count, but I believe we had 37 returning young people plus many family and friends and at least 5 new young people plus YPN members and Hearthstone Board members present for a total of 75 people give or take a few.*

*I would say it was a smashing success. Theme was "Be Happy" Happy faces everywhere, balloons, cookies, decor and all the participants!*

*Mailing list was a great success! Only 1 invite returned. Thanks Becca for updating and maintaining the list. Karen Post and Becca were on hand to offer free HearthStone T shirts.*

*Thank you to the excellent committee who helped to organize, set up and clean up! Jill and Kiera, Karen and Chris Post, Joe Arndt, Frank, and Andy Sterzen and the many helpers who assisted with set up, clean up and decorating and bringing cookies, bars, etc. Many hands make light work!*

*I do believe we have more fun every year. Reconnecting with old friends and making new friends is AWESOME! Several young people have suggested having this event more than once per year.*

*Thank you, HearthStone for sponsoring this event!"*

There were LOTS of requests to do this more than once a year...so, stay tuned!

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



## CONTACT Us:

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

Phone: (920) 316-2236

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

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / EVENTS

### ***Disability Pride Day***

August 8 at 10am to 3pm  
Fountain Park, Sheboygan

### ***HearthStone Summer Picnic and Boat Ride***

August, date TBD 11:30 to 2:00 pm  
Firemen's Park, Elkhart Lake

### ***Diversity Day***

Saturday September 15th – Noon – 5pm  
Fountain Park, Sheboygan

### ***HearthStone Fund Raiser “Dueling Pianos”***

Friday, October 12, 2018 - 5:30pm  
LTC Culinary Institute, 712 Riverfront Dr.  
Sheboygan

### ***Employer's Recognition Luncheon*** (HearthStone/ RCS Empowers)

Thursday October 18th 11:30 am  
The Osthoff – Elkhart Lake (*New location!*)

## **Refuse To Be A Victim.®**

Detective Tamara Remington from the Sheboygan Police Department will be joining us on Thursday May 17th to provide a Personal Safety Awareness Training to all disabled residents of Sheboygan County. Detective Remington is an expert in the field of human trafficking and has been presenting to different schools, business, and community organizations throughout the state. This presentation will not focus on the details of human trafficking but will be more focused on their personal safety within our community. We encourage all to attend.

**Thursday May 17th, 2018**

**6pm-7pm**

**Aging and Disability Resource Center  
650 Forest Ave Sheboygan Falls**

**Presented by: Detective Tamara Remington  
Sheboygan Police Department**



The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Sheboygan County has invited Detective Tamara Remington from the Sheboygan Police Department to provide information on human trafficking. We will be looking at how traffickers lure their victims and ways to prevent this from happening to you and your loved ones. Please join us for this free of charge presentation.

This presentation is open to all parents, family, teachers, friends and caregivers.

**Thursday May 10th**

**Time: 6-7:30**

**Location: Aging and Disability Resource Center of Sheboygan County room 105  
650 Forest Ave. Sheboygan Falls**

**Presented by : Detective Tamara Remington of the Sheboygan Police  
Department**



## President's Letter

Happy Spring...

hopefully by the time you read this, the snow will be melted and we'll feel more Spring-ish. Maybe a few daffodils and crocus reaching for the sky?

In this season of new life and optimism, there is much optimism bubbling up with HearthStone -- new friends, new partnerships and new board members.

As you know, a main focus is to provide safe, supervised and FUN social opportunities for our "Young People". In addition to continuing to partner with RCS Empowers, we have reached out to the YMCA and to the Sheboygan County Chamber's Young Professional Network's Costal Cares. We are hoping these new relationships will continue to grow and provide more fun social opportunities.

We'd also like to recognize and welcome new board members Rebecca (Becca) Sher and Leah Ulatowski. Becca comes to us with considerable IT/database skills and boundless enthusiasm! She has also volunteered to be our new Treasurer. Leah, who is Top Editor at The Sheboygan Press will be applying her considerable journalistic skills as our new Secretary.

Thanks to Becca and Leah! We are proud and grateful to welcome you to the board. And, thanks to Bob and Peggy for helping to make it all possible.

See, it is a Happy Spring after all!

Sincerely,  
Jon Rost  
President



## Thanks to the Feiders... *a very special family.*



We would like to thank two very special people who helped plant the early "seedlings" that have become today's HearthStone. Bob and Peggy Feider, founding members, major contributors and sustainers of HearthStone, have moved on to a well-deserved retirement.

Their son, Joe, was an inspiration to us all, and was the foundation for Bob & Peggy's commitment to this organization. Peggy served as our Secretary from the early days of our organizing until very recently. Their devotion to HearthStone and to Joe's memory is much admired and appreciated.

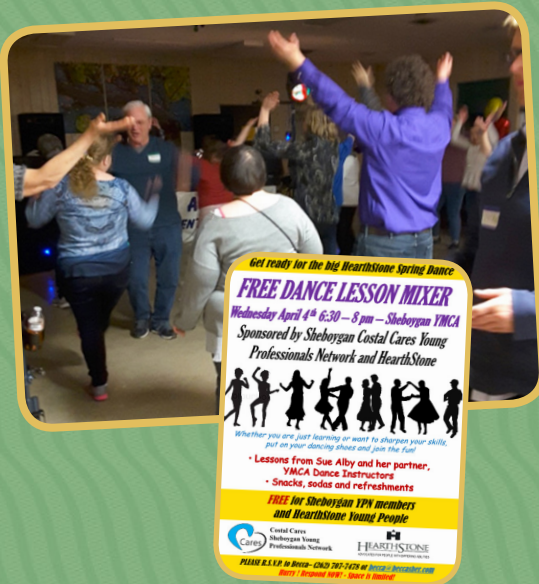
Bob and Peggy are also blessed with three lovely daughters, spouses and strong family members who have been loyal supporters of HearthStone.

Recently, both Bob and Peggy have been challenged with incredibly serious health issues and we wish them the very best as they both are demonstrating the courage and determination needed to move forward. We are with you Bob and Peggy.

Thank you for being there for us.

## Santa headlines annual HearthStone Christmas Party - draws record crowd.

HearthStone's Annual Christmas Party was held Tuesday December 5th at Klemme's Wagon Wheel in Howards Grove. Live music, a grand Christmas Feast and a visit from Santa – bearing gifts for all -- made for a great evening of fun and fellowship. Thanks again to Terri Sterzen, Jill Spielvogel and Karen Post for planning, organizing and hosting. A record crowd kicked off the Holiday Season in style!



## HearthStone, Costal Cares/YPN and YMCA partner on Dance Lesson Mixer

HearthStone, Sheboygan Chamber of Commerce's Coastal Cares Young Professionals Network and the Sheboygan YMCA partnered for a fun Dance Lesson Mixer on Wednesday April 4th.

Just in time for our HearthStone Spring Dance Party a special dance lesson mixer brought HearthStone, RCS Empowers and Sheboygan YPNers together for an evening of fun and learning. The YMCA provided their dance lesson room and one of the Y's dance instructors, Sue Alby, generously donated her time and talents to teach some classic dance moves. It was a great way to learn and have a fun time together.

## Emma Leonhard awarded the 2018 HearthStone Opportunity Scholarship

*"Winning the HearthStone Opportunity Scholarship would be a big honor for me, because I have worked hard to get to this point, and I want to live on my own someday. When I am at Bethesda College I can learn life skills, meet new friends, go to sporting events and gain work experiences that will help me in life. I also feel that I can help other people like me with special needs because I am a good person with a lot to offer and I really care about people and like to help people."* A quote from Emma's application essay.

We couldn't agree more, we are proud of Emma and pleased to be able to help her achieve her dreams.





## WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

### Wisconsin State Senate Bill 415 proposes option for drivers to disclose “Invisible Disability” on ID or operator’s license.

This bill allows an applicant for a motor vehicle operator’s license or identification card issued by the Department of Transportation to indicate whether he or she has a disability that may not be immediately apparent to another (invisible disability).

If a law enforcement officer or other designated person requests information on a person’s operator’s license or identification card application, DOT must examine its record of persons who have indicated an invisible disability and advise the law enforcement officer or other person as to whether the person is recorded as a person who has indicated an invisible disability. This bill was passed and presented to Gov. Walker for approval on April 2, 2018.

### Lakeland University and RCS Empowers team up to offer new University L.I.F.E. Summer Camp

2018 Summer Camp

FOR YOUNG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES AND OTHER LEARNING DIFFERENCES

## UNIVERSITY L.I.F.E.

Learning new skills

Independence cultivation

Friendship building centered on fun activities

Empowerment through exploration



For information contact Ruth Weigel at 920-694-1219 or [rweigel@rcsempowers.com](mailto:rweigel@rcsempowers.com)



RCS Empowers, Inc.  
1607 Geele Avenue  
Sheboygan, WI 53083  
[www.rcsempowers.com](http://www.rcsempowers.com)



Lakeland University  
W3718 South Drive  
Plymouth, WI 53073  
920-565-1000

For camp brochure visit:  
<https://www.rcsempowers.com/wp-content/uploads/University-Life-2018-AP.pdf>



### RCS Empowers Offering Exciting Summer TOUR to Michigan



**AUGUST 21-25, 2018**

# Amazing Michigan

Shows, Dunes, and Wildlife




Explore the beautiful and unique state of Michigan with RCS Empowers. Included are a variety of wonderful sights and attractions that will appeal to everyone. From the excitement of a dune buggy ride to the serenity of a horse-drawn carriage tour on Mackinac Island; from watching the elk graze at Thunder Bay River to having your picture taken with a bear at Oswald's Bear Ranch, you will enjoy every moment of this five-day summertime tour.

#### TOUR PRICE:

**\$1259 Per Person Multiple Occupancy**  
(Number of Occupants Per Room May Vary.)

#### TOUR INCLUDES:

- \* Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
- \* Hotel Accommodations for 4 Nights
- \* Sightseeing and Admissions Per Itinerary
- \* 4 Breakfasts
- \* 5 Lunches
- \* 4 Dinners
- \* Services of a Personalized Tour Director

#### “TRAVEL INSURED” TRAVEL PROTECTION:

**\$82 Multiple Occupancy**

#### PAYMENT INFORMATION:

**\$200 Due with Reservation**  
**\$200 Due April 16, 2018**  
**\$200 Due June 1, 2018**  
**Balance Due July 16, 2018**

**Make Checks Payable to:**  
**Personalized Tours, Inc.**

#### FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

**Personalized Tours, Inc.**  
**W4928 Pheasant Valley Road**  
**Waldo, WI 53093**  
**920.528.7600 or 800.225.0608**

[www.GoPersonalized.com](http://www.GoPersonalized.com)

**ACTIVITY LEVEL:** Moderate-Itinerary blends some longer days with shorter days. Walking tours, walking longer distances, climbing stairs, and uneven walking surfaces should be expected.

## Shaw Family Playground Update

We have about \$530,000 pledged. (A bit over one half our goal) We fully took on the restroom/shelter portion of the playground. Larry Samet was kind enough to connect us with Erik Jensen. Both Erik Jensen and Distinctive Design Studio volunteered their architectural services to us. Miller Engineers and Scientists also assisted us with the restroom/shelter. We have an HVAC company willing to help with the restroom, faith technologies for electrical, another electrical company just reached out and Kohler Company is donating the fixtures.

We are looking for bricks, help with raising trusses, masonry help and concrete.

We still have some money to raise but have a mid-summer begin date scheduled to build the playground. With all the additional work we took on, it will take us about 8 weeks to complete everything.

We are seeking a company to donate transporting the playground equipment from Minnesota to Sheboygan. We are also looking for assistance in handing out a few iPads to potential donors. We applied for the Sheboygan Service Club partner charity and are currently waiting for their response.

We are also in the crowdrise fundraiser through Gannett. If we raise \$3,000 we would be eligible for grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

**Shaw Family Playground:** <https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/friends-of-the-sheboygan-jaycees/shawfamilyplayground>

We are also trying to sell more fence pickets, they are such a fun part of the playground.

**Engraved Fence Pickets Order Form - Shaw Family Playground**

<http://shawfamilyplayground.com/order-form-for-engraved-fence-pickets/>



*Getting ready! Doesn't look like much right now, but the site clearing has begun and fill is being added.*



*Left to right: McHale Shaw, inspiration for the Playground, Becca Sher, SueAnn Schuh, Larry Samet and Craig McFadden HearthStone Board members and Angie Shaw, Shaw Family Playground imagineer.*

## HearthStone donates fund raiser proceeds to Shaw Family Playground.

Again this year, HearthStone is pleased to donate most of the proceeds of our annual fund raiser to the Shaw Family Playground project.

The Shaw Family Playground has begun site preparation work on the 19-acre site located at the Southeast corner of Evergreen Park in Sheboygan. The park will be the only fully ADA accessible playground in the Lakeshore Area.

“The wonderful thing about how this park is designed, is that it invites both handicapped and non-handicapped children and adults to play together in a safe and fun-filled environment,” stated Angie Shaw who dreamed up the playground with her husband Ryan.

“We are thrilled about the opportunity to help the Shaw family with the proceeds of our annual fund-raising event for the second year in a row,” stated Larry Samet, Vice President of HearthStone and Fund-raising Chairman.

More information on the Shaw Family Playground can be accessed through their website at: [shawfamilyplayground.com](http://shawfamilyplayground.com).

## 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
- Leah Ulatowski (Secretary)
- Jon Rost (President)
- Sue Ann Schuh
- Becca Sher (Treasurer)
- Larry Samet (Vice President)
- Craig McFadden
- Kathy Manny
- Christopher Post (Youth Rep.)

## 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
- Jill Spielvogel - Edward Jones
- 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."*