

B the BEACON

July 2012



"A new beginning"

Anniversaries in July

Congratulations

to all of you who have
been here for 5 years
or more!

Deena Black	20
Barb Pedersen	20
Rhonda Buss	16
Christine Kirschbaum	16
Xang Chang	15
Karen Lieder	15
Patricia Luethi	14
Mary Schilt	14
Douglas Sessions	14
Emily Mujwid	13
Jason Cripe	12
Kimberly Purgett	11
Sharlyn Fellenz	10
David Jorsch	9
Christiann Curley	8
Joel Krause	8
Kamie Hedrington	7
Shannon Moberg	7
Nichole Johnson	6
Kenneth Mitchell	6
Karen Palmerton	6
Gail Szarkowitz	6
Linda Mandig Amundson	5
Krystal Clermont	5
Jessica Dodge	5
Mya Fellenz	5
Juan Gordillo	5
Guadalupe Sault	5
Wendy Strope	5

Aurora
community services

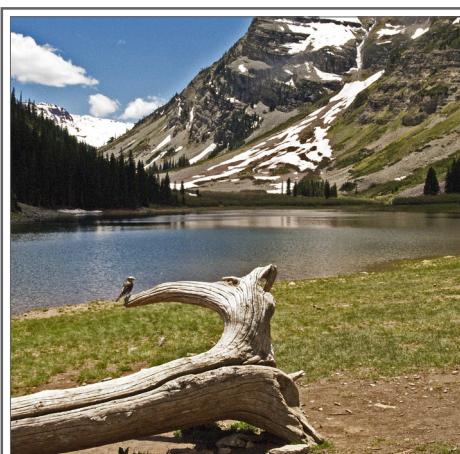
CEO Corner

by Dave Barnard

You would think I would learn after so many years . . . but obviously I remain an eternal optimist. I'm talking about listening to the weather person. I just returned from having the pleasure of attending our company picnics in Chippewa Falls and Wausau. In preparation for the picnics I checked the weather channel several times to confirm the forecast. Each time I checked it indicated mid-80's and sunny! For those of you who attended the Chippewa Falls picnic you know that they missed the mark by just a little – let's call it 30 degrees colder and a couple inches of rain more than they projected. I of course had packed according to forecast and had a pair of shorts and a short sleeved shirt.

Although the weather was a bit of a downer the energy of the picnic was still warm enough to keep smiles on our faces while enjoying our opportunity to be together.

I want to express a special thank you to our State Representative Kathy Bernier who was the only legislator who attended any of our picnics (they were all invited). Kathy attended in spite of being on crutches from a broken foot. Unable to drive she



had a ride drop her off and pick her up. We appreciate the fact that she cared enough to make an extreme effort to show up.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the Aurora Events team who did an amazing job of pulling together these two picnics as well as one in our LaCrosse region and one up north for our Aurora Community Counseling. All were very well attended and much enjoyed!

Fortunately the rains moved through Central Wisconsin so Wausau's picnic had beautiful weather where a great time was had by all. Over 450 attended the chilly and wet Chippewa picnic and over 250 partiers were in attendance in Wausau. As always it is so humbling to me to watch all of the consumers and Aurora staff as they interact and engage in a great time at an age old American tradition of the summer picnic. As I watched the goings on I recalled so many stories of individuals who were finally released from the constraints of institutional life and have now found their freedom in their community. I was hit with a pang of sorrow as I thought of those whom are having their lives uprooted to create budgetary savings for the State. These individuals were promised years ago that the "State of Wisconsin cares for its own." These individuals believed they would be able to live out that promise. As we know now the State is renegeing on that promise for many and their lives are changing dramatically.

As often happens when I contemplate my imagination begins to wander. I found myself thinking of the Dr. Seuss Christmas story of "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas." As I watched the revelry of the picnickers, the dancing and the smiling faces, I found myself envisioning the end of that story where even after the Grinch had stolen

Continued next page

all of the gifts right down to the last “roast beast” from the fridge, all of the Who’s in Whoville gathered in the town center and sang songs and celebrated in spite of what the Grinch had done. As the State, via the MCO’s, does what it is doing through budget cutting the spirit within all of those who have finally found their freedom in their community continues to revel in that freedom. I assure you Aurora will continue to fight the good fight in an effort to ensure that

as many as possible will continue to live the lives they have known and we will call out those who try to take that away.

Thank you for all that you do to help make the lives of those we serve so great! Together we will make a positive change one life at a time.

Dave

Employee of the Second Quarter

by The Culture Team



Jessica Woestehoff is currently Program Manager II at operation 007, and is what our team likes to call a true team player, in every sense of the term. Her peers in Menomonie appreciate that she is only a call away when I am hard to reach.

Jessica sees herself as a true professional, you can tell in the way she handles herself in challenging situations.

Jessica sets goals and is always working toward them; confident enough to challenge the system, and open to learning through every experience. She is focused on her consumers and staff, as well as the overall well-being of all consumers in Menomonie. She is often calling the other homes asking how she can help and has been extremely helpful in training new PMs. Guardians often praise her work, and emphasize the quality environment she sets forth for both the consumers and staff.

Jessica is meticulous in her medical documentation, holding all staff in the home to the same standard. She is willing to come in on her days off, even taking over scheduling on the weekends from home. The call center has come to appreciate and count on Jessica's skills, as she can be a miracle worker with those hard to fill shifts.

As a trainer, she is second to none. She schedules herself extra hours to assure that Hoyer is used properly, and is even willing to jump in and allow the staff to put the brief on her if they need extra hands on experience.

A big congrats to our teammate as she is awarded the Employee of the Quarter.

Safety team - Safe summer-time fun in the sun!

by Elizabeth Kuehn

Summers in Wisconsin are notoriously short lived, so we often take every opportunity to bask in the warmth of the sun shine. When the snow disappears, green grass, flowers, bright leaves and sun appear. The seasonal change brings forth new light into our day-to-day living; outdoor activities, the foods we eat, vacations, exercise routines, and best of all, our mood are all (more or less) changed for the better!

Aside from skin tone, or the temperature outside, there are many factors that affect your risk of skin damage and heat exhaustion. It's important to be mindful of these factors while caring for yourself, your loved ones, and the consumers we care for. According to the American Cancer Society, you need to be especially careful if you:

- Have lots of moles
- Have fair skin, light hair and light eyes
- Have certain autoimmune diseases
- Have had an organ transplant
- Take sulfa or other antibiotic drugs
- Take anti-inflammatory drugs
- Take tricyclic antidepressants

The best way to practice "Sun Safety" is to "Sit! Sip! Slip! Slop! Slap! and Wrap!" These six easy steps work in tandem, and provide the best protection when used together.

- Sit in the shade
- Sip on water
- Slip on a shirt
- Slop on sunscreen
- Slap on a hat
- Wrap on sun glasses

Enjoy the summer warmth and have fun in the sun!

A Day in the Life

by Scott Jacobs

Karen Kaufman, a licensed marriage and family therapist in Aurora Community Counseling's northern region, recently helped with field trials for the new DSM V (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual). The DSM acts as a diagnostic tool for therapists, psychiatrists and psychologists alike, and is a very important tool in their kit.

As a member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, Karen responded to a request seeking MFT's willing to conduct detailed diagnostic surveys that served as the field trials for the new DSM V, before its final publication.

Karen said the process was "interesting," and involved her recruiting several willing clients who, together with Karen, completed very detailed diagnostic surveys.

After graduating from UW-Stout with her master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy, Karen was a life coach (this is still a part of her practice), did grief work in hospice programs, as well as individual, couples and family counseling. She has been with Aurora Community Counseling for the last four years, seeing people in our Spooner office.

Thank you, Karen, for your continued good work and for giving back to our profession.



Consumer Spotlight

by Brian Anderson



This month, the Consumer Spotlight focuses on a very remarkable man: Jason, at OP #116! Jason is originally from the area, and grew up under the care of his grandma, with whom Jason is quite close. Jason has been with Aurora for about 10 years, most of which were spent at OP #116. For a time, he was at one of the OPs in Black River Falls, but moved into 116 on only its second day of operation!

As far as activities go, Jason is a busy man! He was heavily involved in the Horse Barn, and has been dubbed the "Horse Whisperer" for his skill and tact with the horses. Jason has trained in over 30 horses, and has his own named Romeo. Romeo was a rescue, and was not a fan of men; undaunted, however, Jason was able to befriend and train Romeo, and to this day is one of the only guys the horse likes! Aside from horses, he has a girlfriend, and enjoys spending as much time as possible with her. You can find them at the mall shopping, just hanging out, as well as countless other things that a fine couple does!

Aside from being a great guy, Jason also is a hero; having help save a staff member's life at the house. The staff member, who was diabetic, began to slip into diabetic shock. Recognizing the severity of the situation, Jason informed the other staff on duty of the emergency, and was instrumental in making sure help arrived on time!

Jason is a very independent man, who makes strides each and every day to become more self-sufficient. His is a story that we can all take inspiration from; compassionate, hard working, and just a plain awesome guy, Jason embodies all that we strive to accomplish, and does so with flying colors!

Recipe: Easy Independence Day Flag Cake



Summer is here and 4th of July is right around the corner! Fireworks and food are a must to celebrate our great country and to be thankful for all we have. And why not celebrate with a fun flag cake that is easy to make and is super delicious!

Safety team Incentive

Your Safety Team is thrilled to roll out a new "**Scratch for Safety**" Incentive. Beginning in August, your team will have the opportunity to win \$100, \$50, \$25, or \$5 Wal-Mart gift cards, or an Aurora "trinket." You must be thinking, "How do I play?"

It's easy...your team will be rewarded for their safety efforts. At each of your site's team meetings in August, September, and October, your team will review the number of "First Reports of Injury" at your site. If there were no "submitted claims" (to our insurance carrier) from your site, during the month prior to the meeting, each person in attendance will receive a scratch off card. For example, if your site had zero submitted claims in the month of July, you would receive a scratch off card at your August team meeting; no submitted claims in August – your team gets scratch off cards at the September meeting, and so on. You have the opportunity to win three times! Your ticket will designate the prize, should you be one of our lucky winners. You must be in attendance at your team meeting to win, and can bring your winning ticket to your local office to collect your prize.

Prize winners will be highlighted in an upcoming edition of the Beacon, so stay tuned. Also, stay safe so you can be the one highlighted!

What you need:

4 cups fresh strawberries
1 pkg. (12 oz.) frozen prepared pound cake, thawed, cut into 14 slices
1-1/3 cups blueberries, divided
1 tub (12 oz.) COOL WHIP Whipped Topping, thawed

Make it:

SLICE 1 cup strawberries; halve remaining strawberries.

COVER bottom of 13x9-inch dish with cake slices; top with sliced strawberries and 1 cup blueberries. Spread COOL WHIP over berries.

ARRANGE strawberry halves and remaining blueberries on COOL WHIP to resemble a US flag. Keep refrigerated.

Alternative:

If you don't like pound cake (and if you need to refrigerate it over night, it can get mushy) you can substitute with angel food cake. You can make the box kind, or buy one and shred it up and put it on the bottom of the cake pan.

Life Photo of the Month



If you have any questions or comments about the Beacon, please send them to: Beacon@AuroraServices.com or mail to: Stavroula at Aurora Community Services, P.O. Box 68, Menomonie, WI 54751.