



Resource Wise

“Connecting People With The Assistance They Need”

S U M M E R 2 0 1 5

N E W S L E T T E R

Hooray for Summer!
Please be sure to check out some wonderful suggestions for getting out and enjoying all that Dane County has to offer on pages 8 & 9

Dane County Human Service’s Transition policies help students with developmental disabilities achieve and maintain employment after age 21. The policy recognizes that it makes fiscal sense for the students to be part of the local workforce, utilize the job skills they learned in school, and that work is an important aspect of their social well-being. Over the past two years, 112 students throughout Dane County benefited from Transition services, with 92% successfully employed in the community.

Sam, the Working Man!

Meet Sam Filut. He’s a successful young man. At age 22, he’s a graduate of Madison East High School. He’s employed locally by Shop bop - a globally recognized fashion merchant and part of the Amazon.com Inc. group of companies- where his boss sings the praises of Sam’s work ethic. The son of Lorene and Leonard, he’s strong and handsome with a charming smile! As a typical guy, he has the newest iPad, loves to watch “Family Guy” on TV, and likes bicycling and nature (frogs & snakes!) And, by the way, Sam is living with the challenging disability of Autism.

Autism impacts Sam’s ability to learn, communicate, make decisions and interact with people. On a daily basis, Sam needs extra support from his family and other community resources.

Sam’s mother Lorene shared that as Sam neared adulthood, planning for his future became very daunting. Fortunately, as Dane County residents, Sam and his parents had access to a variety of “Transition Services” as Sam prepared to leave school.

With the assistance of his teacher Jen Emmel at East High, he had on-the-job training experiences (at UW & VA hospitals) and learned other work skills

(such as: arrive on time, wait your turn on an elevator, safety first, cooperating with co-workers, eating in a cafeteria, etc.) Meanwhile, a job developer, who knew Sam’s abilities, helped find the right employer with the right position – which turned out to be Shopbop. Sam’s Support Team changed from school staff to a case manager/support broker (with Avenues to Community) and a supported employment agency (Community Work Services, Inc.) He learned to use Madison Metro Paratransit to get to work.

Sam works in a busy warehouse setting at Shopbop, doing an assortment of tasks – unloading trucks, running a cardboard compactor, restocking boxes, setting up pallets. His job coach makes daily spot checks, and does 1:1 training if Sam is given a new duty. Sam likes routine, so once he masters a task, he can be quite independent. His job coach reports that Sam is a very hard worker who strives to do a good job.

Sam has become more confident, independent and social since beginning his employment. And he enjoys his job! His supervisor has said that Sam “sets the tone” for the warehouse and keeps his Shopbop co-workers hopping!

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Sam, Hard at work at Shopbop



Sam, the High School Graduate

LINGO-BUSTER: Substantial Gainful Activity

If you are thinking about applying for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and are working, then you should know about something called Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA). When Social Security is determining if someone is disabled, they are evaluating whether a person's medical condition keeps them from working at a substantial level.

SGA is the amount of gross work earnings that Social Security considers to be a substantial level of work activity. The SGA amount currently is \$1090/month (\$1820 for statutorily blind individuals) and this amount changes most years. When someone files an application for SSDI benefits, they must be unable to engage in Substantial Gainful Activity. So, if someone is earning at or above the SGA amount, they will not be found disabled by Social Security. There are a few exceptions to this rule, such as factoring in if someone has any work expenses related to their disability.

If you're already receiving SSDI and thinking about returning to work or increasing earnings, you should also be aware of SGA. However, the impact on someone already receiving SSDI is complex, as Social Security has established certain work incentive protections. In general, someone receiving SSDI benefits who plans to return to work should get Work Incentive Benefits Counseling completed to understand how earned income will affect their benefits. Call the ADRC for information on how to access Work Incentive Benefits Counseling.



Avoid the Door-to-Door Pitch!

As warmer weather returns to our state, it also tends to bring door-to-door sales teams to our communities. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) warns homeowners to be on the lookout for these transient crews and to avoid allowing them into your home. "Be skeptical of any offer you receive at your front door," said Frank Frassetto, Division Administrator of Trade and Consumer Protection. "Regardless of the pitch, don't let yourself get pressured into making a quick decision that you may regret later."

To protect yourself from being conned by a door-to-door salesperson, remember the following tips:

- ◆ It's easier and safer to just say "no" to someone standing on your doorstep than it is to try getting them to leave once they're inside.
- ◆ Most municipalities require door-to-door sales agents to have permits. Ask to see the permit and a photo ID.
- ◆ Look out for high pressure pitches and scare tactics, particularly if they mention "limited time offers" and claim that you need to act right away.
- ◆ Wisconsin law requires door-to-door sales agents to state their name, the company they represent and the goods or services that they are looking to sell before they start their sales pitch.
- ◆ If you decide to purchase something from a door-to-door salesperson, get a copy of your three-day right to cancel at the time of purchase.
- ◆ To help protect yourself and your neighbors, report any suspicious activity to the police. Provide a vehicle make, model and license plate number if you can.

For more information or to file a complaint, visit the Consumer Protection Bureau at <http://datcp.wisconsin.gov>, send an e-mail to datcphotline@wisconsin.gov, or call the Consumer Information Hotline toll-free at 1-800-422-7128.

FYI: Elder Abuse Awareness

Unfortunately, no one is immune to abuse, neglect and exploitation. Millions of older adults are affected annually in the U.S. alone. This year marks the 10th anniversary of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day when on June 15th, communities around the world shed light on the importance of preventing, identifying, and responding to elder abuse.



Most of us are bound to experience old age someday. Showing respect, concern and kindness towards older adults is a way to thank them for their sacrifices and contributions that have benefitted all of us. It also serves as a model for future generations to be shown the same kindness and concern when they get old. The World Health Organization states that elder abuse is a violation of human rights and a significant cause of illness, injury, loss of productivity, isolation and despair.

For more information and to find out how you can get involved to prevent Elder Abuse, you can check out this website: http://www.aoa.gov/AoA_programs/elder_rights/EA_prevention/weaad.aspx



Bus Buddies = A New Road To Independence!

“Bus Buddies” is a new program to help Dane County seniors (age 60+) learn how to use the Madison Metro Bus System. Bus transportation gives seniors a cost-effective opportunity to get where they need to go, seven days a week - but it can seem overwhelming to new riders. Bus Buddies provides companionship and instruction to ease the way into becoming a capable and confident bus customer! There are two options to learn with Bus Buddies:

One-on-One: A volunteer who is experienced using the bus system will accompany you and teach you how to utilize Madison Metro buses and navigate the system.

Bus Buddies Tours: These tours offer the opportunity to go on a fun group trip by city bus to designated locations, while learning how to navigate the Madison Metro bus system. **2015 Tour Dates:**

Wednesday June 10th: Tour of the Capitol (Guided tour/lunch)

Wednesday August 5th: Olbrich Gardens Butterfly Exhibit (Tour/lunch)

Wednesday October 14th: Movie at Market Square (movie/lunch).

Please be aware that these tours include extended walking and steps.

To participate in any of the 2015 Bus Buddy trips, the One-on-One instruction or for more information, please contact Diana Jost by email: djost@rsvpdane.org or phone (608) 441-1393. Bus Buddies is a program of RSVP of Dane County and Dane County Human Services.



Thoughts on summer:

“Sun is shining. Weather is sweet. Makes you wanna move your dancing feet.” —Bob Marley

“Summer afternoon, summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English Language.” —Henry James

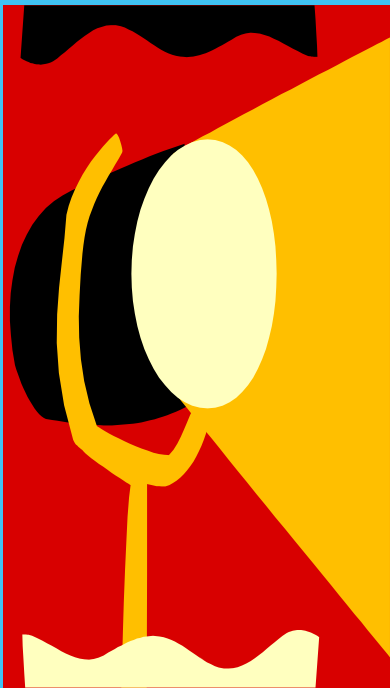
Who is JAN?

The question isn't who is JAN, but rather what is JAN? JAN stands for Job Accommodation Network. It is a source of free, confidential and expert guidance on accommodations in the workplace for individuals with disability related employment issues. JAN is available to assist both employees and employers in finding solutions that allow individuals with disabilities to find success in the workplace. In addition to offering free consultation and guidance, JAN staff can also share information on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other legislation related to employing people with disabilities.

JAN works with individuals with physical or intellectual limitations that affect employment by exploring job accommodation ideas, how to request or negotiate accommodations and knowing one's rights under the ADA. They are not responsible for helping people find employment.

If you'd like to learn more about JAN or visit their site, please click on www.askjan.org or call 800-526-7234.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



ERI: EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES INC.

ERI is a non-profit organization that provides services and training to support advancing the employment goals of people with disabilities. They offer these services to promote their vision that everyone can access financial security and employment while retaining critical benefits, such as healthcare.

ERI Services:

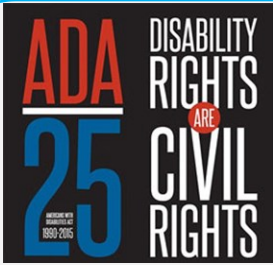
- ◆ Employment counseling – career exploration and planning services
- ◆ Work and Benefits counseling – assistance understanding how employment can impact public benefits
- ◆ Benefit Application Services – assistance applying for public benefits for adults with mental illness living in Dane County
- ◆ Statewide consultation, training, and technical assistance – on disability and employment issues for human service professionals, government agencies, disability advocates, employers, etc.

ERI participates in several programs and projects (such as BOND, Ticket to Work, etc.), which provides some of the funding. If you are interested in learning more about ERI and their services, you may contact them at 608-246-3444 or toll-free at 1-855-401-8549. You can also visit their website at www.eri-wi.org.



Access to Independence is seeking people to join their **Group for Women with Disabilities**. This is a social and support group for women with disabilities, who meet to share resources, exchange ideas, enjoy social activities, and find empowerment. The group meets at Access to Independence Inc., 3810 Milwaukee Street, Madison, WI 53714. For more information about the group, upcoming meetings or to request accommodations, contact Tracy: tracym@accessstoind.org or call 242- 8484 extension 227.





Happy 25th Birthday ADA!

On March 12, 1990 protesters arrived at the United States Capitol to urge Congress to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act, also known as ADA, which had been stalled for months. Several individuals with physical disabilities then abandoned their crutches, wheelchairs and other mobility devices and crawled up the 83 steps leading to the Capitol building. The result?

ADA was passed on July 26, 1990 by President George H.W. Bush. The law was designed to allow individuals with physical and mental disabilities the ability to participate in society and live independently. It prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life. As a result, people with disabilities, both physical or mental, are allowed the same rights and opportunities as everyone else, from work to school and beyond.

This summer the ADA celebrates it's 25th year. To honor this milestone, the ADA Legacy Tour is rolling across the country raising awareness and building excitement. The tour will be in Wisconsin, including a stop in Madison, on the following dates: June 25: Madison, WI; June 26&27: Milwaukee, WI; July 7: Superior, WI

For more information about the tour and how to get involved please visit <http://wisconsinadastories.org/get-involved>, on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wisconsinadastories>, or email MadisonADA25@gmail.com.

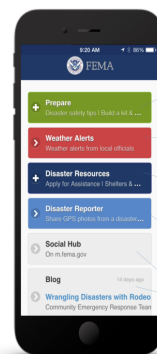
Be part of a “Weather Ready Nation” - people who are ready, responsive and resilient to extreme weather. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a free app for that!

The FEMA app lets you receive severe weather alerts from the National Weather Service – for up to five locations. This allows you to follow severe conditions that may be threatening family and friends in other locations, anywhere in the country. This feature empowers individuals to assist and support family and friends before, during and after a severe weather event.

The FEMA app also provides a customizable checklist of emergency supplies, maps of open shelters and disaster recovery centers, safety tips

on how to survive disasters, and a “Disaster Reporter” feature that allows users to upload and share photos of damage and recovery efforts.

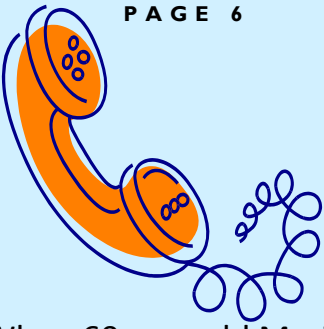
Mobile apps are becoming essential to receive life saving warnings! The FEMA app is available online for free in the Apple iTunes store, and in Google Play for Android devices.



- ✓ Get tips to survive natural disasters, customize your emergency checklist, and save meeting locations
- ⚡ Receive alerts from the National Weather Service
- ⊕ Locate open shelters and Disaster Recovery Centers, and apply for assistance
- 📷 Upload and share your disaster photos
- 💬 Stay connected on social media and the FEMA blog



Check it Out!



I Called the ADRC!

When 60 year old Marilyn was referred to the ADRC by a bank manager, she had no idea what, if any help, we could offer. She was looking for resources related to her property taxes and health insurance. Upon calling, Marilyn reported making \$709 per month in her Social Security Disability income which meant she was living check to check. She had \$1000 in an IRA and \$150 in savings. Social Security was deducting \$104.90 each month to pay her Medicare Part B premium. Marilyn reported no supplemental medical coverage or a prescription drug plan.

Marilyn lives alone in Sun Prairie in a home she inherited from her parents. She always paid her property taxes with her savings account, but this year she had almost no savings and had already depleted her IRA. She estimated her property tax bill was about \$3000. Information and Assistance Specialist, Marissa, offered to meet for options counseling to see if the ADRC could offer any assistance. Marissa knew that based on Marilyn's age and residency, she was eligible for case management through her local focal point, the Colonial Club. However, due to their waiting list, Marissa provided short term case coordination for 3 months until there was an opening. During the time she worked with Marilyn, Marissa helped increase her income by applying for federal SSI, which triggered state SSI, and also had her apply for SSI-E. Marilyn was eligible for these benefits and her income increased by \$191.77 per month.

Marissa assisted Marilyn with contacting the Department of Revenue and the City of Sun Prairie to clarify the property tax issue, applying for Homestead Property Tax Credit and working on her budget to allow her to make the first property tax installment payment by the deadline. Marissa knew that Marilyn had a tight budget and recognized that Marilyn may benefit from volunteer representative payee services through the South Madison Coalition. She referred Marilyn to them in hopes that they could help her with money management, budgeting for bills, and saving for her taxes.

Finally, Marissa helped Marilyn tackle her health insurance issue. Marilyn was responsible for paying 20% of her medical expenses because she only had Medicare Parts A and B and no supplemental coverage. Marissa realized that she was eligible for the Medicare Savings Plan (QMB) which pays the monthly Medicare Part B premium (\$104.90). With her SSI eligibility, Marilyn was also eligible to receive Medicaid as a supplemental insurance in addition to Medicare, her primary insurance.

Thanks to Marissa's involvement, Marilyn's situation has stabilized. She earned additional monthly income, gained additional health insurance, and can afford to pay her property taxes. To quote Marilyn, "I was to the point of giving up because I did not know where to go next. You were the last resort and look where I am now!"



**MedDrop:
Be Safe &
Good to
the Earth!**



Keeping leftover and expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines can be dangerous! Last year, unintentional poisonings killed more Dane County residents than car crashes. Misuse or abuse of prescription, over-the-counter or illicit drugs are the major cause.

You may think that flushing unwanted meds down the toilet is easy disposal – but *please don't flush!* A recent study shows that 80% of US streams contain small amounts of human medicines. Sewage systems cannot remove these medicines from water that is released into lakes, rivers or oceans, impacting fish and other aquatic animals and even drinking water.

The best and safest way to dispose of leftover drugs is to take them to a MedDrop location. There are 13 Dane County Police Department locations with MedDrop boxes. Simply put unwanted pills, creams, liquids, patches, inhalers, vitamins, or even pet medications into a zip lock bag and put them in the Med Drop receptacle. (Illegal drugs may be taken to police departments, no questions asked.)

Since 2012, the Safe Communities organizations and law enforcement agencies have helped to keep nearly 18 tons of unused medicines out of the water supply, wildlife resources, and medicine cabinets. "Coordinated collections such as these are a safe way to dispose of household pharmaceuticals correctly without dangerous health consequences," said Dane County Executive Joe Parisi.

Participating Police Departments include Blue Mounds, Cambridge, Deerfield, Fitchburg, Mazomanie, McFarland, Middleton, Oregon, Sun Prairie, Waunakee, Madison East & Madison West Districts, and UW-Madison Police Dept. <http://safercommunity.net/meddrop.php>

In this edition we'd like you to meet one of our Information & Assistance Specialists, Shia Yang!

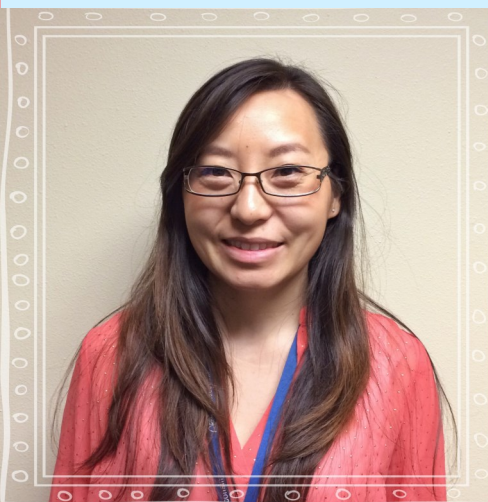
Shia has been with the ADRC since it's inception and is integral to our ability to provide resources to different populations and demographics, including the Hmong community. Shia is bilingual in English and Hmong. Allow us to introduce her to you:

Name: *Shia Yang*

What interested you about working at the ADRC: *What interested me about working here is learning and knowing about the number of resources in Dane County.*

Tell us a little about your role at the ADRC: *Part of my role as an Information and Assistance Specialist is to provide helpful options and resources to caregivers, adults with disabilities and seniors.*

What are your interests outside of work: *Outside of work I enjoy cooking, eating, and socializing with family and friends. I also have a number of things I like to do such as working on arts and crafts projects, wedding planning, baking and decorating cakes, fruit carving, and working on gelatin flower art.*



An example of Shia's creativity: a fruit baby for a friend's baby shower

*Who's Who
at the
ADRC?*



After a long winter, we've earned some fun in the sun! Check out these opportunities to get active and enjoy the outdoors.



Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Did you know that some of the State Parks throughout Wisconsin have a number of accessible features for folks with physical disabilities? For details, please visit the DNR website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/openoutdoors/>.

Featured at certain State Parks:

- ⇒ Accessible Cabins, Hiking Trails, Fishing Piers, Beaches
- ⇒ Adaptive cross-country skis and kayaks
- ⇒ Specialized Beach Wheelchairs

DNR also Offers:

- ⇒ Special hunting opportunities for folks with disabilities
- ⇒ Permits to use power-driven mobility devices
- ⇒ Discounted Fishing Licenses

Madison School and Community Recreation



Madison School and Community Recreation (MSCR) offers a number of Adaptive Recreation programs for folks with different types of disabilities. They have opportunities that will get you outdoors, playing sports or exploring area parks. There are fees to participate in their programs. Contact MSCR at 608-204-4581 or 608-204-3020 for more information, or visit their website at www.mschr.org.

Adaptive Water Skiing



Colsac Skiers Inc. is a water ski school that provides adaptive water ski lessons to children and adults with disabilities. They are able to provide this free service

through donations and volunteers. There are several events coming up this summer in the Madison area. If interested, visit their website at www.colsacskiers.com.

Fishing Has No Boundaries, Inc.



This is a non-profit organization that works to increase public awareness and provide recreational fishing opportunities to individuals with disabilities. There are several chapters around Wisconsin. The Madison chapter has a large fishing event held on July 11 & 12th, 2015 at Governor Nelson State Park on Lake Mendota. For additional information, visit their website at www.fhnbin.org.

YMCA of Dane County

The YMCA provides several Adaptive Day Trips (including Packers Training Camp) and many Adaptive Sports/Fitness Programs (such as disc golf, aquatics, Sports Night, Autism Family Night). There are fees to participate. Visit their website:

RESOURCE WISE

<http://www.ymcadaneconomy.org/adaptive>.



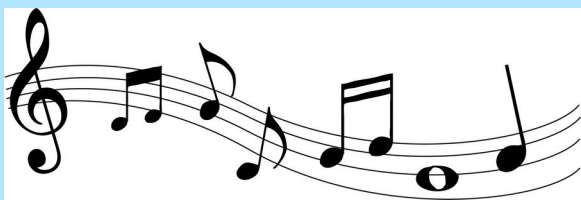
Access Ability Wisconsin



Access Ability Wisconsin is an organization dedicated to facilitating and providing the means for individuals with mobility challenges to access and enjoy Wisconsin’s natural resources. They currently have one all-terrain wheelchair that Dane County residents can reserve for use. (They continue to work to acquire additional all-terrain wheelchairs.) For additional information, visit their website at www.accessabilitywi.org or call 608-886-9388.

Wingra & Brittingham Boats

In Madison, we are lucky to be surrounded by such beautiful lakes! Wingra Boats and Brittingham Boats would like to help make these amazing lakes accessible to everyone. This summer, they will have wheelchair accessible pontoon boats available to rent. Wingra Boats pontoon is available after Memorial Day weekend. (Brittingham Boats is still working on the details to make their boat available.) Staff at both locations are also ready to help their customers with physical limitations to get in and out of canoes and kayaks. For more information, please visit Wingra Boats’ website <http://www.wingraboats.com/> and Brittingham Boats’ website <http://www.brittinghamboats.com/> In addition, Madison SCI, a group that raises awareness about spinal cord injury, illness and disease, rents a single and a tandem adaptive kayak for wheelchair users and those with mobility impairments. The kayaks are housed at Brittingham Boats. Contact Madison SCI at info@sci-madison.org or call 608-620-5666 for additional information.



Concerts on the Square® are a Madison tradition!

Spend a warm summer evening with the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra on the Capitol lawn every Wednesday at 7pm from June 24th-July 29th. For older adults or individuals with special needs, limited seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis along the S. Pinckney St. and Main St. sidewalk areas. An Information Booth is located near the King St. corner on S. Pinckney Street for First Aid, lost & found or program information.

Take me out to the Duck Pond!

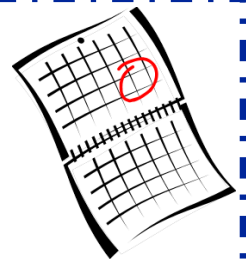


Spending a summer night with the Madison Mallards is another local tradition for family fun! Madison Mallards baseball games are played at Warner Park Stadium – also known as “The Duck Pond”. The stadium is handicapped accessible, with special seating available in Sections 101, 102, 104, 107, 108, 109. Call the ticket office directly at 608-246-4277 to order - rather than ordering online.

These seats sell quickly!



The Sampler! Interesting Events going on in your Community



“Welcome to Medicare!” Free Seminar: Tuesday, September 1st 5:30pm-8:00pm.

Presented by the Dane County Elder Benefit Specialists at the Waunakee Senior Center.

Turning age 65? Get accurate and unbiased information on what you need to know

about enrolling in Medicare. Learn about your Medicare options, what Medicare is and isn't, how to avoid penalties and how to get the most out of your health and prescription benefit plan. [Register](#) by calling the Waunakee Senior Center 608-849-8385.

FREE LEGAL SERVICES - Basic Estate Planning Clinic: July 18th. Meet with a volunteer attorney and paralegal to draft a basic will, power of attorney for finances and power of attorney for health care.

To qualify for this service: 1) You must be over age 60 or a Veteran of any age 2) with income less than \$2,916/month or \$3975/month-married couple. This clinic is not designed for people with large or complicated estates. Drop-In clinic starts at 8:30am, or call 608-243-2881 to make an appointment or for more information. Location: Madison Area Technical College – West Campus (across from West Towne Mall) 302 S. Gammon Rd, Madison.

Grandparent to Grandparent Coffee Group: Upcoming: **Friday, June 5th and Friday, August 7th 9:30am.**

An opportunity for grandparents of children and adults with disabilities to meet, share advice, and discuss their concerns. Group meets at the Waisman Center 1500 Highland Avenue Madison, WI 53705. Please RSVP to Teresa Palumbo, 263-5837 or palumbo@waisman.wisc.edu or www.waisman.wisc.edu/grandparents.htm Held the first Friday of the month. No meeting in July.

“STEP OUT 2015” Walk to Stop Diabetes! Sunday, August 23, 2015 - 8:30am to 12:00pm Olin Park

Madison. Walk begins at 10am. Take steps toward a healthier future and help find a cure for the 29 million Americans with diabetes! Register to walk as a Team or individual, volunteer to help with the event or donate to the cause! Step Out is filled with music, food, kids activities, local entertainment and most importantly, the company of those who truly

understand the impact of diabetes. And this year is more special than ever because it's the 75th Anniversary of the American Diabetes Association! To Register or for more information call 608-222-7785 or online at <http://www.diabetes.org/madisonstepout>

\$ “Get Checking” class: June 2nd or July 7th or August 6th

A class designed for people who currently do not have an account with a financial institution. Never had a bank account? Had problems with a past account? Learn how to choose an account, how to avoid bank fees, how to balance your checkbook, establish good credit and budget your money! 5:00 pm-8:00 pm at the Dane County UW-Extension, 5201 Fen Oak Drive. \$20/Registration required.

Call 608-261-5077-Financial Education Center.<http://dane.uwex.edu/family-living/financialeducation-center/>

FORWARD TO POSSIBILITIES.

DISABILITY PRIDE MADISON

DISABILITY PRIDE FESTIVAL
BRITTINGHAM PARK, MADISON WI

12 TO 5PM
JULY 25TH 2015

ENJOY THE FREE, SUMMERTIME CELEBRATION OF THE TALENTS, ARTS AND ENERGY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT - FOOD - FUN

FEATURED GUESTS:
THE FIGUREHEADS
RICARDO VASQUEZ
TANI DIAKITE & AFROFUNKSTARS
NEW THIS YEAR - MAGIC MORGAN

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED VISIT US AT: DISABILITYPRIDEMADISON.ORG

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT!



Privately Paying for Services

There may come a day when we need help doing some of the activities we currently take for granted. Changes in our health, vision, mobility and flexibility can affect our ability to do things such as cook meals, keep up with household chores or complete personal cares. Regardless of our income, we may have to privately pay for services that are needed so that we can continue to live at home. How can we do this?

The first step is to look at our income and expenses and the services we need. By doing this, we can prioritize and consider how much we can afford to pay each month. Prioritizing can help us focus on meeting our greatest needs.

While this may mean facing some difficult choices, creative thinking can help our decision-making. For example, money saved by discontinuing cable/satellite service and using the library's DVD collection can be used to hire a home care agency to provide help with managing household activities. Savings that result from choosing generic medications can be used to pay a neighbor for help with yardwork or other outdoor chores.

Being proactive is another key to privately paying. Early retirement planning can provide a nest egg that won't leave us scrambling to meet our future care needs. Financial management workshops can provide guidelines to help us make well-considered decisions. If this sounds good but numbers are not your thing, there are also personal financial counseling agencies that can guide you through priorities. Questions about these programs, their cost, and where they are located can be answered by calling the ADRC.

How To Interview a Potential Caregiver

If you're thinking about hiring a personal caregiver for yourself or a loved one, there are some questions you should be sure to ask. Whether it's a caregiver through an agency or a private hire, ensuring the safety of you or a loved one is crucial. Here are some questions to ask any potential caregiver:

- 1) What is your training and experience in caregiving?
- 2) What makes you qualified to work as a caregiver?
- 3) How will you handle challenging days and/or behaviors?
- 4) What days and/or times are you available?
- 5) How many hours per week are you looking to work?
- 6) Are you insured or bonded?
- 7) Do you have a car and are you willing to transport?
- 8) Are you a legal resident?
- 9) Can you provide what we're looking for i.e., personal cares, cooking, cleaning, transportation, medication monitoring, etc.?
- 10) Can you provide at least two references?
- 11) How much do you charge?
- 12) What are your time off needs going to be like for the upcoming months?
- 13) Are you up to date on immunizations?
- 14) Will you pass a criminal background check?
- 15) What date are you available to start?



2015 Senior Farmers Market Vouchers are now available for those 60+. Contact your local Senior Center for eligibility and distribution information.





2865 North Sherman Avenue
Madison, WI 53704

Web: www.daneadrc.org

Email: adrc@countyofdane.com

Phone: 608-240-7400

TTY: 608-240-7404

FAX: 608-240-7401

Toll Free: 1-855-417-6892

STOP IN – CALL– EMAIL– REQUEST A HOME VISIT

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY - FRIDAY 7:45 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

OTHER HOURS BY APPOINTMENT

BILINGUAL STAFF & INTERPRETERS AVAILABLE

The Mission of the ADRC

To support seniors, adults with disabilities, their families and caregivers by providing useful information, assistance and education on community services and long-term care options and by serving as the single entry point for publicly funded long-term care services while at all times respecting the rights, dignity and preference of the individual.

Our Experts can help you with information about:

- ◆ Assisted Living & Nursing Home Options
- ◆ Caregiver Supports
- ◆ Housing Options
- ◆ In-Home Personal Care
- ◆ Meals & Nutrition Programs
- ◆ Rental & Energy Assistance
- ◆ Respite Care
- ◆ Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid
- ◆ Support Groups
- ◆ And Much More...

Our Services are Confidential!

If you would like to receive our newsletter by email, please contact us at adrc@countyofdane.com



Dementia Friendly Communities

County Executive Joe Parisi is pleased to announce the ADRC of Dane County is collaborating with a local coalition to form a dementia friendly community in Sun Prairie. Dementia Friendly Communities is an effort to promote full community inclusion and reduce isolation experienced by people with dementia and their caregivers. For more information about this effort or other community resources to support people with dementia and care partners, call the ADRC at 240-7400.