

# A VE

*Avenues to Community, Inc.*  
**NEWS**

SUMMER ISSUE 2015

Supporting Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and Traumatic Brain Injuries

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We really have to give a big hand to Dan. He has been working a new job at Staybridge Suites for several weeks now on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He works 8 to noon then takes a ride to his afternoon job at MTILP. At Staybridge, Dan has done everything from cleaning to vacuuming, watering plants outside, and anything else the maintenance man needs help with. They are starting to get used to Dan being so helpful and friendly! At MTILP, a day program for people with disabilities where Dan has been working since August of 2013, Dan sweeps and mops areas, and also is in charge of trash. This work gave him a lot of practice in doing these tasks and also provided structure to his day. People really depend on Dan now. Thanks to his mom, and his team, and above all Dan himself, he has come a long way and Dan brings a smile wherever he goes.

## A BIG HAND TO DAN!

By Craig Mieczkowski,  
Vocational Case Manager, SWO



*Day Trippers*  
see pg 4 for more photos

## NESCO Internet Cafe: Sharing the Gifts of Technology and Hospitality

By Amy Quaerna



Dennis has served as a volunteer at the North/Eastside Senior Coalition (NESCO) since November 2013. NESCO is located in the beautiful Warner Park Community Recreation Center on Northport Drive in Madison. NESCO offers a variety of activities in the center Monday through Friday, primarily in the mornings. On any given morning at the center you might see people engaged in activities such as card games, exercise classes, book clubs or enjoying a special guest who has come to present on a topic of interest. NESCO also serves a lunch at the center Monday through Friday.

In June of 2014, NESCO started up a new program called the "Internet Café". There are 5 laptops available for participants to use at the café, as well as someone to assist with any computer-related questions. Typical activities that people engage in include checking email, online research, working on documents and checking social media sites. In addition to using one of the computers that are available, people are also welcome to bring in their own laptops or tablets to use at the center. Dennis currently works in the Internet Café three mornings each week, providing assistance to guests and sharing his computer knowledge. He loves working at NESCO and is a perfect fit for his role in the café. His strong computer skills, combined with his natural ability to connect with other people, make him a valuable asset for this program and the whole community!

## SPARKS GRANTS

Spark Grants are designed to "SPARK" innovative methods of building community capacity in the areas of grassroots community organizing, integrated employment, and self-directed supports. The innovative methods SPARKS Grants ignite are intended to lead to systems change that improves the lives of people with disabilities. SPARKS Grants are provided by the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD). Individual grants range from \$500-\$3,000. Application materials are due by 12:00 PM on Friday, July 31, 2015. If you are interested in applying for a SPARKS Grant and want more information visit the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities website at [http://www.wi-bpdd.org/grantscontracts/sparks\\_grants.cfm](http://www.wi-bpdd.org/grantscontracts/sparks_grants.cfm)



## HARD WORK PAYS OFF!

By Phil Brace  
Adult Family Home (AFH) Provider

At the beginning of April, we had the opportunity to welcome Chris into our AFH on the Northside of Madison. Chris is a regular 32 year old guy; when he is not working his first job (12 years - Culver's on Cottage Grove Road), Chris is taking care of his responsibilities at home like grocery shopping, cleaning, and planning for the next week. In his free time, Chris enjoys hanging out with family and friends.



The things that most impress me about Chris are his ability to keep a positive mental attitude as well as his willingness to make changes when he is not happy. Here is a perfect example. Over the winter months, Chris was not getting the hours he was wanting at work due to seasonal changes and road construction. Instead of complaining, Chris began looking for jobs that he thought he would like! Soon afterwards, Chris had filled out an online application and been scheduled for an interview with The Madison Mallards baseball team. Chris was so excited for this new opportunity, but knew he had to prepare. He hadn't done this in a very long time so he asked for help. With the support of his adult family home provider and his job coach from Goodwill Industries, Chris was able to update his resume, practice interview questions, and dress for success. Chris made it a point to arrive to the interview early to avoid any last minute problems. Chris left the interview feeling like he had done everything in his control to land the job.

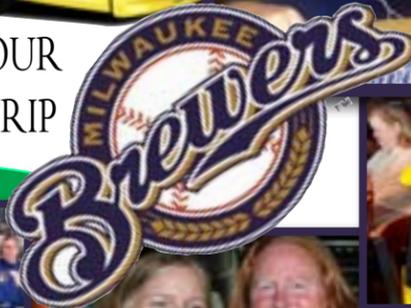
Success! After two weeks of patiently waiting, Chris received an email confirming his employment as an Ice Cream Runner for The Mallards during home games at The Duck Pond. Chris takes pride in doing a great job and always stays late to help with cleanup. Chris has worked 5 home games and is working hard to impress his new employers and co-workers. Some days, Chris works during the lunch rush at Culver's and then rushes home to get ready for an evening at the ball park. No matter how tired he is, Chris always comes home with a smile!

So, if you are frustrated with your situation don't let it get you down. Take advice from Chris and keep a positive mental attitude, work hard, and ask your support team for a little help!



# Day Trippers

PHOTOS FROM OUR MOST RECENT TRIP



## UPCOMING EVENTS!

- Medieval Times Dinner Theater – Wednesday, July 22, 2015
- The Dancing Horses Dinner Theater -Wednesday, August 26, 2015
- Mississippi River Boat -Wednesday, October 14, 2015

# AVENUES

## annual PICNIC

JOIN THE

# DARTY!

# DANCE ZUMBA



THURSDAY  
AUGUST 13, 2015  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
OLIN TURVILLE PARK MADISON

with Zumba instructor  
**Gio Guzman**

Join the fun and spend time with friends!  
Come to Avenues to Community's Annual Picnic!

Hamburgers, brats and hot dogs will be served!  
Please bring a dish to share and your preferred beverage. Last names starting with A through H please bring a dessert and I through Z please bring a salad or side dish.

**Directions:**

Olin Turville Park is across from the Alliant Energy Center. From the beltline highway, exit 263 and merge onto John Nolan Dr. Turn right at W. Lakeside St. and follow the red balloons to the main pavilion.

For more information, call us at (608) 663-8390 or check our website at [www.avenuestocommunity.com](http://www.avenuestocommunity.com)



CONGRATULATIONS 2015 FASHION SHOW FOR ALL ABILITIES PARTICIPANTS!



**WELCOME!**

*Katie*

Katie is a Support Broker who recently joined the Avenues team in January 2015. She graduated from UW-Whitewater and then worked on a Capacity Building Project as a Community Connector in Sun Prairie. In her free time, she enjoys going to the many East Madison festivals in the summer, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

## 15 YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT

By Susan Watson

Kelly celebrated her 15th year as an employee with Metcalfe's Foods- Hilldale during the month of April 2015. Kelly doesn't need April showers to bring May flowers because she works in the beautiful surroundings of the floral department. Kelly is proud of her accomplishment. Kelly's favorite part of her job? Seeing the smiles on customer's faces as they walk into the floral department and are transformed by the garden of scents and visual beauty! Kelly sums up her experience as follows: "It has been a wonderful experience working at Metcalfe's for fifteen years! They treat me like I am a part of their family. I am so blessed to have this job and to work with such wonderful people."



**AVENUES TO COMMUNITY**

**10TH**

**ANNIVERSARY**

**SUPER BOWLING EVENT**

RED CARPET - BLACK TIE EVENT

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Saturday, September 19, 2015

1-4 PM Bowl-A-Vard Lanes

2121 E. Springs Dr. Madison

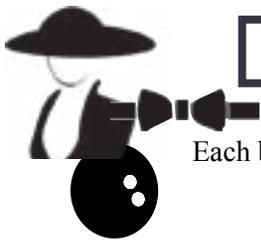
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
 CONTACT YOUR AVENUES TO COMMUNITY SUPPORT BROKER  
 (608) 663-8390  
 OR VISIT [WWW.AVENUESTOCOMMUNITY.COM](http://WWW.AVENUESTOCOMMUNITY.COM)

# AVENUES TO COMMUNITY, INC.

2802 Coho Street, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53713

www.avenuestocommunity.com

SERVING INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES



## REGISTER NOW - SUPER BOWLING 2015

### Minimum pledge:

Each bowler must raise a minimum of \$80 in pledges to bowl. Teams (up to 5) must raise a minimum of \$500.

Ask family, friends, neighbors and coworkers to sponsor you.

Sponsor donations can be made in amounts of \$10, \$20 or more.

Checks should be payable to: Avenues to Community, Inc.

Complete the attached form and return it to Avenues by Friday, August 28, 2015. Avenues will send an event packet of information that includes an explanation about the event, pledge card with information about Avenues and an envelope for collecting pledges.

The pledge card along with all pledges needs to be turned in to the Avenues office by Friday, September 11, 2015.

**All bowlers should arrive at Bowl-A-Vard Lanes at least 20 minutes prior to the start of the event**



### Super Bowling Registration Form - Complete & Return by Friday, August 28, 2015.

INDIVIDUAL - \$80 Minimum Pledge     TEAM - \$500 Minimum Pledge

Individual or Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send completed registration form to Avenues to Community, Inc., Attn: Kevin Keisling, 2802 Coho Street, Suite #201, Madison, WI 53713.**

**Please let us know if you need any special accommodations:** \_\_\_\_\_