

CHOICES

A Quarterly Newsletter about Self-Determination in Dane County

WEB VERSION: Vol. 9 No. 5 - Dec 2008

SAVE THE DATE

Infoshare!
February 24, 2009

Travel: Bring your travel photos and stories to share

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Holiday Party for the Choices Team
December 10
4-6 pm
122 E Olin Avenue,
Madison

Next Issue:

Deadline for contributions for the March 2009 issue is February 5, or until the issue is filled (whichever comes first). Contact Stefanie Primm, editor
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James & Lakesha Wed *Newlyweds Met Through Connections Ad*

On May 15, 2008, James and Lakesha took their relationship to the next level by reciting vows of commitment to one another in front of a supportive crowd of friends, family and service providers at the Monona Community Center. Before reading his vows, James shared a poem he wrote for Lakesha. It began, "Roses are red, violets are blue. When the sunlight shines from heaven onto you, you make me happy, too." In Lakesha's vows, she committed to take James as her soul mate and partner. They exchanged rings and a few special guests made tributes, read poems and



Cutting the Cake

finally, a toast was made to the couple's lifelong happiness together. James,

Lakesha and their guests spent a few hours mingling,

[see Newlyweds, p. 3](#)

Janet Estervig Leaves WORC

By Jeffrey Johnson

Janet Estervig was a director at WORC (Work Opportunity in Rural Communities), which is a Supported Employment Agency. Janet helped find jobs for people with developmental disabilities in the community. Janet's new position will be a director of personal care at Community Living Alliance (CLA).

The biggest changes Janet saw were people moving out of sheltered workshops to community

jobs. The other big one was how to support people in the community. She has also seen Dane County become a leader for people with developmental disabilities working in the community.

It all started when Janet was a special education teacher at Sun Prairie high school. She noticed that her graduated students from Sun Prairie wanted to get jobs in Sun Prairie, but there was no program to help with this.



Janet and the BIG CAKE

[see Janet Estervig Leaves, p. 3](#)



*Dan Rossiter is
the Manager of
Developmental
Disabilities
Services in Dane
County*

Dan Sez

So I looked back at the article I wrote about this time in 2007 and in 2006 and in 2005 and... Well, I've said "next year is good news, bad news" so many times it sounds like an echo. Ok, let's get to the bad news first and get it out of the way.

Once again, there is a shortage of funds to support people with disabilities. This came up in the last CHOICES when Catherine Clodius interviewed me. Money is being diverted to distant wars and our economy sucks big time. Looks like next year will bring a decrease in supports available. One of our agencies figured out that each person they support would have to give up 5 hours of support per week to make up for the reductions. Now, that doesn't mean everyone is going to have to give up 5 hours of support a week but it gives you an idea of what we are looking at. We'll be looking at roommate matches, maybe new ways of providing support, and anything else anybody can think of to make sure everyone gets the support they need and hold on to the good life they want to enjoy.

Ok, good news. The budget next year does mean that many support workers are going to

get a well deserved raise. New ideas are coming out that will provide better, safer support and save money. And as you page through the newsletter, you'll see all kinds of happy stuff... marriages (thanks, in part to this very newsletter), interviews about model trains, an artist's business, announcement for the winter ball (winter is definitely here), and an article about a good friend, Janet Estervig, who has been working to support people with disabilities in supported employment at Work Opportunities in Rural Communities. Anyone who has ever met Janet will tell you she is the best.

And check out the Connections page - Happiness awaits.

New Counseling Practice Opening

**Individuals and Families Living
with Disability & Chronic Illness**

**Maura Taggart, PhD, MSW, LCSW
Woodview Counseling Center, LLC**

**330 S. Whitney Way, Ste. 303
Madison, WI 53705
608-268-0341 ext. 94**



*Learning and
having fun
together*

Learning Together Classes for Self Advocates

Location: UW-Waisman Center Outreach: 122 E. Olin Ave., Ste. 100, Madison, EXCEPT Cooking classes: held at the Community Kitchen at the Willy St. Coop, 1221 Williamson Street, Madison.

Registration: Call (608)265-9440 ext. 440 to register.

Arts and Crafts Series: Card Stamping Classes

Date/Time: Thursday, January 22: 1:00-3:00pm
Thursday, February 19: 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Registration Fee: \$5 per person, includes materials
*Learn to stamp while making cards that you can
take home and send to others!*

Safety in the Community

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 13: 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Registration Fee: Free
*Police officer MaryAnne Thurber will talk about
how you can be safe in the community.*

Safety Series: Fire Safety

Date/Time: Tuesday, November 11: 1:00 – 2:00 pm
Registration Fee: Free
*Eric Dahl from the Madison Fire Department will
discuss fire safety in this informative session.*

Daily Living Skills: Whole Food Cooking with Mary Sykes

Date/Time: Thursday, January 29: 5:30-7:30pm and
Thursday, February 12: 5:30-7:30pm
Registration Fee: \$5 per person
*This workshop will give you a good start on how to
cook nutritious, inexpensive and tasty meals.*

SAVE THE DATE: Infoshare, Feb. 24 '09, Alliant Center
The Next Infoshare about TRAVEL will be February 24, 2009. *Bring your
travel photos and stories to share! And watch for more information to come.*

Infoshare held September 12, 2008

We had a very nice day at Olin Park in Madison. All of us had a very good time. There were about 70 people there at the park, on a cold day in September. Infoshare keynote speakers were Mr. Bob Queen and Gary Kallas from the Marquette Neighborhood Association. Bob is an event organizer who talked about his passion for his community. Gary is the director of the Wilmar Neighborhood Center. Our next Infoshare Conference will be on **Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at the Alliant Center** - by Dan Remick



CHOICES is
sponsored by Dane
County Dept of
Human Services,
Adult Community
Services Division,
Madison Wisconsin

Newlyweds, from p 1

dancing, taking photos and enjoying some hors d'oeuvres, punch and, of course, cake.

James' aunt commented that the decorations were beautiful. Lydena from CCLS and Jacki from MARC-RES decorated the venue in pink and black with flowers, streamers, rose petals and candles. Mark from CCLS, and his partner Jim, made a beautiful 2-tiered fondant cake and prepared some delicious food and beverages for all to enjoy. Everyone commented on how beautiful Lakesha looked, dressed in a stunning two-piece pink and black ensemble with her hair in a sleek bob, topped off with a matching beaded necklace from her own jewelry line: Sassy D's. And James received cajoling from friends and family about how well he cleaned up in a tuxedo.



Lakesha's family made the trip all the way from Chicago to join them for their special day. James' family, from the Beaver Dam area, was also in attendance. Many photos and even a video tape were taken to keep the memories of the day alive for years to come. Many of the guests made their best wishes known for James and Lakesha on video tape, for them to view later.

James and Lakesha live together in a two-bedroom home on the west side of Madison. James works for the federal government as a janitor and Lakesha owns a micro-enterprise called Sassy D's, making beaded jewelry. The two plan to honeymoon in the Wisconsin Dells.

Congratulations, James and Lakesha!

Dane County Timebank Celebrates 3 Years!

by Catherine E. Clodius

The Time Bank of Dane County celebrated their 3rd birthday party on Saturday October 18, 2008 at First Congregational Church. Participants were asked to bring a dish to pass and they had some lively music to listen to.

Timebank is an exchange system where participants help each other out. You earn 1 time dollar per hour of service which you can use for a service from anybody in the network.

As budgets are getting less but expenses growing we can help each other out by doing something for someone else.



Above, Dan Rossiter presents Janet Estervig with an award at the Association for Persons in Supported Employment Conference on October 8. The plaque reads: *"Presented to Janet Estervig for 25 years of unyielding dedicated service to people with disabilities. Your ideas, schemes and fortitude will forever be embedded in the disability and business communities throughout Wisconsin. 1983-2008. Thank you from all of us, DHS, DVR, WI-APSE & Dane County"*

Janet Estervig Leaves WORC, continued from p 1

She went back to school and got her master's degree in Vocational Rehab.

She then went to the county and asked for some money to start a supported employment agency called WORC. In 2006, Janet earned her degree as a

Registered Nurse.

Janet is a member of several different organizations and boards of directors. She has been on the Options in Community Living Board for 27 years! She was also a board member for the Wisconsin Association for Persons in Supported Employment (APSE). Janet has worked with the DD Coalition and the Supported Employment Provider Coalition. She has been a trainer and job developer mentor in Wisconsin and in other states, Scotland and the UK.

We all hope that Janet enjoys her new job as the Personal Care Director at Community Living Alliance. We know she will do a great job at her new position.



Dan and His Trains

By Jeffrey Johnson

Dan Dvorsky began collecting trains when he was young. His dad introduced him to trains. He belongs to a train club called the Wisconsin Garden and Railway Society. They meet once a month. He goes with his dad to the train meetings. They meet all over the state.

Dan showed us both sets of his trains. All the trains he has are G scale model trains. They have two train tracks outside and one inside his house, in the basement. One of the trains outside is an Amtrak train and the other is cargo train. They are still working on the landscaping for part of the outside tracks. The trains can stay outside during snow and rain. They even have a train that will help push the snow off the tracks. They are powered by electricity. The tracks Dan has will not rust. The one in the basement is an Amtrak train too. They named the track DJ and BJ Railroad Company. It stands for Daniel Joseph and Brian James.

There is a train show at Olbrich Gardens around Christmas time that he is involved with. Dan's favorite train is the Amtrak that runs in his backyard. He has a great train setup that runs inside and also outside.

Trains at Olbrich Gardens Olbrich's Holiday Express

December 6-31, 10am-4pm

Large-scale model trains wind through an enchanted land of colorful poinsettias and holiday trees

Dec 24 - closed at 2pm
Dec 25 & Jan 1 - closed all day

The Christmas Trees on University Avenue

My name is James Burreson and my mother, Jean Kessenich, used to work for the Center for Cosmetic Dentistry – the business that creates the beautiful display of lit-up Christmas trees lining University Avenue each winter. You have probably seen these trees. It seems like they go on forever. There are lights of every color you can imagine – like a huge rainbow. I interviewed my mom about the display and thought that you might enjoy some of the fun facts I gathered.

How many trees are there? **228**

How many strands of lights are there on each tree? **Eight. That's a total of 1,824 strands in the display!**

How many lights are on each strand? **100. That's 800 per tree, or 182,400 total!**

Who pays the electric bill? **It is expensive. Dr. Jack Kammer and the Center for Cosmetic Dentistry pay for it.**

Who puts the lights up? **A bunch of volunteers, some being employees of the dental office and a group from Channel 27. Including Jean (my mom)!**

What are people saying about the new Choices reporters?



"Congrats on the best issue ever!"

- Susan Kidd Webster, parent

"WOW!!! This really looks great. It is so fun to read Choices and see all the articles written by the various reporters. Excellent."

- Sue Prodel, TIES

"It looks great!"

- Courtney Wilson, broker

"Great job to you and the writers on this latest issue of CHOICES.

Lots of interesting stuff packed in there!"

- Jessica Haven, broker

If anyone would like to donate money to help pay for the cost of lighting up the beautiful trees, you can send it to: **Shorewood Hills Trust – Tree Fund, c/o M&I Bank of Hilldale – Private Banking; 401 N. Segoe Rd., Madison, WI 53705**



** BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW! **

The Winter Ball

Sponsored by The Arc-Dane County, The Epilepsy Foundation & the Madison Concourse Hotel

will be held on

Friday, January 23, 2009

from 6:30 – 9:30 pm

at The Madison Concourse Hotel
1 West Dayton Street, Madison

COLORS BY FULTON

by Jeffrey Johnson

I recently interviewed Fulton Damm about his microenterprise called "Colors by Fulton." He started his own business because he loves art and has a lot of work experience. Fulton started his business with the help of DVR (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation), and a support team from PCS, Avenues to Community, Integrity Residential Services and his brother John.

Fulton paints at the VSA Art Center on Hayes Rd. and takes classes year round. He also creates his ceramic pieces at Higher Fire Clay Studio on Regent St. and he likes to paint by hand. Fulton had to make his own canvases before he started to paint.

He likes to paint all kinds of things using bright colors. His most popular paintings are of flowers and his ceramic fish. Fulton made his very first sale for ten dollars selling one of his garden art pieces at a garage sale. Fulton likes to sell his paintings and other art work at conferences, craft fairs and different events. He is always looking for places to exhibit and sell his art work so please feel free to contact him. All Fulton's original artwork and ceramic pieces can be found on his website www.colorsbyfulton.com. Fulton and his friend Pam showed me all of his art that he has done. I took a photo of him and his artwork to share with you. I think we can all agree that he is a very good artist.

Tickets must be pre-purchased from The Arc-Dane County for each person. (Sorry, no free tickets for staff, attendants, or family members). The ticket includes the Ball and hot and cold light snacks at the beginning of the evening's festivities 'til they are gone (6:30-7:30 p.m.)

COST: \$3.00 The Arc-Dane County member
\$5.00 Non-member

In order to plan for this event, ticket requests must be received by Monday, January 12, 2009. Upon receipt of the request & payment, the tickets will be mailed prior to the event. Each person, family or agency is responsible for distributing the tickets purchased. If you have ordered too many tickets or need more tickets, please network with others so that the tickets may be used. Tickets will be distributed on a first come-first served basis.

NOTE: All clients must carry emergency contact information at The Winter Ball. All clients must provide own transportation to & from the Winter Ball.

TICKET REQUEST: (Please list name and/or agency of person responsible for distributing tickets purchased)

Name _____ Agency _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
Cell _____ Emergency Contact # _____

____ #TICKETS @ \$3.00 - Arc-Dane County member \$ _____
____ #TICKETS @ \$5.00 - Non-member \$ _____
TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

SEND FORM & PAYMENT payable to The Arc-Dane County, to:
The Arc-Dane County
Paul A. Yochum, Exec. Dir.
6602 Grand Teton Plaza
Madison, WI 53719

**TICKET REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED
BY MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009!**

FAX #: 833-1307 E-MAIL: arcdane@chorus.net
TELEPHONE: 833-1199 Web site: www.arcdanecounty.org



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- Specializes in treating individuals with physical and developmental challenges—20 years experience
- Will come to your home so you don't have to worry about transportation
- Former support broker in Dane County



And the Oh, Yeah's...

To place a Connections ad:

Submit Connections Ads to:
Stefanie Primm, Editor 122 E
Olin Avenue Suite 100 Madison WI 53713 263-5557, or
primm@waisman.wisc.edu
We will run your ad for 3
issues unless you tell us
otherwise.

Announce a Transition:

Tell us about a new job, an
Engagement, a marriage, a
new place to live, or say
goodbye to someone who has
passed away.

CHOICES by e-mail

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is now available electronically
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Please send your stories, comments and suggestions.

Contributions, comments and
suggestions are encouraged
and may be directed to
Stefanie Primm, Editor (see
contact information in the box
to the right).

CHOICES is available on-line:

<http://cow.waismanwisc.edu>
Web versions do not include
Connections ads or Transitions
information.

CHOICES Newsletter is published quarterly to provide
information to consumers, families, guardians, and service
providers about Self-Determination Services in Dane County.
Contributions, comments and suggestions regarding CHOICES
are encouraged and may be directed to:

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Contributors:

The next issue of CHOICES will
be out in March 2009. Contact
the editor with ideas for articles
before January 16, 2009. Contributions
due by February 5 or
until the issue is full.



Choices is on the
COW Website?!?

Did you know that Choices
newsletter has a fun color version
that you can view online??
[http://cow.waisman.wisc.edu/
publications.html](http://cow.waisman.wisc.edu/publications.html)

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