

Independence

Easter Seals Wisconsin Newsletter
Summer/Fall 2019

Golf Outing for Kids

Easter Seals Wisconsin held its 24th Annual Golf Outing for Kids on Wednesday, June 26 at Wild Rock and Trappers Turn golf courses in Wisconsin Dells. The outing was hosted by Pat and Barry Richter, who were joined by numerous celebrities to benefit children and adults with disabilities in Wisconsin. After golfing, guests were invited to join the campers for a picnic at Camp Wawbeek, a unique and memorable part of the event that has continued throughout the years. This year was a banner year for new sponsors, teams, and volunteers! Easter Seals Wisconsin welcomed 53 teams to the event which helped raise \$130,000 for the mission and programs of Easter Seals Wisconsin.



Golf Outing for Kids co-host Barry Richter spent time with campers during the cookout at Camp Wawbeek which followed the outing.

Our gratitude to everyone who worked so hard to make this great event such a success!

New Ropes Course!

Made possible by a generous donation from the Gregory C. Van Wie Charitable Foundation, an updated ropes course, complete with new climbing tower and ziplines, debuted at Easter Seals Wisconsin Camps this summer.

Campers are having a terrific time challenging themselves on the course and, at the July meeting of the Easter Seals Wisconsin Board of Directors, several board members gave the course a try themselves, including Board Chair, Pam Birschbach (pictured far left), who conquered the zipline.



Golf Outing Major Sponsors



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Easter Seals News

Welcome our New Board Members!



Jeff Lyon has many years of experience in the field of agriculture and will be a great asset to Easter Seals Wisconsin's FARM Program which serves farmers with disabilities. He began his career as a writer at *The Country Today*, and has worked with the National Commission on Dairy Policy, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

"Throughout my career I have worked with farmers who have been involved with Easter Seals Wisconsin's FARM

Program and AgrAbility and I have witnessed the benefits to our state's farmers. Being on the board of Easter Seals Wisconsin is one way that I can give back to the community."

Jeff resides in Middleton with his wife Karen. They have two adult children.



Paul Molinaro's sister has been a Respite camper for many years so he has seen firsthand the incredible impact of the services provided by Easter Seals. "Marisa and our family are just one of thousands of individuals and families that Easter Seals Wisconsin has provided invaluable services to, so I'm incredibly proud to be associated with them," he shares. Paul has been acting as a volunteer fundraiser for Easter Seals since 2015 and serves on the Development and Camp & Respite committees.

Paul is Vice President at Welton Enterprises. He and his wife, Tina, live in Monona with their daughter, Giovanna.



Sara Schoenborn is the Director of Marketing and Public Relations for the Wisconsin Agri-Business Association and the Communications Director for the Wisconsin Corn Program. She has also worked with the Cooperative Network, Agri-View, and Wisconsin FFA.

She is a proud alumna of UW-Madison, where she majored in Dairy Science and Life Sciences Communications. She earned her Master of Agribusiness degree from Kansas State University.

"It is a privilege to be asked to be a part of this exceptional organization," says Sara. "I consider it an honor to work with Easter Seals to further the opportunities available to children and adults with disabilities across the state."

We're so pleased to have you all aboard!

Vehicle Donations

Have a used car, truck, boat, or snowmobile? Please consider donating it to Easter Seals! It's easy: 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.



Giving Made Easy Attention Amazon Shoppers!

A simple switch from Amazon to Amazon Smile helps support Easter Seals Wisconsin programs. Use the link <https://smile.amazon.com/> and select Easter Seals Wisconsin as your charity of choice. (You may have to manually enter it.) Amazon will contribute a portion of each of your purchase totals to Easter Seals Wisconsin. The amount is small, but over time, and with many people taking advantage of the Smile program, the benefit to Easter Seals can be significant.

Your Amazon Smile account mirrors your regular Amazon account. Logins are the same, items placed in your cart will be visible on both sites, you can check your orders from either location and Amazon stores your payment and shipping information in each. However, to qualify for the donation to Easter Seals Wisconsin, you must place your order from the Smile version of your account.

Truly, this is giving made easy!



Planned and Major Gifts

Planned and Major Gifts from generous friends are essential to the healthy future of Easter Seals Wisconsin. They are intended to supplement – rather than replace – annual giving, as well as enhance other Easter Seals efforts that provide much-needed support for our programs.

Planned and Major Gifts offer donors the opportunity to:

- Express their support for Easter Seals Wisconsin, beyond annual giving, by making a special commitment from personal assets;
- Create larger gifts through careful and thoughtful financial, estate, tax and charitable gift planning;
- Encourage others directly and by example to recognize the importance of engaging in philanthropy and supporting vital programs for people with disabilities;
- Become involved in the future of Easter Seals Wisconsin as well as receive recognition and personal satisfaction for a gift that will help and improve the lives of people with disabilities for years to come.

For more information about including Easter Seals Wisconsin in your estate planning, contact:

Rachel Reichhoff
Director of Development

Phone:
608.237.1370

Email:
reichhoff@eastersealswisconsin.com

Guardianship Program



Cecilia and her husband had been married for over 50 years and never quite got around to doing too much planning for their senior years. When her husband started down the road of dementia, Cecilia's time was consumed with caring for him and keeping him safe. When she felt she could no longer care for him – and he could no longer make decisions – legal guardianship was needed to admit him to a care center.

Cecilia was then overwhelmed with the paperwork required for his new living situation and her role of legal guardian. Luckily for Cecilia, the Outagamie County Department of Health and Human Services contracts with the Easter Seals Wisconsin Disability HelpLine in Appleton to provide training and assistance to county guardians through the Guardian Assistance Program. As part of this program, Cecilia was able to attend a group training session and meet with staff multiple times to help her understand her role and complete the required paperwork. "I don't know how an old person like me would have gotten through this overwhelming process if this program wasn't here," says Cecilia. "I am so thankful to everyone who makes it possible."

Since Easter Seals Wisconsin began this program in 2017, over 800 people have received training, assistance with completing paperwork, or simply gotten questions answered.

"Working with the Guardian Assistance Program has really opened my eyes to the importance of making our wishes known through the appropriate paperwork in regards to healthcare and finances, regardless of age, because we never know what the future holds," says Jill Gretzinger, the Disability HelpLine Coordinator.

Exploring Rural Job Options

Easter Seals Wisconsin FARM Program and the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) have come together to provide a different type of learning experience for students in high school with disabilities. Exploring Job Options in Rural Wisconsin is a course focusing on Agricultural careers and all of the possibilities there are in the Agriculture industry. The course helps students relate their interests with opportunities in the Ag industry, helping them make the connection that Agriculture is much more than they may realize. While we work with high schools, we also partner with our Camp Department to provide the course at Camp Wawbeek's Transition weekends where 38 campers took part this year.

As a part of the course, students visit a local agriculture business. The campers toured Wagner Tree Farm where they discovered just how much work goes into growing their Christmas trees. They watched wreaths being made and ventured out for a walk, learning about the different types of trees that are grown and sold at the Wagner farm.

The FARM Program is very excited to offer this course around the state! Please feel free to contact Ami Cooper, Farm Rural Rehabilitation Specialist, at acooper@eastersealswisconsin.com or at 608.225.1867 to learn more.



Skip Golf!

The Skip Ellenbecker Memorial Golf Outing was held on Saturday, August 10, at Pine Valley Golf Course in Marathon.

The event is held in memory of Skip Ellenbecker, an Easter Seals Wisconsin board member who passed away in 2013, and is organized and attended by members of Skip's large extended family. This year, 20 teams helped raise a net of over \$11,000, funds that will be used to support Skip's favorite Easter Seals program – the FARM Program, which helps Wisconsin farmers continue or return to farming after a disabling accident, illness, or condition.



Members of the Ellenbecker family (above), who organize, run and financially support the event. Jeff Kratochwill's son Broden (right), enjoyed volunteering for the day. Jeff serves as the Lead Rural Rehabilitation Specialist for the Easter Seals FARM Program.



Avenues to Understanding

Avenues to Understanding is a disability awareness program created by Easter Seals Wisconsin and offered free of charge to public and private schools, early childhood programs and faith and community-based organizations throughout the state.

The Educator's Guide provides an expanding knowledge of disabilities and disability issues for young people as they age. Young children will be presented with an introduction to disabilities, will learn about what they are, and will be helped to look for similarities rather than differences when meeting someone with a disability.

Older kids will begin to explore the architectural and attitudinal barriers that may provide stumbling blocks to integration for people with disabilities and look at them in conjunction with their own need to fit in.

High school students are encouraged to explore their communities, to look at how people with disabilities are regarded and portrayed in various media, and to consider how people with disabilities might be affected by the same real world challenges they themselves are facing: independent living, college and jobs.

The Educator's Guide is available to download on the Education page of the Easter Seals Wisconsin website.

Sunday Fun Day at Camp Wawbeek

This fall, two great events – Fall Sprawl and Pancake Breakfast – will both be held on Sunday, October 6th at Camp Wawbeek. The combined event has a new name:

Sunday Fun Day.

The traditional 5K Run/Walk/Wheel and the All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast will both be held at our beautiful Wisconsin Dells camp. Funds raised help support our campers.

For event updates, including times and details, please follow **Easter Seals Wisconsin** on Facebook or check our website.



AmeriCorps

This summer, Easter Seals Wisconsin had 29 AmeriCorps members serving at our Wisconsin Dells camps and in our Madison office. These AmeriCorps members came from across the country to serve a term of National Service at Easter Seals Wisconsin and we are very fortunate to have had them as a part of our team. They have a passion for our mission and for our camps and are dedicated to helping others.

Following the successful completion of their term of service, AmeriCorps members 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, and other benefits.

Check out our Easter Seals Wisconsin Camps Facebook page each Monday to meet some of our AmeriCorps members. The service these individuals do for Easter Seals Wisconsin is invaluable – we cannot thank them enough! To learn more about AmeriCorps opportunities, please contact Anna Korb at akorb@eastersealswisconsin.com.



Elks Address Camp Needs List



Did you know that time off from caring for another – a respite – is the number one need of families with a loved one with disabilities in Wisconsin? For the past 27 years, we have celebrated our partnership with the Wisconsin Elks. On Saturday, June 22nd, we continued the tradition and are so grateful for their support and dedication to Respite Camp. A special donation was made after a year-long campaign to help fulfill the camp needs wish list. Remarkable work!

There is a year-round need at camp for the items listed below. To make a donation from the Needs List, please contact Carissa Peterson by phone at 608.432.6268 or by email at cpeterson@eastersealswisconsin.com.

Arts & Crafts Supplies:

Markers • Crayons • Colored pencils • Fabric paint • Tempera paint (large bottles & all colors) • Paint brushes • Sponges • Pipe cleaners • Popsicle/craft sticks • General craft materials (glitter, googly eyes, etc.) • Masking tape (¾ or 1 inch size) • Glue • Construction paper (8.5x11 or 11x17) • 8.5x11 white copy paper • White T-shirts for tie-dyeing (all sizes) • Lacing (leather or plastic) • 18 gallon or larger Rubbermaid containers

Outdoor Program/Campout Supplies:

Youth-sized bike helmets • 2 gallon water jugs • 5 gallon water coolers • 45 quart coolers/ice chests • Plastic hospital mattresses • Foldable camp cots • 4-person tents • Garden wagon/carts • Outdoor cooking pots and pans

General Camp Equipment/Personal Care/Other Needs:

Pitchforks • Pointed shovels • Snow shovels • Leaf rakes • Cotton gloves • Paper plates and bowls • Toilet paper • Paper towels • Kleenex/Facial tissue • Baby wipes • Vinyl gloves • Deodorant • SPF 30 Sunscreen • Band-aids (all sizes) • Sanitary pads • Ziploc bags (gallon, quart, & sandwich sizes) • Tylenol (325 mg or 500 mg) • Ibuprofen (200 mg) • Miralax

Celebrity Basketball Challenge

The second annual Celebrity Basketball Challenge was held on Saturday, April 13 at Madison College with a crowd easily double the size of that at the inaugural event last year. Some imaginative score-keeping had each team scoring in the triple digits, helping to maintain the high level of energy from both the players and spectators. A good time was had by all.

Prior to the game, a Shot Doctor Skills Academy Clinic was put on for kids in grades 3-6 by former Badger Coach Gary Close.

The Celebrity Basketball Challenge is the brainchild of Easter Seals Board members Andy Crooks (Badger Football alum) and Zach Morley (Badger Basketball alum). By bringing old teammates and other former Badger athletes on board, they've created a fun and affordable, family-friendly event that has, in its first two years, netted over \$30,000 for Easter Seals. Next year, Andy and Zach are taking the event to the Kohl Center!

Mark your calendars now for April 5th, 2020!



Former Badger Football teammates Joe Thomas (left) and Nick Hayden enjoyed facing off at the second Annual Celebrity Basketball Challenge. Both players have retired from the NFL.

Transition Campers Contribute to Event Success



This year our Transitions Campers had the chance to volunteer with the rest of the Easter Seals Wisconsin family at the Celebrity Basketball Challenge.

Transitions campers focus on skills that will help them transition from living at home to being able to live more independently. The Celebrity Basketball Challenge event provided a great opportunity for them to put some

of the skills they've been working on into practice. In preparation for the game, the campers spent time working on money management skills and giving change as well as on customer service skills. Safety in public spaces was also emphasized.

When the campers arrived at Madison College, they were super excited and anxious to get to work. Campers greeted spectators, sold Easter Seals Wisconsin camp store swag, took part in team introductions along with Bucky Badger, helped with halftime events, and got to watch the game along with their friends and peers.

It was a successful day for all. The campers enjoyed being a part of the experience and got to be out in the community using the skills they've worked so hard on over the last year. They also took a lot of pride in being able to help raise funds for the camp they love so much!

To see a list of event sponsors and alumni players, visit www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com and click on Events.

Our thanks to everyone who helped to make this such a terrific event!