

# onbalance

NEWSLETTER OF BALANCE, INC. DEC. 2005



Balancing *support*  
and *independence*  
for **QUALITY LIVING.**

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# *From the* Director...

It has been a difficult year in many parts of the world and here in the U.S. Natural disasters have demanded our attention and resources. Each of these events has demonstrated the extent to which we are mutually dependent and the generosity that people extend to each other. As we see the events unfolding on the news, we feel a genuine longing from within to help in some way. We reach into our pockets and donate what we can. We gather items that may be of use to someone else. We think about ways in which we can give of our time and talents.

When we have watched these disasters happen in the world, we can't help but wonder what has happened to those who have developmental disabilities in such times. Did they have a place to go? Was there someone who assisted them to have their needs met? We have thought about these questions often leading us to develop plans of our own in case similar needs arise here.

This year it is especially hard to ask for your financial support. It is likely that you have already made significant contributions to those in need. We want to thank you for your generosity. If you are able to share something to support those with developmental disabilities in Ozaukee and Washington counties, we encourage your contribution. If you are not able to assist financially, maybe you can give in another way.

We are putting together an auxiliary board to assist with special events and fund development. This will be a volunteer group that you could be a part of and assist with your special talents. 2006 will mark the 15th Anniversary of Balance, Inc. We hope to have some special events recognizing this celebration. Please consider joining us as a volunteer. A few hours of your time in the coming year would be a tremendous gift.

Thank you for your support of Balance and those individuals that we serve. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,

*Craig Modahl*

Craig Modahl  
Executive Director

# Volunteers

*Make A*

# Difference

**A**gain in 2005 Balance was fortunate to have teams of volunteers complete projects and assist participants in activities. The largest events were in coordination with the United Way Days of Caring program. Two groups of volunteers from Rockwell Automation assisted during the month of September. One group made major landscape improvements to our homes in Grafton. Trimming and planting bushes, replacing mulch and painting interior ceilings made for a busy and productive day.

A second group from Rockwell helped with a picnic for our adult day service participants at Lime Kiln Park in Grafton. The group helped to serve a meal, facilitated games and helped to clean up afterward. It was a day of great fun!

Also in September a group of students from Marquette University spent a Saturday painting at our building in Port Washington. Following the renovations that were completed in the spring, this group repainted the front of the building and the new addition on the back of the building.



Several family members, board members and staff also volunteered their time to complete painting and landscaping projects at the building in Port Washington.

Volunteer time helps significantly to reduce costs and improve services at Balance. Just over 100 hours of volunteer time was provided by these groups this year. We greatly appreciate the time and effort of all of our volunteers. Thank you!



# Endowment

In 2004, the board of directors established the Balance, Inc. Endowment Fund. The fund is being developed in order to provide long term funding for Balance to continue its mission. The fund will allow Balance to provide services and opportunities for programming beyond what is currently funded through its service contracts.

The fund is being managed by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and will be exclusively for Balance, Inc. services and programs.

Contributions to the fund are encouraged. Any amount is welcome. Contributions will be added to the investment principle helping us grow Balance for the future.

# Staff Information

Balance, Inc. is fortunate to have many dedicated employees. The work is challenging, often difficult and rewarding in many ways. It takes a combination of many gifts to effectively provide the support that the people we serve require.

Several staff members have remained committed to this work for several years:

14 years	Sandy & Craig Modahl Wally Froemming
12 years	Mark Farver Allison Skinner
9 years	Donna Pederson Patrice Wellner
7 years	Diane Biever
6 years	Peg Moyer Amy Nice
5 years	Chris Reichert

Thanks to all of those who devote time and talent to improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

# Training Sessions

In 2005, Balance continued to partner with the Waisman Center for Community Training and the Ozaukee County Arc to provide free or low cost training opportunities to direct care workers, families, counselors and case managers. During the year several sessions were held covering topics such as ethics and boundaries, epilepsy, person centered planning, aging and developmental disabilities, power and control issues and several sessions on housing related topics. These sessions were

attended by more than 150 people from many different settings.

In the winter and spring of 2006 Balance will be providing additional training sessions. Information will be available on our website [www.balanceinc.org](http://www.balanceinc.org).

The Waisman Center is located in Madison and conducts training and research programs throughout the state. The Ozaukee County Arc provided the funding for these programs.



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