



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 PCS Board Chair

By Andrew Porter

Our staff and board members strive to internalize each word in our name—“Progressive,” “Community,” and “Services.” We’re innovative with regard to support paradigms and new technology. Over the past year we’ve reduced printed paper by using iPads for typing notes, reviewing documents, and recording signatures. Being more efficient with administrative tasks allows us to focus on the other two words: Community and Services. Our staff can spend more time with the people they support, develop plans for achieving meaningful goals, and continue to deepen relationships. Our desire is to spend more time facilitating people’s connections to their communities, and less time with administration. Every day we endeavor to live up to our name and we thank you for selecting us.

New PCS Staff



Hello, my name is **Ellen Merker**, and I started working with PCS in October 2012. Some of my past work and internship experiences include respite care with UCP and Family Support and Resource Center, personal care work with Community Living Alliance, organizing disability advocacy events with In Control Wisconsin and the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, disability resource intern at MATC, and behavioral consultant intern with TIES. I grew up in Oregon, Wisconsin, and attended UW-Madison, receiving a B.S. and M.S. in rehabilitation psychology. In my spare time I play tennis, and have played on an ultimate Frisbee team for the last few years. I am hoping to do my first half marathon next summer. I enjoy pretty much anything that gets me outside! I am enjoying my new position as a support broker with PCS and look forward to continuing to develop my skills.



My name is **Matt Novinska** and I have been a support broker in Dane County for over 10 years. I began working for PCS in January of 2013! I have worked in Human Services for almost 20 years, both in residential and vocational settings. Coming to PCS has been a wonderful experience for me and I’m proud to be part of this agency!”



Hello, my name is **Erin Moonlight**, I am happy to say I have been with PCS as a support broker since January 1, 2013. Although I am a little new to PCS, I have been a broker since 2003, and prior to that was a system-wide case manager beginning in 1996. As a case manager I was an advocate for the people I worked for, very much like a broker. But now, as a PCS broker I have colleagues to support me and a boss who acts as a mentor and challenges me to do my best.

I love Madison and have lived on the same block (in rental apartments until buying my home in 1990) for almost 33 years. I have roots here and that is one of the values I bring to my work as a broker; long-term relationships, growing together with the people I serve, and knowing everyone’s history. I believe a great deal of who we are is because of where we came from. I try to ensure that everyone I work for keeps their history and stays a full, complete person with loves, hopes, dreams, losses, and successes. My favorite part of being a broker is meeting and knowing the people I work for. I am honored that they trust me enough to let me into their lives, accept my support, and show me every day that life is worth living no matter what the circumstances.

I have two daughters who are now grown, at ages 31 and 21. They are blessings and I am honored to be their mom. The world is a better place because they are in it. When I am not working I love to spend time with them and with my partner and husband, Tomas. I love books and reading but sit still so seldom that I “read” most of my books as audio books. I love to paint and have a 7 ft by 14 ft mural in my backyard that I created two years ago. I love horses and riding, although

currently I am not doing any riding. I love walking and canoeing and going for bike rides on the tandem bike with Tomas. I love to dance, and Tomas and I take regular dance classes together for fun (we don’t really get much better when we take a class but we do really have fun). I also love bird watching. Seeing birds is a tricky hobby for someone with my low vision. But as I have learned from many of the folks I work for, you can and should follow your passion and not let the challenges stop you.

My goals for this summer:

- Learn 3 new bird voices.
- Rent the paddleboat at the lake Wingra dock that looks like a giant swan and paddle the lake.
- Dance a lot.
- And get my PCS data base information 100% up to date.



Hello, my name is **Brenda Oakes** and I am a new support broker at Progressive Community Services. I am originally from northern Minnesota, but have lived in the Madison area for about 18 years. I have three grown children: a daughter in Madison, a son in North Carolina and a daughter in California. Sometimes it is difficult to keep the time zones straight. However, I do have very nice places to visit, so I will not complain too much. I also have a granddaughter who’s 6 months old. It is everything they say about being a grandparent; you can always go home to sleep. I have worked in the human services field for over 20 years, most recently in the vocational setting in Dane County. I have had a variety of responsibilities, such as job coach, case manager, job developer, and staff supervisor. However, most importantly I have been an advocate for people with developmental disabilities. I am looking forward to continuing to be an advocate and more in my new role as a PCS support broker.



Hi! My name is **Anne Spires** and I am a new Transition Coordinator for Progressive Community Services. I am originally from the suburbs of Chicago. I moved to Chicago

to attend the University of Illinois at Chicago, where I attended classes until I earned my degree and became an English teacher. After a year as a teacher in Chicago, and my beautiful daughter, Rowen, attending first grade, we moved to Madison with my husband, Bryan, and never looked back! Once in Madison I attended Edgewood College and earned my special education certification and then master's degree. I taught at Monona Grove High School for five years as their transition coordinator. In this capacity I helped students with developmental disabilities create the lives they wanted as adults. This included work, exercise, and social activities. The move to PCS as a transition coordinator seemed like a natural continuation. I've enjoyed this first year at PCS, learning new skills and using old ones to help my clients and their families move smoothly from school supports into their adult lives.



For the Love of Gardening

By *Andrea Romine*

Is Brittany Romine of Stoughton outstanding in her field, or out standing in her field? Actually she is both.

Brittany is the owner of Tiger Lily Seeds, an urban agriculture microenterprise, devoted to the sustainable production of native Wisconsin plants, to sell the seeds to commercial growers and the home garden enthusiast.

She is outstanding, as she started an agricultural business during the summer of 2012, one of the hottest on record, and was able to maintain her garden of over 3,000 individual plants.

She also has to stand out in a field—actually it is more like two drainage ditches—along the Yahara River in Stoughton, to grow her crops of 20 plus types of native plants. Brittany tends to her plants, with her vocational assistant, volunteers, and her family, growing beautiful flowers, hand harvesting and cleaning the seeds. She then packages seeds to sell, grows and sells plants from seed, sells

cards she makes of photos taken of her plants, and starts the whole process over.

Brittany was approached to determine her interest in the possibility of using property owned by the city of Stoughton that was adjacent to an apartment complex built by Movin' Out, to grow a rain garden. The feasibility study had been done already by Madison Environmental Group and PCS. Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries provided invaluable information as well as a willingness to purchase seed. Britt's support broker, Pat, brought along a whole group of volunteers. Her aunt did her logo design and Tiger Lily Seeds was born! Britt's participation in the Supported Self-Employment Program was a success!

It has turned out to be a perfect match for Brittany. An avid wildlife lover and environmentally conscious, Brittany's skills in fine detail work and using sustainable practices to protect the environment went hand in hand. She has also stepped outside of her shell quite a bit, tolerating heat and bugs and other people "in her business." The plants are not the only thing that has grown.



Fit Club

Fit Club is a social group designed for brokers and their consumers to engage in activities that require a moderate amount of walking. Physical activity doesn't need to be complicated. Something as simple as a daily brisk walk can help you live a healthier life. For example, regular brisk walking can help you: maintain a healthy weight; prevent or manage various conditions, including heart disease, high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes; strengthen your bones; lift your mood; and improve your balance and coordination!

The goal of Fit Club is for people to interact and share resources and stories about how they stay fit and any type of fitness journey they have been on, whether it be weight loss, eating healthier, or increasing daily activity. The group meets once a month in various settings throughout Madison. In June we walked the trails of Pheasant Branch Marsh in Middleton and members had a good time interacting with others and enjoying the scenic trails. In July we plan to walk through the Madison zoo! In Fit Club we don't think of it as working out. Think of exercising as doing something you enjoy!

Members are encouraged to get to know each other and perhaps build a friendship away from the group where they could engage in activities on their own and share with other members fun and exciting ways to stay healthy. The participants of the club have different fitness abilities, but everyone is included no matter where they're at on their journey to a more active lifestyle. Fit Club is not intended to impose values on other people, only share resources on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle and encourage each other! See you at Fit Club!

| PCS 2012 Annual Financial Report | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------|
| INCOME | | |
| Dane County | | \$793,685 |
| Misc. Income | | 42,630 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Program | | 731,306 |
| Management and General | | 119,844 |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| | | -14,223 |

Mai Dream Funds

Throughout our lives there are crisis situations where funds need to be immediately available. There are also times when we all need a little extra to achieve a lifelong dream. The Mai Dream Foundation has funds for both situations for all PCS clients. The Mai Dream Foundation was established in memory of Tague Mai and his life. To gain access to these funds, ask your support broker to complete the Mai Dream Foundation request form. Your broker will let you know if the request was approved as soon as possible (usually within a month).

Thank you for your generous support!



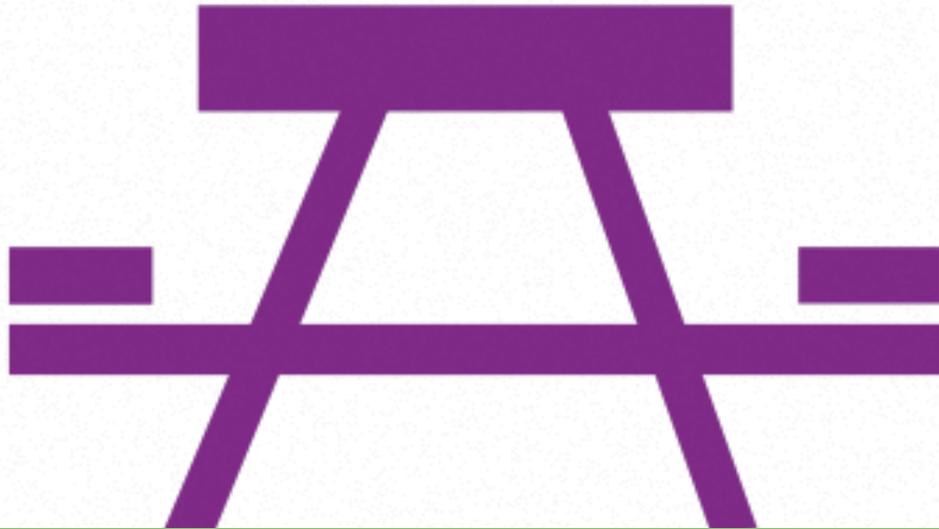
Wendler Family Fund donated \$3,000!

Your tax-deductible donations (#888-800) allow this fund to continue to allow people with disabilities

to live quality lives. Please consider sending a contribution to:

Progressive Community Services
607 Green Meadow Drive, Verona, WI 53593

Check out our website
www.pcsdane.org



**JOIN US FOR THE PCS ANNUAL PICNIC ON
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27 FROM 4–6 P.M.
AT OLIN TURVILLE PARK!**

More details to follow.