



Together
we can
make a
difference

relationships

WINTER
2016

CITIZEN
ADVOCATES
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

"MAKING A POSITIVE
DIFFERENCE IN THE
LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES."

VOLUME 12 NO. 1

Simple Things . . . Extraordinary!

Sometimes it is the simplest, most ordinary things that mean the most. This is so true every time our school based citizen advocates groups get together. Simple things are happening that many passing through might not notice, but things that bring tears and smiles to the people who work daily with the kids. The best way to share these simple moments is with a few pictures.

See the two under the table? The boy in the picture has autism, he often finds comfort hiding under the table. The girl in the picture is a peer advocate and when she saw the boy under the table, she grabbed a game and joined him where he was. A simple gesture of kindness ... a powerful message of inclusion.

The picture with the toilet paper zombie ... a simple activity that many of us have taken a part of. See the young man on the right? His teachers that were with the group said he never smiles for pictures. Today when I saw

this young man, he gave me a kiss on my cheek. A simple thing, but it brought tears to my eyes.

Our school based Citizen Advocates program is simple; bring students together for fun activities and helping the students work together to have fun and build friendships. The group picture ... friends enjoying each other's company. So simple, so ordinary, but this picture brought tears to their teachers' eyes, because the simple things are often extraordinary!

Jessica Frederick jfrederick@cawash.org



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Far Left: Mr. & Mrs. Jim Emmer speak with partner, Mikki. Left: Program Coordinator Jessica Frederick presents an award to West Bend School Superintendent Ted Neitzke. Below Left: The Johnson School Bus Services table. Below: The Kettlebrook Church table.



The 2015 Citizen Advocates Annual Meeting took place this past October 15 at the West Bend Country Club. Once again we had a wonderful group of advocates, partners and donors attend, nearly fifty in all. This year's message was the importance of "37," as 2015 marked the 37th anniversary of the Citizen Advocates program.

Mark Brunner
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What keeps a small, nonprofit program like Citizen Advocates going?

People keep our advocacy program going forward. Our advocacy program needs people who are willing to serve, volunteer, and, yes, be generous. Far Right: Our good friend Al at Dunn Brothers has opened his business doors to CA for years and we appreciate it Al. Jackie Burtard, Board Secretary and First Bank Branch Manager presents a check for \$500 to CA in December. **Many, many thanks!**





Laura Emmer recently met with CA Executive Director at the Emmer Real Estate Group offices in West Bend to discuss how Emmer Real Estate Group could initiate and promote its You Share, we Care program in 2016.

At Emmer Real Estate Group we are pleased to announce our investment in Citizen Advocates and their *You Share, We Care* program. Please join us in supporting Citizen Advocates and the unique work that they are doing in working to make a difference in the lives of people by creating relationships that see beyond disabilities. We agree that recruiting Advocates to share their time and talents with someone - someone they wouldn't usually cross paths with is a great idea. Citizen Advocates has provided and supported over 300 relationships, some more than 30 years long.

An Era Ends!

When Cheryl Starling joined the Citizen Advocates Board of Directors in the Fall of 2005 she had a choice; she could join and just be a part of something, or she could join and and commit a good portion of her time. She chose the latter. As a very busy member of the West Bend Insurance staff in 2005 and recently a member of Society Insurance team in Fond du Lac, it wasn't as if Cheryl needed something to do with her time. Nevertheless, Cheryl made it her purpose to not only serve as a Director, she also took



Cheryl was presented with a Citizen Advocates achievement plaque recently at Society Insurance in Fond du lac.

it upon herself to serve as President, Secretary and Treasurer over the course of the last decade. Since 2005 she has also been an integral part of our fundraising committees for the *Citizens Balls* and *Dancing For A Difference* events. Cheryl, along with her husband JP, have been fixtures at these events throughout the past decade. Cheryl participated as a dancer as well in 2010 and 2011. This past September Cheryl announced her retirement from the Citizen Advocates Board of Directors. In a sense an era has ended. Cheryl, we will miss your presence, but are very thankful that you made CA a commitment and not just a obligation.

Mark Brunner

Relationships

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Creating relationships that make a positive difference in the lives of those with disabilities.

Looking for Advocates!

We are currently looking for Advocates. Advocates can be individuals or groups, students or retired, male or female, who enjoy spending time with other people and have a desire to build a relationship with someone new. You can be an advocate!

An advocate is matched with an individual of any age with developmental disabilities who need advocates to: prevent isolation from the community, encourage community friendships and enhance meaningful personal relationships, mentor and assist with life decisions.

Interested in learning more about the advocates that we are looking for? Please go to our website to see a list of advocates that we are currently looking for. <http://cawash.org/advocates-needed>.

Coming Events

- Respite February 13
- Gala Pre-event February 23
- Respite March 12
- Respite April 9
- Respite May 7
- Gala 2016 May 13
- Respite June 18

Sponsor a Front-Line Worker

Back for 2016!

Opportunities to personally sponsor a CA match for one year, stay in touch with that match, and support the match with your prayers, letters, and social media connections. For more information please go to: www.cawash.org/youshare.html.



Citizen Advocates of Washington County
PO Box 582
West Bend, WI 53095

Your Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

Here's my Sponsorship Investment! \$1,750/Platinum \$1,000/Gold \$500/Silver \$250/Friend \$ other _____

I would like to underwrite one of these instead:

- Pizza party for student groups \$100
- Youth Group Field Trip \$800
- Sponsor a match to Gala in May \$170
- Adult Living Facility Match \$1,050
- Background check for a match \$350
- Pays volunteer cost for Respite for 1 year \$2,500
- Games for Respite Program \$500

Expiration Date: _____ Name As It Appears on Card _____

*The number on back of your card. 4 digit number on AMEX card front.

We do need your email address to run the credit card through PayPal. Thanks!

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Thanks! Your investment will make it possible for us to continue these vital relationships in communities throughout Washington County.