



Progressive Community Services, Inc.

607 Green Meadow Drive • Verona, Wisconsin 53593 • (608) 848-8305 • Fax (608) 205-4898



Supporting people with disabilities in communities throughout Wisconsin.

Letter from the Board of Directors *By Andrew Porter, Chair*

According to Webster's Dictionary, the definition of an advocate is a person who argues for or supports a cause or policy; a person who works for a cause or group. We are proud to work with the many advocates supported by Progressive Community Services (PCS). There are many ways to be an advocate. Self advocacy is an important part of our self-directed system. It is imperative that people are able to express their desired outcomes so their goals can be achieved. Systemic advocates are also needed. With the changing terrain of long-term care, our voices need to be heard. Thanks to those of you who have participated in this process by contacting your elected officials. It has made a difference! More work will need to be done over the years and PCS will stand with you.

Thanks for letting our PCS staff into your lives. We honor the responsibility of being on your teams. I hope you enjoy your summer.

Hello, everyone! My name is Robin Kerl. I have been working with PCS for about 10 years. My support broker is Brenda. I began working with Shannel Trudeau-Yancey through the PCS Supported Self-Employment Program to start my own business about three years ago. I have recently written a book that tells all about the injury that I sustained several years ago. My book is titled *Too Strong to Die* and is available for purchase on my website www.toostrongtodie.com. I also enjoy doing speaking engagements to provide inspirational words of faith and encouragement for people touched by domestic violence or life's set backs. I think you will find my book very inspirational and helpful to read if you are dealing with a hard time in your life. God Bless Everyone.



Welcome!



Hi, I'm Anna Halverson. I am so excited to be a part of the PCS staff. I started here last June and it really is my dream job! I moved to Wisconsin from Washington, D.C. where I worked with kids with autism spectrum disorders. Before that, I received a B.F.A in Theater Performance and a minor in Psychology from Ohio University. After growing up as an Army brat and moving all over the country, I finally feel at home here in Madison. Once we settled in Madison, I ran a tutoring program at East High School for a year as an AmeriCorps volunteer. Then, I earned my master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from UW-Madison. In my final year of graduate school, I became a mom to my daughter, Lucy. She just turned 1 and is trying really hard to walk! In my free time, I love hanging out with my husband, daughter, and our two dogs.



Hi, I'm Lisa Karau and I'm very excited about recently becoming a Support Broker for PCS. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Social Work from UW-Oshkosh and then got a master's degree in Rehabilitation Psychology from UW-Madison. I worked as a social worker in Sauk County for the last 19 years. My experience is as a Long-Term Care Social Worker, and I recently worked at the Aging and Disability Resource Center. I am looking forward to again providing ongoing support to individuals with developmental disabilities in the community. I have lived in the Baraboo area for the last 10 years with my daughter. I enjoy watching her baseball, soccer or basketball games. We like spending time outdoors with my significant other, Ken, and our dog Mickey, and visiting family in near Wausau.

Facing Big Opportunities with Big Enthusiasm: A Year in the Life of Alex Venne



Alex Venne and Tim Shriver, Chairman of Special Olympics, in Washington, D.C.

Alex Venne has had quite a year so far. And we're only six months in! In addition to working at five job sites coordinated by Advance Employment, Alex's weeks are filled with the usual, long-standing activities of a guy who loves all sports: Special Olympics, book club, friends, family, his 3 dogs and 2 cats, meeting new people, theater, and just about every opportunity that comes his way. But so far, 2016 has delivered Alex some unforgettable experiences that have enriched his life (and added a lot of miles!).

Capitol Hill Visit - February 10, 2016: In February, Alex was invited to visit Washington, D.C. to meet with members of Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation, as well as Tim Shriver, Chairman of Special Olympics, to discuss how Special Olympics has impacted his life. "I started playing sports with Special Olympics when I was 9 years old. I am now 25 years old, and I think I will be playing sports until I am 89 years old! I started out in bowling and track and field. Now, I compete in basketball, softball, volleyball, flag football, and soccer, and I also train in golf. I am busy with Special Olympics all year round.

I have learned how to be a team player and a good sport. I think you should always keep trying. I have learned that it doesn't matter if you don't win all the time...you still have to shake hands and say, 'good game.' Kind of like life. You can't always get what you want, my mom always tells me. Also, I have so many friends because of Special Olympics. They are like my family, and my life would be so boring without them. I loved visiting D.C. and I was excited every moment that I was there. We went through the underground tunnels, saw the Capitol building which was being repaired, and the cafeteria. I think I met 1,000 people and shook all their hands. The cleaning lady gave me a U.S. flag, and the taxi driver gave me a Jamaican flag."

February 12, 2016 - Unified Sports Rivalry, Al McGuire Center, Marquette University: Alex was selected to play basketball at this first-time event. Special Olympics Wisconsin athletes from the Madison and Milwaukee areas joined together on the same team with students from the Special Olympics College programs at Marquette University and University of Wisconsin to compete in the Marquette vs. UW-Madison Special Olympics Unified Sports Rivalry Basketball Game at Marquette University's Al McGuire Center.

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PCS 2015 Annual Financial Report

INCOME

Dane County	\$975,984
Misc. Income	\$51,148

EXPENSES

Program	\$882,185
Management and General	\$138,769

NET ASSETS	\$6,646
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Thank You for Your Generous Support!



Your tax-deductible donations (#888-800) allow this fund to help people with disabilities to live quality lives. If you are a state or county employee, please consider giving to Progressive Community Services through the Combined Campaign of Dane County this fall!

Please consider sending a contribution to:

Progressive Community Services
607 Green Meadow Drive
Verona, WI 53593

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A Year in the Life of Alex Venne

April 8-9, 2016 - USA Hockey National Disabled Hockey Festival, Detroit, MI: Alex, as a member of Wisconsin's only special needs hockey team, the Wisconsin Timber Wolves, traveled to Detroit, Michigan, to participate in the USA Hockey National Hockey Festival. Over 90 teams from all over the country attended. Alex has been a part of the Wisconsin Timber Wolves team since it was formed around nine years ago.



April 22-24, 2016 - 2016 NIRSA National Basketball Championships, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH: Our state was selected to send a Unified Sports team to this national tournament, and Alex was invited to be part of the team. They traveled to Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio for two nights and three days.



Check out our website
www.pcsdane.org

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE
PCS ANNUAL PICNIC
ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
FROM 4-6 P.M.
AT OLIN TURVILLE PARK!**

A reminder postcard will be sent in early August.

