



Family Matters

“FULL INCLUSION, FULL LIVES”

Larry Winter, Supervisor Children with Special Needs Unit II

On my desk I have a quote that states the following: “Isn’t it a wonderful thing that we’re all different? Each of us has strengths and skills to share, and when we link our individual strengths together we’re invincible”. As a supervisor for children with special needs, I am responsible to hire social workers and a clinical therapist to work with children and families. In the hiring process I think about selecting individuals who have strengths, talents and skills that will best meet the needs of children in La Crosse County. We have a unique group of dedicated professionals which is important for the diverse population of children we are supporting. Laurie Matti, Kristine Buehler, Sarah Wagner Barton and Kristi Herold are the veterans of our staff. Keith Keller, supervisor of Children with Special Needs Unit I, and I can’t imagine what we would do without them. In this issue of Family Matters, you will be introduced to three new members of our team that have recently joined us. They are social workers Sara Halvorson and Lee Yang and Clinical Therapist Nicole Milliren.

As the needs of children change and grow, we have an opportunity to assess and implement best practices. In order to move forward, it takes an entire community working and striving together to keep current on how best to serve children with special needs. An essential piece in this puzzle is the provider community. We are fortunate in La Crosse County to have a diverse variety of providers. So you may be thinking, “what is he trying to get at here?”

I am reminded of something I heard recently on the radio that caused me to pause and reflect. The individual being interviewed stated, “When you feel like you are pushing against a wall know you are surely moving forward. If everything is always smooth let me suggest you surely are not staying the same but most likely regressing.”

Therefore, as the community in La Crosse County strives to meet the needs of children who have special needs; La Crosse County Human Services wants to ensure that the funding will purchase services based on current research and best practices. In July, the Family and Children’s Section will be inviting all providers in La Crosse County to come together and explore our current service array to see how we are doing and look into introducing services based on current research and best practices.

Now you may say, “Larry why should we even think about this? We are doing just fine with what we have in La Crosse County?” Well, the only motivation I need is to see a child struggling with our intervention efforts and in some cases unable to remain living with their family leading to a placement. Each time I see this happen for a child I look for a wall to push up against because surely out there somewhere is another way to improve our efforts at meeting the needs of this child and the many others in similar situations.

Save the Date

PROVIDER TRAINING

When: July 23rd from 9-12

Where: La Crosse County Administrative Center Basement Auditorium
300 4th Street N La Crosse, WI 54601

This is a new initiative to increase collaboration between La Crosse County Human Services, Contracted Providers, and Potential Contracted providers to serve children with special needs.

Topics will include:

- Best practice initiatives
- Support and service needs of children and families
- Contract issues
- Program updates on Children’s Waivers, Family Support Program, Comprehensive Community Services, Crisis, and Children’s Mental Health
- Fiscal/billing issues

There will be 3 provider meetings a year.

Keep your eye open for upcoming information.

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Children's Museum



Anyone who spends time with young children shares in the wonder these little ones experience as they discover new things about the world around them. **Reading, pretending, playing, creating ...all these things go hand in hand with healthy, happy children and confident, competent learners.** And all of these things are happening at the Children's Museum of La Crosse.

History...

It all started with a dream by Executive Director, Anne Steuer. After moving to La Crosse, Wisconsin in December of 1994, she and her two young daughters missed the Children's Museum they had frequented in New Orleans. Anne learned as much as she could about Children's Museums, spread her enthusiasm among a large group of interested volunteers, and began raising friends and funds to make the dream come true.

The Charles & Marjorie Collins family gave the Museum a home by donating a 30,000 square foot building in downtown La Crosse. A \$2.6 million capital campaign to prepare the building and create exhibits was kicked off in December of 1997, with a generous \$1 million lead gift by local philanthropist Gertrude Salzer Gordon. Hundreds more generous individuals, businesses and groups donated their time, talent and treasure, and the Gertrude Salzer Gordon Children's Museum of La Crosse, Inc. opened on February 28, 1999. Since opening day, over 400,000 visitors, young and old, have journeyed into this exciting facility where creativity, discovery, and play are celebrated.

"Many cities our size have seen the benefits of a children's museum. I am pleased that we have added ourselves to the list. I'm proud of the commitment the Children's Museum has made in strengthening the future of our downtown."

Bud Miyamoto, Downtown Mainstreet Inc.

The Children's Museum of La Crosse is a hands-on, interactive environment for children; a family place where the young and the young at heart can explore, create, experiment, learn and exercise their imaginations. The Children's Museum of La Crosse is a place where children play to learn and adults learn to play!

Research shows that learning starts long before children begin school, and that future educational and life success depends on small, age-appropriate learning lessons each and every day. As safe, welcoming facilities which foster and promote hands-on learning for young children and their adult companions, Children's Museums are perfect hosts for such learning lessons.

Play isn't only for children. Play brings us together, allows us to put the rest of the world on pause and encourages us to laugh. *(Research shows that a kindergartner laughs 300 times a day; an adult only 17.)* It teaches us trust, cooperation, respect for others, sharing, mastery and many of life's other lessons. **Play is a fundamental need, just like air, water and the five food groups...**

"Some people talk about play as if it were a relief from serious learning or even worse: a waste of time. But for children, play is exceedingly serious...and important! In fact, play is a way for children to learn who they are and how the world works, solve problems, and to express feelings. Yes, play is the real work of childhood, and for young people today, many children's museums offer play experiences that other settings are not able to give them..."

- Mr. (Fred) Rogers

The Children's Museum of La Crosse welcomes approximately 46,000 visitors per year. The Museum and its exhibits are targeted to children aged 1-12 and their adult companions.

"I really like the Children's Museum. I had a B-L-A-S-T, and I learned that museums don't have to be boring!"

- Ashley, age 8



Partner Picture

Key Messages

The Children's Museum of La Crosse offers hands-on fun and learning for children, aged 1-12, and their adult companions. The Children's Museum of La Crosse strives to include all, regardless of income or ability, and reaches out to those in need by providing scholarships for those who meet income eligibility.

The Children's Museum of La Crosse is a regional destination for families, schools and others from a 75-mile radius and beyond.

The Children's Museum will remain largely self-sufficient, generating approximately 60% of operating income through admissions, memberships and other earned income.

The Children's Museum of La Crosse is a non-profit organization, with no government or United Way funding, which relies on donations, grants and other fund raisers for 40% of the operating budget.

The Big Giggle

The Museum's BIGGEST fundraising event (replacing the Rubber Ducky River Race) is a raffle with BIG prizes: a 2008 Chevy Cobalt from Ray Hutson Chevrolet, a hot tub from Paradise Pool & Spa, \$500 cash + \$1000 savings bond from Coulee Bank, a \$1,700 "New You" package, and a \$500+ I Love La Crosse package. Raffle tickets can be purchased for only \$5 each or 7 for \$25 from the Children's Museum, with a form on funmuseum.org, or by visiting the booth at the entrance to Riverside Park during Riverfest, July 2-6. The winning tickets will be drawn on Sunday, July 6 at approximately 5:30 pm (need not be present to win.)

...Promoting Diversity

The Children's Museum of La Crosse is committed to affordability and accessibility. Support from the La Crosse Community Foundation, Sue & Charles Gelatt and the Women's Fund helps the Museum welcome almost 10% of our annual visitors free of charge, via donated admission passes and/or free memberships for economically disadvantaged families. A mother who visited the Children's Museum while staying at a women's shelter last year stopped to thank us for the free passes she received. Her eyes teared as she described her children's delight exploring the Children's Museum when the rest of the world was "upside down".

The Museum is wheelchair accessible, and outreach efforts seek to engage persons of all abilities and backgrounds. A new program, **Camp Can-Do**, offers FREE adaptive arts activities for children with limited mobility. The Camp Can-Do equipment and supplies were purchased with a grant from the Ronald McDonald Children's Charities of Western Wisconsin and South-eastern Minnesota. Camp Can-Do activities, which include mural painting, chalk drawing, tabletop printing and more, can be facilitated at the Museum or at another location. To inquire about scheduling a Camp Can-Do session, contact volunteer facilitator Sandy Musolf at 608-783-4849.

Cultural diversity is promoted at the Children's Museum of La Crosse as well. Programs, scout workshops and summer camps often include activities related to languages and customs of various cultures around the world. In late 2007 the Museum hosted the traveling exhibit "Hmong at Heart" and welcomed, free of charge, any and all local Hmong individuals and families during the exhibit's visit. They were very appreciative, not only of the free admission, but of the Museum's interest in sharing the story of their culture with the public and visiting school groups.

In addition to appealing to the general public, schools and youth organizations from throughout the region are invited to bring groups to the Children's Museum of La Crosse for educational and enjoyable field trips. Approximately 6,000 students and chaperones visit the Museum each year as part of a field trip.

"Thank you for all you do to make your museum fun and interesting. Your awesome exhibits and presentation helped make our field trip the best one EVER!"

Osseo Elementary Teacher

In addition to the Children's Museum's three floors of hands-on exhibits, special programs are offered year-round. This summer, the Children's Museum's Camp Curiosity series will include seven half-day camps for 4-6 year olds and five full-day sessions for 7-12 year olds. More information about Camp Curiosity and other Museum programming is available from the Museum's website (www.funmuseum.org) or by contacting the Museum at 784-2652.

Children's Museum of La Crosse
207 5th Ave. South, La Crosse, WI 54601
(608) 784-2652 funmuseum.org

Hours: Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sundays Noon to 5:00 pm

Admission: \$5.00 per person (\$1 off admission on Sundays).

...Group rates...field trips...birthday parties...summer camps...scout events...gift shop...and more!



Awesome Activities

La Crosse Chileda Classic



Saturday July 7th
5K & 10K run/walk
7:30am 10K starts
7:50am 5K starts

Registration 11am—6pm at the Radisson: July 4-7
Limited Race registration
Chileda Kid's Race Registration
9-11am Center Park
Chileda Kid's Race 11am-Center Park
www.chileda.org

The Heron Project

Looking for something fun to do that is FREE?
The first public art display of its kind in La Crosse.
The Pump House has worked on this project since 2003. There are 35 Herons located throughout the La Crosse community. Make it a fun family adventure to find them all. For a map you can go to www.thepumphouse.org or pick one up at

The Pump House Regional Arts Center
119 King Street La Crosse, WI 54601
You can also visit www.explorelacrosse.com or www.lacrossetribune.com



Attention: Story Lovers of All Ages

Have you heard a good story lately?
If not, come to the 6th annual event



La Crosse Storytelling Festival September 5 & 6 2008
Myrick Park Main Shelter

Friday September 5th	6:30-9:00pm	Ghost stories for all ages
Saturday September 6th	12:00-6:00pm	2 story stages Children's activities, bookstore, music, food
	6:00-9:30pm	Adult story concert with adult beverages

Tickets available at the gate
For further information go on-line to: www.lacrossestoryfest.com
Contact: 608-797-2807 or sara.slayton@gmail.com

A Season of Art...

Where: Shores of Lake Onalaska
When: First Saturday of each month
June 7 • July 5 • August 2 • Sept. 6

Time: 10 AM to 5 PM

A selection of local artwork

Presented by
La Crosse Society of Arts & Crafts

Four miles N of I-90



Summer Celebrations:

- Sparta Butterfest June 6 • 8 spartabutterfest.com 800-354-2453
- La Crosse Concert Band begins June 11 lacrosseconcertband.org
7:30pm Weekly performances on Wednesdays Riverside Park if rain then at Logan Middle school
- Winona Steamboat Days June 18 • 22 winonasteamboatdays.com
- Riverfest July 2 • 8 riverfestlacrosse.com 782-6000
- Trempealeau Catfish Days July 12 • 13 608-534-6335
Trempealeau.net/Lions/Catfish08.html
- La Crosse Interstate Fair July 16 • 20 discoveronalaska.com
788-5506 Free admission and parking
- Rail Fair July 18 4000foundation.com 582-4761 10am to 5pm
- Monroe County Fair July 23 • 27 in Tomah tomahwisconsin.com
800-948-6624
- Trempealeau County Fair July 24 • 27 in Galesville
trempealeaucountytourism.com
- Houston Hoedown July 25 • 27 houstonhoedown.com 507-896-4668
- Irish Fest Aug. 8 • 10 irishfestlax.org
- Great River Jazz Fest Aug. 8 • 10 lacrossejazz.com 791-1190
- Houston County Fair Aug. 13 • 17 houstoncountyfair.com
507-725-3397
- CenturyTel Sand on the Riverfront Aug. 15 • 16 riverfrontinc.org
784-9450 10am to midnight on Aug. 15
- KornFest Aug. 15 • 17 holmenwi.com/tourism.htm 526-4444

Summer Pool information:

Holmen Area Aquatic Center
June 7th • August 25th
526-6092

La Crescent Pool
June 7th • August 29th
507-895-8712

La Crosse Pools/Beaches
June 7th • August 17th
789-7533

Onalaska Aquatic Center
Opens June 7th
781-9524

West Salem Swarthout Pool
Open June 7th
786-0323



Great Summer Activities for Kids

- La Crosse Library "Catch the Reading Bug" kick off event June 7 at 2 PM 789-7100 lacrosselibrary.org/child/summer
Held at Kid's Coulee Theatre, Myrick Park
- Family Resources Children's Summer Festival July 19
Held 9am to 12pm For families with children under 12 years old. Located at Myrick Park.
Laxfamilyresources.org 784-8125 ext. 231
- La Crosse Library Summer Reading Program Finale July 25 at 2 PM 789-7100 Held at Ho Chunk Three Rivers House (across from Library)



Summer Picnic for Children with Differing Abilities and their families

Sponsored by the Coulee Coalition for Children of Differing Abilities

Tuesday August 19, 2008 **FREE**

From 5:30-7:30 PM

At the Children's Museum

Will have access to Camp Can Do and the Climbing Wall • An evening of fun in a climate controlled environment

Please bring a dish to pass. BBQ, beverages, and tableware will be provided



Things to do that are FREE!

- Wisconsin Bike Trail Day/ State Parks Day June 7 discoveronalaska.com 781-9570
Today ride free on all WI State Bike Trails, and pay no admission fee to any WI state park
- Fishing Weekend June 7 • 8 dnr.wi.gov Fish these days with no license required
- River City Water Ski Shows Begins June 18 • August 13 rivercity.waterski.org 788-9644
Wednesdays 7pm at Airport Beach, Fisherman's Road
- Learning to Live with Rattlesnakes June 28 houstonmn.com/nature/nature2.htm 507-896-HOOT
Dave Palmquist presents this program at the Houston Nature Center Houston MN
- Nature Center Butterfly Garden Opens July 7 • August 30 amethyst-dragon.com/hfnc 784-0303
Hixon Forest Nature Center Monday through Thursday noon • 3pm, Saturday 1 • 4pm
- Y.E.A. Day August 8 FREE 11am to 2pm 789-7533 Erickson Park, 15th & Losey Blvd. La Crosse
Celebrate La Crosse's youth community with games and activities

FREE



2008 Kids Rule Summer Film Series

June 18-August 14 2008

Wednesday and

Thursday Mornings

(no shows July 2nd and July 3rd)

All shows start at 10AM

Admission \$2.50 and FREE Popcorn



6/18-19

7/9-10

7/23-24

8/6-7

Alvin & the Chipmunks

Horton Hears A Who

Bee Movie

Kit Kittredge: An American Girl

6/25-26

7/16-17

7/30-31

8/13-14

Spiderwick Chronicles

Nim's Island

Kung Fu Panda

Space Chimps



(all dates and titles are subject to change)

For more information you can go to www.marcustheatres.com/kidsrule or marcuspsda.com

Other News

A Special Thank You

A special Thank you goes to Catholic Charities, Chileda, the State of Wisconsin Bureau of Mental Health, Family and Children's Center, and the Coulee Coalition for Children of Differing Abilities for their sponsorship of the Circle of Security Assessment Training. Also to Kari Flicek of PATH and Lynn Wilkens for their assistance with organizing this event.

Don't Forget about the Family Advocate:

If you are a parent of a child with special needs and would like some extra support or have any questions about the special education process or an IEP you may have. Please contact:

Vicky Shanley 608-783-4009
shanley5@charter.net
WI Family Ties

Radical Resources

Parent to Parent of Wisconsin

This is a one-to-one connection for parents new to having a child with special needs, experiencing a time of stress or simply support from another parent who has been there.

To find out more about how you can get connected to another parent or how you can become a support parent, call Parent to Parent of Wisconsin at the Family Resource Connection at 715-361-2890 or toll free for families 888-266-0028. You can also email Parent to Parent of Wisconsin rmathea@shsmh.org

There is also support trainings for parents raising children with special health care needs who feel that they are ready to become a support parent.

Parent to Parent of Wisconsin 1020 Kabel Avenue Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501
<http://www.familyresourceconnection.org/ptpow.htm>



Are you concerned about your child's development?

You can check out developmental guides for children. go to <http://www.pbs.org/parents/childdevelopment/>

You can go to the early learning section to find out how babies and young children learn and get strategies for nurturing early development as well as learn various school strategies.

There is also a child development tracker as well as various other tools to explore.

Tools for living better on home IV and tube feedings

The Oley Foundation is a organization that provides information and psycho-social support to consumers and also serves as a resource.

There is an equipment-supplies exchange program. To find out more check out their website:

<http://www.oley.org/index.html>

Clearance Sale!

Natural Learning Concepts is having a clearance sale to make room for their new stocks. The offer is first come, first served basis. No rain checks are allowed and the sale ends when the supplies are gone!

View the selection at <http://www.nlconcepts.com>

Are you trying to get your child to engage?

Check out these virtual games at <http://www.flaghouse.com/gesturetek.asp?Category=Sensory%20Solutions>

You can enjoy a variety of virtual play and sensory-filled environments.

Traumatic Brain Injury Support Group

January 4th 2008 is the day my 3 year old daughter Adeline was involved in a sledding accident. Adeline hit the front of our car and suffered a fractured skull and had to be med-flighted to St. Mary's/Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Adeline spent the next 16 days at St. Mary's. By all accounts Adeline has had a fantastic recovery up to this point. When Adeline arrived at St. Mary's she had exposed brain tissue and no movement on the left side of her body. Adeline had never lost consciousness because of the accident, which Mellonie (her mother) and I learned later was an excellent sign of what was to come. Adeline was up and walking 1 week after the accident. 14 days after the accident the neurosurgeon reattached the bone flap to finally close her skull and released her to come home 2 days after that.

So on 20 January 2008 I remember walking from bedroom to bedroom looking at my sleeping family and feeling the relief that my family was all sleeping under one roof. It was almost hard to believe that Adeline, Moxley (her brother), Mellonie and I were all back together again. I had been prepared for a hospital stay of 4 to 5 months as the doctors had told us when we first arrived at St. Mary's, and here I was at home with my family safe and asleep in bed. Relief the nightmare is over. Then 21 January 2008 dawns, Mel and I are faced with helping Adeline to adjust to the injury and start all the OT she will be facing for years to come. Now comes probably the hardest time for Mel and I. During the accident and hospital stay we were running on adrenaline. You learn to push through the pain, the tiredness, the feeling of being totally lost. Then you're back home and life should return to normal, but it does not. Adeline, Moxley, Mel and I are all faced with a new life; one we never planned on.

Sometimes I feel that Adeline and Moxley have adjusted far better then Mel and I. We have questions about tons of things, concerns about another ton of things and guilt. The endless question of what could we have done differently, what if, and so on and so fourth. It would be so much easier if we had support. The insight of others who are in the same boat so to say. Mel and I are beginning the work of starting a Pediatric TBI Support Group. We have the backing of ILR and the help of Janet Pappenfus of Franciscan Skemp. I am asking any parents out there who might be raising children who have suffered a TBI and feel that a support group might be a good thing, to contact me at (608)787-1111 or Janet at (608)785-0940 ext 22857. Our hope is that we can put this group together and have our first meeting in September as school begins.

I am in the beginning process of trying to put together all the pieces of the puzzle that it will take to make this TBI Support Group a reality. So please give me a call if you are interested or pass this information on to a parent who might be interested. The best way to support our children is to support each other. So please give me a call.

To all you parents out there give; your child an extra hug and kiss tonight. Thank you, I look forward to hearing from you.

Mark Roesler-Begalke (608)787-1111

What's New?

Nicole Milliren

How can something so familiar feel so new?

My name is Nicole Milliren and I have accepted the clinical therapist position in the Children with Special Needs Unit. Eleanor Schafer previously held this position. I have been at La Crosse County for 13 ½ years so I have been working side-by-side and hand-in-hand with staff in this unit yet I am learning so many new things. My role previously was in the on-going unit in child protection as a social worker.



My professional background is a bachelor's degree in psychology, a bachelor's degree in social work and a master's degree in Counseling. I completed my clinical hours over a 2 ½ year period in clinical services at La Crosse County and I am a licensed therapist in Wisconsin. I am the co-chair of the Child Abuse Prevention task force and I am on the committee which brings together the Annual La Crosse Child Maltreatment Conference. I have done both of these roles for the past ten years.

Personally, I am an adoptive parent to two children through the foster care system of another county and a birth parent of one. The experience of being a foster and then adoptive parent has been challenging and maddening, yet priceless.

I come to this new role at La Crosse County with passion for working with children and families and specifically those struggling with attachment difficulties. I also love to work with parents about the realities of what we all face as parents. I live with the understanding that little separates me from those that I am working with and trying to help. We are all trying to enjoy life and raise our children with the strength, wisdom and energy that we have that day. I hope to be a support to my peers and the families we work with and to give all that we can to heal and help the children and youth whose struggles can seem overwhelming. We all have a hand in coming together as a community, as parents, as support people and just as human beings trying to be and live better than maybe we did yesterday.

I look forward to meeting you, reconnecting with those of you I already know and sitting down to listen and talk about where you are and where you would like to go. I look forward to partnering in the steps ahead as La Crosse County and the community continues to search for ways to support parents and to create ways to reach these children- wherever they are. I have hope for the ways that we will all be stretched this year to explore outside of ourselves a different way to see things, a different way to parent and a different way of being.

I look forward to what is ahead.

Lee Yang

Originally from Milwaukee, I moved to La Crosse in May of 2007 to find a better environment for my family. With a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice it was difficult for me to find work. After several jobs through Olsten Staffing, in February 2008, I was hired for my current position as a social worker for La Crosse County.



My experience is in working with children and teens. I was a youth coordinator for two non-profit organizations and an interim Executive Director for one of the organizations. I have a total of over 5 years working with children in a professional setting and a year experience running a non-profit agency.

As the new kid on the block I look forward in working with the families in La Crosse County. I hope that my experience and passion will be an asset to everyone I encounter.

Sara Halvorson

My name is Sara Halvorson and I joined the Children's with Special Needs, Unit II on April 7, 2008, as a Social Worker. I am excited to join this team and look forward to working with the children and families of LaCrosse County to assist in meeting their needs.

I have an undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse in Psychology and am working towards a graduate degree in Counselor Education at Winona State University. I have been employed by LaCrosse County for approximately four years. Previously, I was a Social Worker in Clinical Services, working with adults with chronic and persistent mental health issues.



Again, I am truly excited to be apart of this team. I hope my experience and energy will assist in fostering growth for the families I encounter.

La Crosse County Human Services
300 4th St. N.
La Crosse, WI 54601

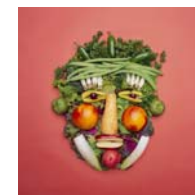
Announcements

Summer Food and Summer Fun!

All children 18 years and under are eligible to receive **FREE** meals.
No need to sign up or apply for the program—just bring yourself and enjoy tasty and nutritious meals!
Location and Times of Meal Services:



Emerson Elementary School	June 9—August 15
Franklin Elementary School	June 23—July 31
Note: No breakfast at Franklin between June 30 & July 3	
Hamilton Elementary School	June 9—August 15
Note: Breakfast at Hamilton available only between July 7 & July 31	
North Woods Elementary School	July 7—July 31
Lincoln Middle School (lunch only)	July 7—July 31
Logan High School	June 9—August 15
La Crosse Area YMCA	June 9—August 15



Breakfast will be served from 7:30 AM—8:30 AM

Normal lunch times are 11:30 AM—12:30 PM

For more information contact School District of La Crosse School Nutrition Office (608) 789-7625

Going Green



If there is anyone who receives this newsletter through the mail but does not read it or would prefer to receive it over email please contact Susie Becker at either 785-6284 or becker.susan@co.la-crosse.wi.us.

