

Stepping Stones

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



Inside This Issue:

- 1. President's letter Jon Rost
- "Celebrate the Spectrum" fundraiser & HearthStone's annual picnic and boat ride
- 3. Camp Evergreen Dedicates Totally Rebuilt Fully ADA Accessible Pool
- 4. HearthStone's Annual Comedy Sportz Dinner Show
- 5. The Great Condo Giveaway
- HearthStone's Fundraiser To Benefit The Exciting Shaw Family Playground Project
- 7. Access To The Outdoors
- 8. Upcoming Events
- 9. Bowling Party Invite
- 10. A-Team Wisconsin
- 11. Membership Form
- 12. Board Member and Advisory Board List

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An Exciting Year for HearthStone

of Wisconsin

As we now turn 21, I guess you could say we're of legal age! And, as young adults, we are looking around and appreciating both our long-standing friendships and the new and exciting people in our lives.

For the past year, HearthStone board member Craig McFadden and I have joined the Sheboygan Chamber of Commerce and become members of the Chamber's Non-Profit Roundtable. This has been a great opportunity to learn more about the many successful non-profits in Sheboygan County and to share challenges and successes with other organizations.

In addition to our long-time partners at RCS Empowers, DVR and the ARDC, we are forging new relationships with Camp Evergreen, The Shaw Family Playground Project and AuSome Autism Support group in Plymouth. All of these organizations are dedicated to serving people with disabilities in their own special ways. And, working together we can better serve and better advocate for the people we care about.

It's a great feeling to be in such good company.

Best, Jon

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

Son?

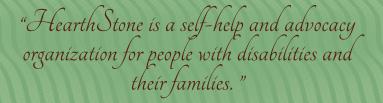


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Volume 1, Issue 15

HearthStone partners with AuSome Autism Social and Support Group to hold "Celebrate the Spectrum" Fund Raiser.

It was a wonderful Summer Sunday afternoon of food and fun at the Plymouth Art Center, all to support some of the county's most AuSome people.

HearthStone Board Members Craig McFadden, Larry Samet and Kieth Shearer worked with AuSome founder Tina Ernst to put a fun and financially successful first ever fund-raiser.

Tina and her team came up with nearly 100 gift baskets to raffle off, plus a fab selection of baked goods for the bake sale, not to mention some great grilled brats and burgers for a classic Sheboygan Brat Fry. Thanks to Miesfeld's Meat Market, Old Wisconsin Sausage and Piggly Wiggly for their generous donations to the brat fry.

In addition, several very talented local musical artists entertained the crowd all afternoon. The multi-talented Paul Zuckerman coordinated and staged the entertainment as well as performed. Thanks to Paul and the generous artists who gave up their time and talents to provide for a memorable afternoon.

> Thanks to all for all their hard work. Plans for next year are already underway!



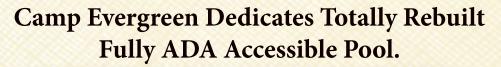
Annual HearthStone Picnic and Boat Ride Went Swimmingly!

A record crowd of HearthStone young people enjoyed a delicious sub sandwich picnic at Firemen's Park in Elkhart Lake on a sunny Saturday in August.

A relaxed guided pontoon boat tour by Captain Tom entertained a capacity crowd aboard the Elkhart Queen.







of Wisconsin



Camp Evergreen has been quietly serving people with disabilities since 1926.

While the camp has a had a swimming pool for many years, it was time to reconstruct and bring it up to Fully ADA Accessible standards.

A well attended Open House and Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting marked the grand opening of the pool in mid-September. Beginning as a Summer Camp for disadvantaged children, the Camp has expanded its mission to serve the disabled --- many of whom are very severely involved.

In addition to weekly Summer Camps, Camp Evergreen provides year 'round Day Services and weekend Respite Care. They pride themselves – as they should – with a very high staff to participant ratio.

Get your Tickets Now for HearthStone's Annual Comedy Sportz Dinner Show

Reserve your table now for and evening of fabulous food and the wacky improv fun from Milwaukee's own Comedy Sportz.

The talented chefs at the LTC Culinary Institute (712 Riverfront Drive) will again be serving a delicious buffet dinner – with a variety of tasty treats followed by luscious dessert. Cash bar starts at 5:30, dinner at 6:30 and then Comedy Sportz at 7:30.

There will also be a wide variety of gift basket raffle prizes. And, the special event of the evening will be the drawing for a week's stay at a Luxury Naples, Florida Condominium. (Need not be present to win)







HearthStone presents The Great Condo Giveaway



Here's your chance to win a week's stay in a 2BR, 2BA luxury condo in sunny Naples, Florida.

This luxury condo is located in Princeton Place within the Wiggins Bay Yacht & Racket Club. There are 2 bedrooms both with king sized beds, 2 full bathrooms, and fully equipped kitchen and laundry room. The sofa also opens to a queen sized bed. All linens are included. Just a few steps from the pool and near to Wiggins Pass State Park, Barefoot Beach and Bonita Beach. Lots to do and see and plenty of great shopping and restaurants. (Dates based on availability, but there are no black out dates. Does not include transportation)

Chances to win are just \$20 ea. (Sales limited to 100 chances)



Name	
Address	
City	State Zip
Phone	email
Please send me	chances @ \$20 ea. \$
MAIL TO: HearthStone	e – P.O. Box 1444 – Sheboygan, WI 53082

Drawing to be held Friday October 14th at 9pm, at our Comedy Sports dinner show <u>You do NOT need</u> <u>be present to win!</u>

You can also enter via PayPal at www.hearthstonewi.org >>>>



HearthStone Fund Raiser to benefit The Exciting Shaw Family Playground Project



A few months ago we found out about an exciting and ambitious project initiated by a wonderful young Sheboygan couple. Angie and Ryan Shaw were challenged ten years ago when they gave birth to conjoined twins. Despite almost impossible odds the twin's separation surgery was a success, although they have some continuing challenges.

Inspired by the twin's determination, Ryan and Angie began a journey to achieve their dream to provide a FULLY ACCESSIBLE playground not just for their family, but for the hundreds, if not thousands of families in Wisconsin who are "left on the sidelines" while others enjoy nonaccessible playgrounds.

Working with nationally known resources on Accessible Playgrounds, the Shaws have worked with key stakeholders and the City of Sheboygan to forge a plan to achieve their dreams. Please see www.shawfamilyplayground.com

We are proud to support and partner with the Shaw Family in support of this much-needed project.





Access to the Outdoors



Andy Sterzen is an avid deer and turkey hunter. His first turkey hunt was in 2011. The experience of being in the woods on an early spring day and hearing a gobbler's thunderous call at daybreak was like no other. Harvesting a large tom turkey sealed his fate. He was hooked on the outdoors.

For the next four seasons Andy did not get a bird. Andy walks with crutches so the challenge was being able to get to where the turkeys were. For those who love the outdoors but have limited mobility, a conventional wheelchair is simply not adequate. Enter the tracked wheelchair. These vehicles are easy to operate and stable on rough terrain, mud, and slopes.

In the spring of 2016 Andy was able to borrow an Action Trackchair for his turkey hunt. Getting the quarter mile across a wet farm field to the blind location he and his dad had chosen was effortless. Two hours after sunrise Andy had his second tom turkey. And for the first time, Andy could get himself to and from the truck like any other hunter. The smile on Andy's face says it all.

Andy and his father are determined to have a chair available to use free of charge in Sheboygan County so everyone can enjoy outdoor events, nature trails, the beach, bird watching, hunting, and other outdoor activities. Anyone who would like to help in this effort can contact Frank Sterzen @ 920-467-6801.





Coming Up Soon!

Thursday October 13 – 11:30 am RCS Empowers/HearthStone/DVR Employer's Recognition Luncheon at The Bull in Sheboygan Falls

> Friday October 14 – 5:30 pm HearthStone Comedy Sportz Fund Raiser – LTC Culinary Institute – 712 Riverfront Drive, Sheboygan.

Saturday October 29 – 1:00 pm HearthStone Legislative Bowling Party – Maple Lanes in Sheboygan – Free Bowling and Pizza for HearthStone young people

> Visit us at www.hearthstonewi.org and on Facebook! HearthStone Message Center – 920.316.2236

News from our Friends at RCS Empowers

Sheboygan's 4th Annual Sunflower Festival of Fine Arts & Crafts



Saturday October 15, 2016 9:00 a.m.—3 p.m.

1607 Geele Avenue, Sheboygan

Hand Forged Enamel Jewelry, Silverware Art, Handmade Soaps, Candles, Pottery, Dog Coats, Crocheted Items, Knit Items, Wreaths, Handmade Cards, Original Photography, & more!

Admission - \$1.00 or a Non-Perishable Food Item



General Public \$5 Admission at the Door

October 21, 2016

Our annual prom will have a Masquerade theme...so, get your friends and come out to have an amazing evening of fun and dancing! You will have a blast with all the decorations and the wonderful music by none other than, Ricky Raybine!

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A-Team Wisconsin Needs Your Help to give Families a Choice in Employment Options



MYWORK. MYCHOICE.

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A-Team Wisconsin is asking for your help in contacting your congressional leaders on upcoming legislation affecting organizations like RCS Empowers. The WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) is being reviewed by our legislators and while its intentions are commendable, it also comes with recommendations that put Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs) like RCS Empowers in jeopardy.

Parts of WIOA call for restrictions and age requirements of those entering CRPs. Per new regulations, those entering CRPs must first work with DVR to get a job in the community before participating in a "sheltered work program." Those that are already working in sheltered work will need to complete a yearly review with a yet to be determined entity to "counsel" Participants on the work available in the community. At this time, no agency is set to begin such "counseling."

Additionally, WIOA calls for phasing out the 14(c) waiver program which essentially allows companies to pay individuals sub-minimum wages in accordance to their abilities (piece rate). If CRPs were required to pay minimum wage and provide the extra supports that each individual needs, they would be unable to sustain the very business that provides funding for the services.

Please join the A-Team in contacting our legislative leaders and let them know that while WIOA is beneficial, it is also very restrictive. Many people are deeply concerned that the report's recommendations will result in job losses and limit employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

We are asking them to writie letters to both Secretary Thomas Perez of the Department of Labor and Secretary John King of the Department of Education to ask for them to reconsider some of the rulings in this law as it is likely more restrictive than originally intended to be. Anybody wishing to contact Secretary Perez directly is encouraged to call (202) 693-6000 or www.talktodol@dol.gov

Sen. Tammy Baldwin

717 Hart Washington DC 20510

(202) 224-5653

Contact: www.baldwin.senate.gov/feedback

Sen. Ron Johnson

328 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510

(202) 224-5323

Contact: www.ronjohnson.senate.gov

Rep. Glenn Grothman

1020 South Main Street, Suite B Fond du Lac, WI 54935

(920) 907-0624

Or

501 Cannon H.O.B. Washington, DC 20515

(202) 225-2476

For more information, sample letters or to be added to the A-Team mailing list, please contact Amanda Kairys at akairys@rcsempowers.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 ad equately compensate our caring service providers.

Yes,	please add n	ne to your	list of l	Members. I	understand	there is	NO (CHARGE to	become a	a HearthStone	member.
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Name				
Address			 	
City	State	Zip	 	
Home Phone				
e-mail				
Person(s) you are advocating for:				
Date of Birth			 	
Date of Birth				



Sheboygan, WI 53082-1444 PO Box 1444 IW to another of WI

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

ADACCO

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- Kathy Manny

Keith Shearer

- Craig McFadden

- Larry Samet (Vice President)
- SueAnn Schuh (Treasurer)
- Jon Rost (President)

- Joe Arndt (Youth Rep.)
- Peggy Feider (Secretary)

Newsletter date: October 2016

Die Cor

- Karen Post

- **HearthStone's Board of Directors**

EARTH

- - Bob Feider

TONE of Wisconsin

- Jennifer Mikalowsky

Jack Reindl

Carol Rost

Marie Schwinn

Frank Sterzen

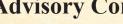
Cynthia Sook

Nick Verhagen

Michele Martin

Christopher Post

* HearthStone Advisory Committee *



Dawn Stearns .

Volume 1, Issue 15

- Drew Wallace
- Ron Preder •
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- Ashley Streck •

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- Nathan Taylor
- Mark Ellis

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