

# onbalance



## Summer Rec Expansion

In our third year of managing the Ozaukee County Special Summer Recreation Program we were able to add another component of the program by offering opportunities for children age 16 and 17.

Under the original program which has been operating for the past 33 years, children with developmental disabilities between the ages of 5 and 15 are eligible to participate. For the first time, we were able to offer recreational opportunities for children who had aged out of the previous program. These new opportunities were geared more specifically for the older children and additional support was provided to meet their needs.

## Kids Benefit from the Kapco Charitable Challenge

The expansion of the summer recreation program was possible in large part through the Kapco Charitable Challenge. The “challenge” raised \$3,200 for the program which was essential for its operation this first year. Students from Concordia University in Mequon raised money through a variety of activities with Kapco’s help. The \$1,600 raised by the students was matched by Thrivent for Lutherans.

In 2009, there will be several more children eligible for this expansion. However, donations will be required to make the program possible.

For additional information on the Kapco Charitable Challenge, visit their website [www.kapcoinc.com](http://www.kapcoinc.com).

### Letter from the Director:

This is always the hard part – asking for money. It seems especially hard this year. Everyone is struggling and searching for ways to cut their expenses. It is difficult to continue to support others when our own expenses increase while our income is stagnant or decreasing.

Unfortunately, that is the same situation that nonprofits or charitable organizations are in. We continue to do our best to reduce the costs associated with providing services. For example, this year we reduced the amount of driving but we still saw a 40% increase in our fuel costs. These ongoing challenges drive us to think in new ways, to find more efficient methods, to reach out for support whenever we can.

We never forget that through all of this we get to devote our time and energy to some of the most remarkable people in our community. We get to spend our days side by side with people who look to us for support and give us more than we could ever imagine.

Please help us in any way that you can – ideas, time, or donations!

Thanks so much for your support, your time and your consideration!

Craig Modahl  
Executive Director

## A Second Grant from WHEDA

In 2008, Balance received its second grant from the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority to improve two of our homes. This \$10,000 grant allowed us to replace the flooring in two homes that serve individuals with developmental disabilities in Grafton.

The homes had flooring that changed from room to room. Some rooms had carpeting while others were tile or linoleum. The project involved removing all of the flooring from most rooms in each house and replacing it with wood laminate flooring. This eliminated most transitions making the homes safer for the residents.

In 2007 we received a grant for \$10,000 to replace the windows and doors in these homes. This support allows us to provide safe, comfortable and affordable homes for the people we support.

*You can shop for your favorite things and still support Balance. Here are three ways:*

1. If you shop for groceries at **Pick N Save** stores, please designate Balance, Inc. as the recipient or your participation in the "We Care" program. The agency number for Balance is **50500**.
2. If you shop online, start by going to [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com). Designate Balance, Inc. as the recipient of your shopping and online searching. You can shop at most of your favorite retailers through their service. A percentage of your purchases will go to Balance.
3. If you are looking for locally made handicraft items, visit the Balance booth at the **Heart N Home** consignment shop in downtown Port Washington.

## We Are Moving . . . Once Again!

For those who have been familiar with Balance for many years, you know that we have a habit of not staying in one place too long. Well, we are again on the move. For the past several years we have had a wonderful home at the Family Enrichment Center in Grafton. We have been sharing the space with several other nonprofit organizations in this beautiful facility.

However, a little more than a year ago we realized that we needed additional space for our programs and office. The Family Enrichment Center was fully occupied and no space was available. After searching Ozaukee County for several months and looking at all of our options, we came across a space in Saukville that will meet our needs for the foreseeable future.

Our new location in Conservancy Court on Hwy 33 will have about 1,000 square feet of additional space for our services and offices. We will be leasing this space at a very favorable rate.

We will continue to use our building on Webster Street in Port Washington for our day services program. That location is at capacity during the day and our new space will allow for additional services.

*New address:*

**620 E. Green Bay Ave. #122  
Saukville, WI 53080**

*New phone number:*

**262-268-6811**

*Our move will be completed by the middle of December.*

## United Way of Northern Ozaukee Community Impact Grant

This summer Balance received a grant from the United Way of Northern Ozaukee through their Community Impact Grant program. This program provides one time grants to organizations that collaborate with other resources to address community needs.

The grant to Balance has helped us develop a partnership program that connects individuals with developmental disabilities with community organizations. These organizations take on the responsibility of specific supports the individual requires to live in the community. For example, a local church group partners with an individual in their community and commits to assisting that individual every other week with their grocery shopping. Balance will provide the training and support to the church group while they provide the service.

By developing a number of these partnerships in the community, Balance will be able to reduce the amount of paid support required and increase the number of people that can be supported in the community.

If your community group would be interested in exploring a partnership with an individual in your community, please contact Craig at 262-268-6811 or [cmodahl@balanceinc.org](mailto:cmodahl@balanceinc.org).

To get more information about our services visit our website at:

[www.balanceinc.org](http://www.balanceinc.org)

*(Yah, we know the website needs work. That's still on the "to do" list! Any volunteers?)*

*When money is tight,  
you can still make a difference!!  
How about volunteering?*

**Community Assistance** – We can match volunteers with individuals we support in the community. The volunteers can help with various tasks such as shopping, cleaning or even going out for coffee or a movie. All you need is time and a compassionate heart.

**Handy People** – If you can repair a door handle, paint a room, trim bushes or fix a dripping faucet, we can use your help. We won't call you every day or every week, but it would be great to have a couple of people who could help out two or three times a year. Kind of a "Fix-it Bank" of handy people.

**Summer Recreation Program** – We look for at least 30 volunteers to help each summer with the children's program. This is a great opportunity for high school and college age volunteers to have a great time with some truly exceptional kids. The program runs during the month of July mostly in the afternoons.

For more information on these and other opportunities, please contact us at 262-268-6811 or at [info@balanceinc.org](mailto:info@balanceinc.org).

The United Way of Northern Ozaukee continues to support the Wednesday Night Club. This is a gathering of individuals with developmental disabilities who live in their own apartments throughout Ozaukee County.

They come together to share a meal and share their experiences and ideas about living in the community with each other. The support of the United Way makes this program possible.

## Family Care Brings Opportunities and Challenges

During this past year many regions in the state of Wisconsin made one of the most significant changes in the way they provide services in more than thirty years. If you have been involved in the service system you are likely very familiar with this change. If you are not involved in the service system, you have likely not heard anything about this major change.

During 2008 many counties, including Ozaukee and Washington transitioned from a county run system to a managed care system. This means that services are no longer provided through the county. They are instead provided by a managed care organization that covers a larger region of the state. This system is called Family Care. The promises of Family Care include the elimination of waiting lists, an increase the choices people have for services, and reduced costs. That is a very tall order.

For some individuals with developmental disabilities Family Care has meant that they may get services that previously had only waiting lists. For others already receiving services, they may have find changes in the services they have been receiving.

This transition year has been a real challenge for the managed care organizations, providers and the individuals being served. The scope of the change is daunting. For local providers such as Balance, the new reimbursement system for services is taking three to four times as long as under the previous system. Reimbursement rates are stagnant or reduced.

We will continue to work in the best interest of those we serve and seek every avenue possible to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. With your help we can assure that Family Care will succeed.

For additional information on Family Care, visit the website at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/managedltc/>.

### ***The Final Appeal (for this year!)***

*Please consider a contribution to Balance, Inc.* We depend on your support now more than ever. For the past 17 years we have been working to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities in Ozaukee and Washington County. We now serve more than 80 individuals each year. We have 55 staff members who see their jobs as more than a paycheck. The personal connection they make with each individual they serve changes their job into a mission and a passion. Without their commitment and dedication we would not be able to carry out the mission of the organization. During 2008 we also had more than 2,200 hours of volunteer support.

Please send your donation in the enclosed envelope. You can mark it as a general contribution or specifically for the Special Summer Recreation Program or the Balance, Inc. Endowment Fund. If you are unable to make a contribution at this time, ask about volunteering.

We hope that you have a joy filled holiday season and a great start to the New Year.

***Thank You!!***