



## Easter Seals Wisconsin

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# Independence

The newsletter of Easter Seals Wisconsin  
Summer/Fall 2015

## 20th Annual Golf Outing for Kids

### Premier Event Raises \$140,000

Easter Seals Wisconsin's premier event, the Golf Outing for Kids, was held on June 30 in Wisconsin Dells at Wild Rock Golf Club at the Wilderness and Trappers Turn. 220 golfers, led by celebrity team captains comprised of former and current college and professional athletes and other local celebrities, took to the greens in support of Easter Seals Wisconsin Camps. The highly successful event, celebrating its 20th year, raised \$140,000 for Camp Wawbeek and Respite Camp.

After enjoying their day on the course, golfers headed to Camp Wawbeek for a picnic and awards. Celebrities and golfers alike had a great time signing hats for the young campers from both Camp Wawbeek and Respite Camp. They also had an opportunity to hear first-hand how important camp is to the kids.



Easter Seals thanks the many volunteers, friends and staff who contributed to the success of this great event. Special thanks go to the major sponsors (*see list at right*) and the Golf Outing for Kids Committee: Pat Richter, Barry Richter, Andy Crooks, Joe Gussel, Pat Stein and Chris Tancill.



### Golf Outing for Kids Major Sponsors

Bank of Wisconsin Dells  
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## Veterans Family Camp



### Quilts of Valor Presented During Veterans Family Camp

Quilts of Valor is a foundation with a mission to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. Since its organization in 2005, Quilts of Valor has presented over 115,000 quilts to veterans across the country, including 25 which were presented to veterans at the Easter Seals Veterans Family Camp weekend in early May, by the Wisconsin Dells American Legion Auxiliary.



Joanne Van Wie, who led the effort to recognize the veterans attending Veterans Family Camp, was not only on hand to wrap each veteran in their quilt, but she also took part in sewing the quilts on Quilts of Valor National Sew Day in February. "The Quilts of Valor presentation was emotional and beautiful," she said. Van Wie and her husband, John, who is a member of Easter Seals Wisconsin Board of Directors, are long-time supporters of Camp Wawbeek and the Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp.

Veterans Family Camp Weekend is offered twice a year at no charge to veterans and their families. During the weekend, veterans enjoy fully-accessible recreational opportunities for the whole family and can participate in fishing, swimming, sports, ropes course & zip line, nature activities, and trips to Dells area attractions. While the focus is primarily on fun and relaxation, participating families receive information and resources, and have the opportunity to begin forming social and support networks that often prove helpful to them throughout the year.

To learn more about Quilts of Valor, visit <http://www.qovf.org/>

For more information on the Veterans Family Camps, visit [www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com](http://www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com) or call 608.237.1979.

# Easter Seals News



## FARM Team Members Retire

"Over the years," says Paul Leverenz, Vice President of FARM & Vocational Services, "we've created a great team for the FARM Program. And it's hard to lose members of that team."

Retiring early in 2015, Judith Guttman joined Easter Seals as a Technical Assistant for the FARM Program in 1997. "Judith had a passion for meeting the needs of others," Leverenz says. "She was driven to improve the content of our materials and the style in which the materials were presented, and devoted herself to doing so."

"Bruce has been with us since 2002," Leverenz says of Bruce Whitmore, a Rural Rehabilitation Specialist who retired in July. "During his time with us, he visited the farms of more than 500 individuals all over the state of Wisconsin. His commitment to meeting the needs of the farmers he worked with was unmatched. He was guided by his integrity and found unlimited energy in his desire to serve others."

The entire Easter Seals staff joins Paul in thanking Judith and Bruce for their wonderful contributions to the FARM Program and wishing them all the best in their well-deserved retirements.



Judith Guttman



Bruce & Ruth Whitmore

## New & Returning Staff



**Monette Bebow-Reinhard** has long desired to move to the Madison area, and her years of writing and editing made her a good fit for the position of Administrative Program Assistant for the FARM Program. "My husband grew up on a farm, and I absorbed a lot," she notes. This move puts her closer to her daughter in northern Illinois. Her two married sons and granddaughters live in Seattle. She is a published author and holds a master's in history.



**Sandee Horn** joined the Easter Seals staff as Executive Assistant. She is a Wisconsin native who spent the last few years working for a non-profit community foundation in Illinois, with prior experience at a non-profit organization in Madison. Sandee has experience in print production and marketing and has worked in a variety of industries, but the non-profit sector is where she feels most at home. She is a big fan of the Madison area. "I am happy to be working with the wonderful staff," she says, "and everyone else in the Easter Seals Wisconsin extended family."



**Amber Riedesel** first joined Easter Seals Wisconsin in 2009 as a Customer Service Representative at the Donation Center. After graduating with a B.A. from the UW-Madison, Amber was promoted to Shift Supervisor and Office Manager, enabling her to learn the full spectrum of the business. After a brief interlude at Epic Systems, Amber has returned as Donation Center Director. She is excited to take on this new role and contribute to the growth of the Donation Center.

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# Upcoming Events



Join Us!  
Saturday, October 3, 2015  
Camp Wawbeek

1450 State Highway 13 • Wisconsin Dells  
Registration & Check-in: 8:00 - 9:00 am  
Run begins at 9:15 • Walk/Wheel at 9:30

Join us for Fall Sprawl 2015, renamed this year in honor of Ken Saville, who, in August, is retiring from Easter Seals Wisconsin after 37 years. (See page 4 for more on Ken's retirement.) Together, we will walk, run and roll through the beautiful autumn woods at Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek in Wisconsin Dells. Entry fee is just \$20 (\$25 day of event), and includes a t-shirt, refreshments and, best of all, the opportunity to see Camp Wawbeek and all the changes made there in the past few years.

The Ken Saville Fall Sprawl serves as a fundraiser for Camp Wawbeek. You can raise funds by collecting donations from friends and family to turn in at the event, or by creating your own online fundraising page, which can be personalized with your photo and a story explaining why you're raising money for Camp Wawbeek.

You can register for the event and/or set up your personal fundraising page by visiting: <https://www.firstgiving.com/eswisconsin/2015-KenSaville-FallSprawl>. To learn more, contact Kris Ackley at [kackley@eastersealswisconsin.com](mailto:kackley@eastersealswisconsin.com) or by phone at 608.237.1370.

# Past Events



## Snowmobilers Raise \$10,000

For the 27th consecutive year, the Dane County Council of Snowmobile Clubs raised funds to support Easter Seals Wisconsin through their event, Blizzard Blast. This year's Blizzard Blast was held in February at The Red Mouse in Pine Bluff and featured a chili cook-off, silent auction, raffles, door prizes, dinner and a DJ with karaoke. Despite the lack of snow, snowmobile enthusiasts from across Dane County turned out to help raise \$10,176 for Easter Seals Wisconsin programs. Next year's event will take place on Saturday, February 6 and is open to the public, so mark your calendars now!

## Skip Ellenbecker Memorial Golf Outing a Huge Success



The Skip Ellenbecker Memorial Golf Outing was held on August 7th at the Pine Valley Golf Course in Marathon, Wisconsin. Despite heavy rain, the golf teams, comprised of Skip's friends, family and business associates, enjoyed the day and were delighted to raise over \$12,000! The funds will be used to support the Easter Seals Wisconsin FARM Program, which was near and dear to Skip's heart.

Easter Seals thanks everyone who honored Skip's memory by participating, sponsoring, volunteering, or otherwise contributing to the success of this great event. Special thanks go to the Presenting Sponsors SD Ellenbecker, Inc., Janke General Contractors and SD Ellenbecker Properties, LLC, and other major sponsors Klinner Insurance, QBE Insurance and New Life Pet Adoption Center.

# Farm Program

## Manuel Lugo



Manuel Lugo, a long-time friend of Easter Seals Wisconsin, died in January, 2015. He was 67.

As Deputy Administrator for the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (its highest non-political position), Manuel was instrumental in creating the strong partnership between DVR, UW-Extension and Easter Seals Wisconsin's FARM Program, a partnership that has repeatedly

been honored as a national model. The strength of that partnership has provided the foundation for a truly remarkable rate of success in helping Wisconsin farmers continue or return to farming after a disabling accident or illness.

Farmers have always been served by DVR, but it was Manuel's vision and leadership that led to fundamental changes in *how* they were served, and to helping DVR counselors better understand farming and the needs and concerns of agricultural workers.

Manuel created policies and practices that broadened access to vocational rehabilitation – not just for farmers, but for everyone seeking assistance. His trust in consumers, and his belief that the role of counselors should be to remove roadblocks and give consumers the tools they need to succeed – and then get out of their way – led to significant changes in how services were provided.

Before his retirement in 2010, Manuel worked tirelessly to ensure that the changes he had implemented or helped to establish would remain in place, affecting the policies of DVR – and the individuals they serve – for years to come.

It was Easter Seals Wisconsin's great honor to work with Manuel over the years. He will be deeply missed.



## Staying on the Job

Rural Rehabilitation Specialists, who travel the state meeting with farmers with disabilities, are the key to keeping our nationally-recognized FARM Program operating. When they meet with a farmer who is encountering difficulties completing tasks after a disabling accident or illness, their goal is to do what they can to help that client stay on the job and maintain independence.



Our newest Specialist, Ami Cooper, loves having the opportunity to help. "One of the best parts of my job is meeting with the farmers, learning what they do on their farm and how they continue to work through their limitations," says Ami. "Some of the clients I've worked with are truly inspiring!"

To help those clients stay in business, Ami conducts on-site assessments, determines work site modifications and adaptive equipment needs, develops a plan to implement these recommendations, and coordinates funding and support services. The FARM Program, which works in partnership with the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, is one of the most successful programs of its type in the nation, with a success rate of nearly 100% in making it possible for farmers to stay on the job.

"I grew up on a farm and love the life," says Ami. "It's great to have a job where I can help make life better for fellow farmers."



# Easter Seals News



*The Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp, created under Roy Campbell's leadership, has made life better for thousands of families.*

## Roy Campbell, R.I.P.

Roy Campbell, the Executive Director of Easter Seals Wisconsin from 1978 - 1992, passed away in December, 2014. During his years with Easter Seals, Roy was instrumental in creating unique opportunities for those with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives with an innovative blend of vocational services and recreational camps.

"Roy had a knack for proposing services that would significantly impact individuals," says Wayne Corey, who served on the Board of Directors while Roy was the Executive Director. "Under his leadership, the FARM Program and the Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp were initiated; programs that have gone on to provide vital services to thousands of people with disabilities and their families."

## New Board Members



**Joe Gussel**, who grew up in Wisconsin Dells, has always been aware of Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek. Visiting the camp after the Golf Outing for Kids several years ago, however, gave him a chance to witness the impact the camp has on the campers and deepened his support. Taking a position on the board will, he feels, help him to provide opportunities to others. Gussel, the president of Holiday Wholesale, lives in Wisconsin Dells with his wife, Pam. They have three grown daughters and a granddaughter.



**Jason Klawonn** was introduced to Easter Seals Wisconsin in 2006 when his son, Casey, first attended Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Wisconsin Respite Camp. "The impact that Easter Seals Wisconsin has had on my marriage and family is beyond measure," says Klawonn. "I look forward to giving back by serving on its Board and its Camp & Respite Committee."

Klawonn is a graduate of Drake University in Business Administration and has worked as an actuary for Northwestern Mutual in Milwaukee for more than eighteen years. He and his wife, Beth, live in Kenosha with their two children, Casey and Cailin.



*Thank You, Kilbourn Firefighters!*

*Arriving with sirens blaring and lights flashing, the Kilbourn Volunteer Firefighters paid their annual visit to Camp Wawbeek on June 30th to the delight of campers, counselors – and the firefighters themselves! According to Chief Scott Walsh, the firefighters have visited Camp Wawbeek at least once each summer for more than 50 years.*



# Disability HelpLine



## Working Hand-in-Hand to Lend a Hand



Easter Seals Wisconsin has a long history of partnering with other organizations to meet the needs of people with disabilities. One example of this collaborative work is the relationship between the Easter Seals Disability HelpLine of Outagamie County and the Grand Chute Lions Club.

The Fox Cities community is fortunate to have a local Lions Club willing to provide volunteers to build wheelchair ramps for local families in need of an accessible entrance to their home. Because the club gets so many requests, however, it's necessary for them to ask families to cover the cost of the ramp materials. And for some families, this just isn't possible. That's where the collaborative effort begins. When a family has no other resources, Lions Club members refer them to the Disability HelpLine and, if the family meets the funding requirements, Easter Seals can assist with the cost of ramp materials.

By working hand-in-hand to lend a hand, everyone wins. Lions Club members help their community by putting their talents to work constructing the ramp, Easter Seals supports their mission of "minimizing barriers and improving the quality of life for people with disabilities" by assisting with the cost of materials, and, the family in need gets the necessary ramp, allowing their family member with a disability safe access into and out of their home.

# Donation Center



## Cash for Clothes

C4C, or Cash for Clothes, provides a new opportunity for area non-profits to raise funds for their own organization and support Easter Seals at the same time. Participating groups collect gently-used clothing, linens, shoes, accessories, and other soft goods and, in exchange for these items, Easter Seals Wisconsin pays the nonprofit 20 cents per pound. These goods are then sold to Savers thrift stores, and those proceeds are used to fund Easter Seals Wisconsin programs for children and adults with disabilities.

This type of collection is appealing for nonprofit groups because it doesn't require any up-front capital or inventory, it's easy to run, there are no door-to-door sales, and there is no risk! C4C drives have been very successful across the country. The largest pickup at a high school raised nearly \$5,000; the largest pickup from a sports league brought in \$8,000! Easter Seals works closely with each group on determining and attaining their collection goals, promoting their efforts, and scheduling convenient pickups of collected goods.

To learn more about raising money for your group, contact Amber Riedesel at 608.310.3001.

# Ken Saville Retires



On July 22, more than 200 guests joined campers and staff at Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek to celebrate Ken Saville and his 37 years of outstanding service and dedication to children and adults with disabilities across Wisconsin.

During his tenure, Ken has overseen the amazing growth in the number and diversity of campers served, the expansion in programming to include the Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp, Veterans Family Camp, and other specialty camp sessions for various populations, and in the quality of the facilities (the Gregory C. Van Wie Residence



Hall, the Elks Respite Lodge, the Camp Wawbeek Dining Hall, and the state-of-the-art swimming pool, to name a few of the most recent). In addition, the strong relationships Ken has built with service clubs and volunteer organizations around Wisconsin greatly benefited camp life, both financially and with the many helping hands those groups provided.

Congratulations on your retirement, Ken, and thank you for the incredible legacy you have left!

## Ode to Ken by Christine Jessler

An amazing thing will happen  
When you drive up the hill  
You will meet a living legend  
And his name is Ken Saville

So many stories  
Oh, where to begin?  
Cigarettes in the Trading Post  
And singing "Wawbeek Mountain"

CSUs and lilies  
The careers of service he has inspired  
In the lives of the many counselors  
He has known and has hired

After decades of friendship  
Campers come hoping to see Ken  
So they can sit around the campfire  
And say, "Remember when...?"

From peonies for Leona  
And lunches with Mary  
To those Kiwanis work projects  
He is grateful and merry

The Circle K volunteers  
All want to hang out with Ken  
His group fills up first  
Leaving disappointed women and men

During Clean-up Day  
He holds court  
His entourage all around  
A more popular figure  
Cannot be found

But sometimes Ken and I  
Would go head to head  
He ignored the numbers, you see

"You worry too much!"  
"Forget about them!"  
He would say with undisguised glee

Free from facts and analysis  
(Those pesky intrusions)  
His vision could soar  
With no illusions

That anything could hamper  
That glorious quest  
For swimming pools and dining halls  
Complete with a hundred guests

He saw a new hall and all that it could be  
For women and girls  
With the help of Van Wie

Together with Elks friends  
He built a camp called Respite  
And he paid no attention  
To the words, Yes, but...

And in his spare time  
He founded the Fall Sprawl  
He ran, then walked,  
Until it became the Fall Crawl

Around camp he drives the van  
With a wagon in tow  
And following behind

(Ken, did you know?)

Someone to pick up things knocked over  
And wood chips trailing below

In the office, Ken took on roles  
Which proved to be quite functional  
He helped to lead our staff meetings  
Because he is quite punctual

Now we all have those hard days  
Those days that make you frown  
But if you get a hug from Ken  
Your day will turn around

Camp is Ken's heart and soul  
Reflected in all that you see  
Here, his spirit will live on  
To the end of our days  
And that is the meaning  
Of Legacy

# Build America



## Build America Builds Fun

During the summer months Easter Seals Wisconsin Camp Wawbeek and Respite Camp are busy places, serving over 2,000 campers, but in July they found the room and time to welcome some extra guests when twenty Pi Kappa Phi fraternity brothers came to camp representing their organization, Build America.

Build America's Ability Experience is a Pi Kappa Phi philanthropy, made up of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity members from across the country. Each summer they spend six weeks traveling to different summer camps that focus on helping children with disabilities. At each of those camps they take on a building project, creating something to benefit campers and staff.

This summer the group chose Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp as its second stop. They spent the week at camp building a new train car playground for the campers and renovating and constructing two sensory rooms for campers who need a break from busy camp activities. Both projects have already proven to be very popular with campers!



While on-site, fraternity brothers have the opportunity to experience Easter Seals Wisconsin Camps and see first-hand the fun and camaraderie experienced there by campers. Fraternity members eat their meals with campers, participate in evening activities and enjoy knowing their efforts will add to the fun.

"Our favorite part has been hanging out with the kids," said Heath Thompson, project coordinator for Build America. "No matter what disability a camper has, they will have a good time here."

In addition to the building projects, the organization presented a \$5,000 check to Easter Seals Camps which was used for project materials.

## AmeriCorps



### Continuing Service

Easter Seals Wisconsin/AmeriCorps partnership is proud to receive our 12th consecutive year of grant funding. In 2014-15, we enrolled 53 members serving over 34,580 combined hours of service! Our AmeriCorps members spend their time leading activities for our Transitions program, Veterans Family Camp, and Camp Wawbeek and Respite

Camp weekends and summer programs, attending various outreach events, and recruiting and supporting hundreds of Easter Seals Wisconsin volunteers.

The members serving Easter Seals Wisconsin Camps look forward to continuing their tradition of excellence among AmeriCorps programs, and connecting members to the disability community through their commitment to Easter Seals and their communities.

## Upcoming Wawbeek & Respite Weekend Sessions

### September

September 25-27 — Veterans Family Camp

### October

October 2-4 — Respite Camp

October 9-11 — Respite Camp

October 16-18 — Transitions (Wawbeek)

October 23-25 — Respite Camp

### November

November 6-8 — Respite Camp

November 6-8 — High Functioning  
Autism (Wawbeek)

November 13-15 — Adults (Wawbeek)

November 20-22 — Respite Camp

### December

December 4-6 — Transitions (Wawbeek)

December 4-6 — Respite Camp

December 27-30 — Youth (Wawbeek)

December 27-30 — Respite Camp

### January

January 15-17 — Respite Camp

January 22-24 — Adults (Wawbeek)

January 29-31 — Transitions (Wawbeek)

January 29-31 — Respite Camp