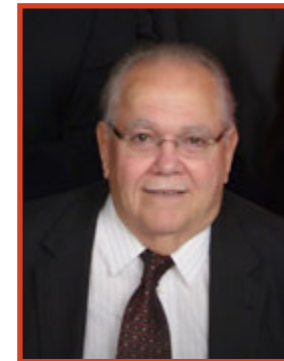


Independence

Easter Seals Wisconsin Newsletter
Summer/Fall 2018

10th Annual Skip Ellenbecker Memorial Golf Outing



Skip Ellenbecker

The 10th Annual Skip Ellenbecker Memorial Golf Outing was held on August 11th at the Pine Valley Golf Course in Marathon. More than 100 golfers took to the course to raise funds for Skip's favorite Easter Seals Wisconsin program - the FARM Program.

Skip Ellenbecker joined the Easter Seals Wisconsin Board of Directors in 2001, where he served on the Program and Nominating committees.

He also served as a volunteer fund-raiser and helped to coordinate the successful Wausau Raffle & Dance.

While Skip supported all of Easter Seals Wisconsin programs, he was particularly passionate about Easter Seals' nationally-honored FARM Program. The FARM Program helps farmers continue to farm after a disabling accident or illness. Rural Rehabilitation Specialists offer recommendations addressing the needs of the farmer which may include alternative methods of doing chores, and making adaptations to the farm operation and/or to farm equipment. When the program was in its infancy, Skip offered valuable guidance to the FARM staff, and his enthusiastic support of the program never faltered.

In 2009, Skip was instrumental in establishing the first Easter Seals golf outing in central Wisconsin, an outing that helped support the FARM Program. The event, renamed after Skip's death in 2013, continues to honor Skip's legacy and benefit the FARM Program in which he so fervently believed. Since its inception the event has raised over \$100,000.

Our thanks to all our sponsors, including our presenting sponsors: SD Ellenbecker, Inc., Janke General Contractors, Inc., and County Materials Corporation, and to all of Skip's friends and relatives who work so hard and give so generously of their time each year to make this such a great event!



Members of the FARM team with farmer Jerome Krautkramer, who spoke with participants about the FARM Program and how it had benefited him.



One of the teams from SD Ellenbecker Properties.



Members of the Ellenbecker family.

Kiwanis Playground

A community build was held on August 15 to install a new accessible playground at Camp Wawbeek which includes a Sway Fun Wheelchair Glider, allowing more opportunities for all campers to participate in play and creativity. Last year, Easter Seals Wisconsin Camps served over 2,000 campers during the 2017-2018 season. Thanks to the 2018 Kiwanis Governor's Project and Kiwanis Governor, Justin Hahn, for initiating the project and to all the volunteers who participated in the construction. Donations are steadily coming in from Kiwanis clubs across the state to complete the \$58,000 project. If you are interested in helping to cover the costs of the playground, we are accepting donations at <https://giving.eastersealswisconsin.com/online-giving-form/>.



Over 60 volunteers joined us throughout the day to build the new playground and celebrate Camp Wawbeek's 80th Anniversary!



2019 Calendar



2019 Calendars Pre-Order Now!

The Easter Seals Wisconsin 2019 Calendar is available now for pre-order. Printed on high-quality paper with beautiful, professional photos, our 2019 calendar features a woodland theme. \$15 each; includes postage. Delivery is slated for early December in time for holiday gift-giving!

Order online at www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com (under "About Us") or by mailing a check to:

Mary Statz
Easter Seals Wisconsin
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Madison, WI 53717

If you normally receive a calendar from Easter Seals Wisconsin with our holiday mailing, that will continue!

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Easter Seals News

Nance Roepke Retires



Pictured (left to right): Christine Fessler, Amber Reidesel, Trevor Bellrichard and Nance Roepke

Past and current staff as well as family members gathered on May 8th to celebrate Nance Roepke's 33 years of service to Easter Seals Wisconsin, to honor her contributions and accomplishments, and to wish her well in her retirement.

First hired in 1985 as a Regional Development Director, Nance moved up to the position of Statewide Development Director before taking on the role of Executive Vice President. Nance

oversaw numerous events as well as the Annual Campaign, the telethon and televised auctions.

She was instrumental in the start up of the Donation Center and, over the years, her focus shifted further in that direction. In the years leading up to her retirement, she stepped down from her duties as Director of Development and Executive VP, choosing to serve as Donation Center Director and, most recently, the Donation Center Business Manager.

Nance's dedication to Easter Seals Wisconsin and to the people we serve has helped to move the organization forward, contributed to our financial stability and has helped to make the lives of thousands of people across Wisconsin better. We appreciate everything she did for Easter Seals and wish her happiness in her well-deserved retirement!

In Memoriam



Colleen Deininger

The Easter Seals Wisconsin family is deeply saddened by the loss of Kenosha realtor Colleen Deininger, who died tragically in an airplane crash on June 10, 2018.

For 21 years her agency, Colleen Realty (now Century 21 Affiliated Kenosha), cooked up pancakes and sausages at their annual Porky Pancake Breakfast, donating the proceeds – more than \$75,000 over the years – to Easter Seals Wisconsin through the Kenosha Area Disabilities Service Group. In 2012, a very successful wine event replaced the Porky Pancake Breakfast, raising an additional \$62,000 since that time. In honor of her generous spirit, Colleen Realty was recognized as the Outstanding Fundraising Group by Easter Seals Wisconsin at the 2011 Recognition Dinner.

Easter Seals Wisconsin extends sincere sympathy to all of Colleen's family and friends. She truly made a difference in the lives of so many and will be deeply missed.

Legacy Gifts and Bequests



Legacy gifts and bequests have played an important part in funding many of the programs and services of Easter Seals Wisconsin, providing valuable resources for the families we serve.

There are many ways you can ensure that your philanthropic wishes become a reality. One of the easiest ways is to leave a gift to Easter Seals Wisconsin in your will or trust. This ensures your continued support of our mission and makes it possible for you to continue making a difference in the lives of future generations.

If you decide to leave a gift to Easter Seals Wisconsin in your will or trust, there is language on our website that you may find helpful.

If you have already included us, please let us know so we can thank you for your generosity.

We are happy to talk with you about your philanthropic goals. Please contact Kris Ackley at 608.237.1370 or email her at kackley@eastersealswisconsin.com or see <https://giving.eastersealswisconsin.com/legacy-giving/> for more information.

Vehicle & Clothing Donations

What Has Changed, What Hasn't, and How You Can Continue to Help



You can continue to support Easter Seals Wisconsin by donating clothing and household goods in good reusable condition. Items can be dropped off at the **Savers Thrift Store at 2833 Mall Dr., Eau Claire** or placed in a **Clothing Donation Bin**. There are 80 bins located in the greater Eau Claire area as well as throughout Southeast Wisconsin – just look for the red Easter Seals Wisconsin bins.

We also want to remind everyone that we continue to accept **vehicle donations**. To donate your vehicle to support Easter Seals Wisconsin, please visit DonateACar.com and select Easter Seals Wisconsin as your charity. They will make the arrangements to pick up the vehicle, handle the title transfer, sell the vehicle, give Easter Seals Wisconsin the proceeds, and give you a donation receipt. Just go to the DonateACar.com website or call 1.800.237.5714.

Effective June 1, 2018, all other collections have ended and we have discontinued pickup service and at-home collections throughout the state.

We thank everyone who has donated clothing and household goods over the years. You've provided so much to programs for people with disabilities. We encourage you to continue supporting Easter Seals Wisconsin with your vehicle donations statewide as well as clothing donations in the Eau Claire area and bin donations in SE Wisconsin.

Exploring Job Options in Rural Wisconsin

Easter Seals FARM Program and Camp Wawbeek joined forces during camp's four Transition weekends with Rural Rehabilitation Specialist Ami Cooper conducting activities related to our Ag Career Exploration Program. Ami shared information about ag-related jobs and career development to interested campers. Trips were also taken – one to Hidden Valley Mushroom Farm and another to Rosedale Genetics, a dairy farm which has received prestigious recognition for their breeding practices. The owner of Flowerbuds Greenhouse also visited camp to meet with the group.

Several young adults have participated in the Ag Career Exploration classes throughout the state, learning about diverse ag-related jobs and about what opportunities may be available to them in their communities. Classes held recently in Madison, for instance, offered students the opportunity to explore their interests further at site visits to Heartland Farm Sanctuary, a greenhouse, and a meet-and-greet at the Fitchburg DNR Center.

Easter Seals FARM Program is excited about the opportunity to reach out to teachers, parents, and students with disabilities across the state and invites anyone with interest or questions to contact the class instructor, Ami Cooper, at acooper@eastersealswisconsin.com or by phone at 608.225.1867.



Golf Outing for Kids



Campers Jeffrey Carter and Stacy Opsal, who were on hand to thank all the participating golfers, with event hosts Pat Richter and Barry Richter.

The 23rd annual Golf Outing for Kids hosted by Pat Richter and his son, Barry, was held on June 27th in Wisconsin Dells. 235 golfers, led by celebrity team captains comprised of former college and professional athletes and other local celebrities, came out to support Easter Seals Wisconsin Camps. The Golf Outing for Kids has raised more than \$2 million since its inception, making a tremendous contribution to our camp and respite programs.

As always, the highlight of the day was the meet-and-greet with campers held at Camp Wawbeek following the outing, where golfers and other guests had the opportunity to hear first-hand how important camp is to the kids. Hats were handed out to campers for celebrities and golfers to sign and guests were given the opportunity to tour camp and to check out our newly-renovated Menomoni Cabin before enjoying a picnic with the campers along with the Golf Outing program, auction and awards.

Easter Seals extends its thanks to our dedicated sponsors, and to the many volunteers, friends, and staff who helped to make this day possible. Special thanks to the Golf Outing for Kids Committee: Pat Richter, Barry Richter, Andy Crooks, Joe Gussel, Zach Morley, Joy Royston, Pat Stein, and Chris Tancill.

Celebrity Basketball Challenge



Easter Seals Wisconsin hosted its first Celebrity Basketball Challenge, presented by Affiliated Dentists, on April 7th at Madison College, raising over \$13,000 for Easter Seals programs and services.

The family-friendly event was the brainchild of Easter Seals Wisconsin Board Members Andy Crooks and Zach Morley, both former UW athletes who recruited their friends to participate, drummed up sponsors, and served as team captains. Their rosters included former University of Wisconsin athletes and other local celebrities who enthusiastically battled it out on the court, encouraged by a cheering crowd.

Just prior to the celebrity game, former UW Men's Basketball Assistant Coach Gary Close held a Shot Doctor Skills Academy for students in grades 3-6. Nearly 75 kids took part, having a great time as they worked one-on-one with former UW players on their basketball skills.

Thank you to all the players, sponsors, and volunteers who made this terrific new event possible!



Presenting Sponsor Affiliated Dentists is recognized by the Team Captains. Pictured (left to right): Andy Crooks, Dr. Susie Dendinger, Dr. Mark Gustavson, Zach Morley, Dr. Maggie Budde, and Dr. Brian Porter.

AgrAbility Summit

The annual AgrAbility of Wisconsin Summit was hosted by Organic Valley in Cashton on March 13, 2018. The day started with a welcome presentation from Theresa Washburn, Organic Valley's Director of Members Affairs, Crystal Siemers-Peterman, the 70th Alice in Dairyland, and AgrAbility staff.

AgrAbility Summit's kickoff presentation was conducted by Jeff Kratochwill and Ami Cooper, Easter Seals Wisconsin Rural Rehabilitation Specialists. The specialists covered types of assistive technology commonly used by farmers and illustrated how each can make tasks on the farm a little easier on the body.

During the day, a panel discussion was held on farm succession and transition planning and participants had the opportunity to tour the Organic Valley Cashton building as well as take part in a chair stretching session.

The final presentation of the day, "The Fog of Stress" by John Schutske, Professor at UW-Madison and Extension Specialist in Safety Engineering and Agricultural Health, gave a phenomenal overview of how the daily stresses of farming and life can have a long-term impact on the mind and body. He also talked about coping mechanisms and strategies to handle stress in a healthy manner.

Golf Outing for Kids Major Sponsors

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AgrAbility of Wisconsin
SUMMIT

Ken Saville Fall Sprawl



Join Us!
Saturday, October 6, 2018
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



Please join us at the 2018 Ken Saville 5K Fall Sprawl as we walk, run, and roll together through the beautiful autumn woods at Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek in Wisconsin Dells. Entry fees are just \$30 for adults and \$15 for teens aged 11-17. Children 10 & under are free and you can even bring along your dog (\$5). Long-sleeved t-shirts are included for all human participants, while canines will get a bandana. Best of all, participants will have the opportunity to see Camp Wawbeek and all the improvements made there in the past few years.

To learn more, contact Carissa Peterson at cpeterson@eastersealswisconsin.com or visit us at <https://events.eastersealswisconsin.com/ken-saville-fall-sprawl-pancake-breakfast/>.

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, October 7, 2018

Camp Wawbeek • 8:00 am - noon

The 26th Annual Pancake Breakfast will take place the day following Fall Sprawl, Sunday, October 8th, at the Camp Wawbeek Dining Hall from 8:00 a.m. to noon. For only \$7 diners can enjoy all the pancakes and sausage they can eat and support Easter Seals Wisconsin Camps. Camp tours, tractor wagon rides and entertainment included!



Meet Henry!



Henry Wisniewski has been camping with Easter Seals Wisconsin for the past two years. But something you may not know is that he's a model! Henry has been modeling since he was three years old, working with Ohlsson Model & Talent Agency. You'll find him in advertisements for Kohl's, Crate&kids by Crate&Barrel, and School Specialty/Abilitations – just to name a few! Henry's parents are his biggest advocates, supporting and encouraging his desire for independence.

AmeriCorps

This summer, Easter Seals Wisconsin has benefited from 27 AmeriCorps members serving between Respite Camp, Camp Wawbeek, and our Madison office. These AmeriCorps members came from across the country to serve a term of National Service with us and we are very fortunate to have them as a part of the Easter Seals team. Our AmeriCorps members have a passion for camp and for the Easter Seals mission, love helping others through service, and are having a wonderful time this summer!



Following the successful completion of their term of service, each AmeriCorps member will receive an Education Award to use toward costs associated with school, as well as connections to hundreds of employers that give preferential hiring to AmeriCorps alumni, as well as various other benefits.

Be sure to take a peek at our "Easter Seals Wisconsin Camps" page on Facebook, where we have a #MemberMonday post each Monday that highlights our AmeriCorps team members. The service these individuals provide for Easter Seals Wisconsin is invaluable – we cannot thank them enough!

If you or someone you know is interested in applying or learning more about the program, please contact Anna Korb at akorb@eastersealswisconsin.com, or visit at <https://camp.eastersealswisconsin.com/ameri-corps/>.

Veterans Family Camp

Twice a year, Easter Seals Wisconsin Camp Wawbeek offers an opportunity for veterans and their families to relax, rejuvenate, and spend time with each other and with other vets and their families at our beautiful camp located just outside Wisconsin Dells. There is no charge for the weekends and all meals and lodging are provided. While the focus is primarily on fun, participating families will have the opportunity to begin forming social and support networks that may be helpful to them. Many families who have participated in the past stay in touch with one another throughout the year.

Families have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of fully-accessible recreational activities including fishing, ropes course and zip line, sports and games, nature activities, arts and crafts, as well as possible trips to Dells area attractions. A "Quilts of Valor" presentation is a highlight. Support and informational groups are available for vets, spouses and children.

Veterans Camp is brought together by the support and contributions of volunteers, community members, staff, family, and friends. Our next Veterans Family Camp sessions will be September 21-23, 2018 and May 3-5, 2019. At camp, you will find a smiling, caring, and fun staff ready to welcome you.

If you are ready to register or would like more information please visit <https://camp.eastersealswisconsin.com/veterans-family-camp/> or call 1.800.422.2324.

