

# onbalance

NEWSLETTER OF BALANCE, INC. NOV. 2004

## United Way Day of Caring *Projects*

On September 15, 2004, two groups of volunteers gave of their time, talent and inspiring energy to improve our facilities and connect with those we support. A group of thirteen volunteers came from **Rockwell Automation** to paint the interior of our Pace building in Port Washington. Not only did they complete that task, but they were able to uncover bushes and flowers that had been lost to weeds outside of the building. Their hard work was impressive and greatly appreciated.

In the evening, the board of directors of the **United Way of Northern Ozaukee** joined people served by Balance in our Supported Living Program. They helped prepare the meal and joined in the evening activities that are a part of our Wednesday Night Club. This club is an opportunity to gather as a group, develop new skills, problem solve with friends and share information. The Wednesday Night Club is funded by the United Way of Northern Ozaukee. ■



*Thank you to both groups.  
We look forward to  
participating in the  
United Way Week of Caring  
in the years to come.*

## *Mission* Statement

Balance, Inc. is an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for persons with developmental disabilities.

This is achieved through positive, proactive involvement that empowers each individual in determining the direction of his or her life. We provide services to individuals which promote

and respond to their personal goals, desires, needs and dreams.

We provide services to the community by enhancing the communities' capacity to embrace persons with developmental disabilities. We also strive to provide services in a cost-effective manner that minimizes financial burden and maximizes potential. ■

# From the director:

**Balance, Inc.** has been providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities in Ozaukee and Washington Counties for over 13 years. In September of 1991, we started working with two individuals in Saukville. We did not anticipate the need for services at the local level would develop into an organization that serves over fifty people. Although we continue to receive requests from outside of these counties, we have committed to remaining small in size and local in focus.

Managing the changes that come with this type of growth continues to challenge us and cause us to reflect on our purpose and the people who have brought us here.

These changes have meant a new level of responsibility to individuals, families and the community. We need to balance the many competing demands faced by nonprofit community organizations - providing the highest level of community supports possible without imposing an unmanageable financial burden on the citizens of the community.

For Balance, a part of these changes is **the need to reach out to the community more actively.** Through this newsletter, our web site, stories in the local media and other methods, we hope to share with you more about Balance, those we have the privilege to work with and the opportunities we create for community participation in our services.

Our experience during these first thirteen years has confirmed that the gifts people with developmental disabilities bring to the community have a much greater value than what is often perceived. Whether these gifts are productive participation through work or volunteer activity or community building through social or educational activity, we know that we would be incomplete without them.

Supporting people with developmental disabilities in our community **affirms the values we hold.** These values recognize each individual as vital to the lives of those around them and recognize the need to be included in all areas of community life. Segregated or institutional settings are not consistent with these values. These settings divide families, divide communities and limit the opportunities for those who live in them.

We plan to share with you more about the remarkable people who are a part of Balance. Whether these are the people we serve, their families, the members of our staff or the volunteers, they share this community with us all. We invite your support and participation as well.

Thank you,

Craig Modahl  
Executive Director



## Building PROJECT — donations needed

In September of 1998 Balance purchased an industrial building in Port Washington as a home for its offices and adult day service program - Pace. The 1,800 square foot building was improved to accommodate offices, a meeting room, an additional bathroom and a program area for Pace. The building has an excellent location with easy access to walking trails, the library, the marina, and all of the treasures of downtown Port Washington.

After just three years the needs of Pace had outgrown its portion of the structure.

Office space was leased at another location. In January of 2004, we were fortunate to be able to move our offices into the United Way Family Enrichment Center in Grafton.

The building at 122 S. Webster Street in Port Washington continues to serve as the center for Pace. Earlier this year, Balance received a grant from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation for \$15,000. This grant will be used to make necessary improvements to the building. These improvements include covered and weatherized entrances to the building,

a second wheelchair accessible entrance, new exterior doors and windows, and desperately needed storage space.

The entire cost of the project will be \$36,000. Additional donations have brought the fund development to \$25,000. We anticipate beginning the project as soon as possible while we search for additional support. Cedarburg Lumber has provided financial support and is coordinating the project.

If you or your organization would like to make a contribution to this project, please call Balance, Inc. at (262) 376-0695.

Housing Session —

# “In Search of Home”

One of the most challenging issues adults with developmental disabilities and their families face is finding a long term living arrangement outside the family home.

On September 30, 2004, Balance hosted an informational session called “In Search of Home.” This session, sponsored by the **Ozaukee County Arc**, discussed housing related issues and included a panel of local service providers, representatives from the Ozaukee County Department of Community Programs and the director of the Arc of Wisconsin.

Panel members explained the roles they play in the process of developing long term residential supports for adults with developmental disabilities and tried to clarify the terms used and the regulatory systems that apply to providing this type of support.

Unfortunately, following the steps in this system will likely to lead to being added to a long waiting list. Some people have been on the

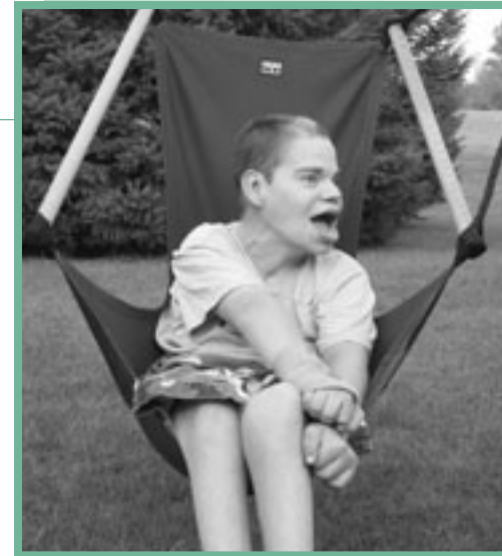
waiting lists for more than 10 years. The wait is for funding in order to support the living arrangement. Balance and other organizations are capable of developing the supports for these individuals, but the long term funding for such services is not available.

Working with the Ozaukee County Arc, in the coming months we will be providing additional sessions for families and individuals on related topics that may lead to solutions. During the session, families expressed interest in getting more information on alternatives. These include (1) cooperative arrangements called consortiums, (2) services that may provide partial solutions, and (3) advocacy practices that will increase awareness in the community of this growing need.

If you or someone you know would like to be kept informed about these sessions, please contact Balance, Inc. or the Ozaukee County Arc. ■

## Chad's Swing

Thanks to the Grafton Lions Club, Chad can enjoy the outdoors in a relaxing therapeutic swing. This summer members of the **Grafton Lion's Club** designed and built a frame that would support a specialized swing for Chad who lives in one of the homes that is operated by Balance, Inc.



Chad enjoying his new swing

The swing itself was purchased with money gifted to Balance as a memorial to a former Balance staff member and friend of Chad who was lost to cancer earlier this year. He and Chad were hoping to build the swing this summer in the backyard of Chad's home in Grafton. ■

## The faces of Pace



Philip and staff member Ann Brown out for a walk



Melinda and Kevin delivering newspapers



Lisa and staff member Andrea Briese visiting a craft store

# Board List



Balance, Inc.  
885 Badger Circle  
Grafton, WI 53024

On September 20, 2004, a new slate of officers was elected for the Balance, Inc. board of directors.

- Gene Kreienbrink, President
- Duane Nadolski, Vice-President
- Rae Anne Beaudry, Secretary
- Mary Winkel, Treasurer

## Members -

- Chris Fraser
- Diane Miller
- Art Young
- Lanny Polansky.

## Donations to Balance:

There are two ways to contribute to Balance without spending any extra money. Designate Balance as the recipient of your Pick N Save We Care card purchases. Our organization number is 50500.

If you shop online, go first to Greatergood.com. From that site you can access many of your favorite online stores. Identify Balance, Inc. as the agency that receives a percentage of the purchases you make. They often have special deals and there is no extra cost to you.

If you would like further information on these two options, please call Craig at Balance – 262.376.0695.

Thank you!!

## Endowment Fund

Balance, Inc. has established the Balance, Inc. Endowment Fund. This fund is being managed by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. Distributions from this fund will be used for the support of Balance, Inc. and the services it provides. An endowment fund helps to provide financial stability for the future. Donations to the fund in the coming months and years are pooled

together and invested in order to provide an additional source of revenue for the organization.

**We hope you will consider donations of all types to the Balance, Inc. Endowment Fund. For further information, please contact Craig Modahl at Balance, Inc. ■**

## Donations:

Fred & Carol Beck  
Diane Bieber  
Katie & Chris Callen  
Cedarburg Lumber  
Marilyn Conrad  
Coppersmith Family –  
in memory of Brian  
Erin Fisher  
Mary & Tom Fisher  
John Gallo  
Girl Scout Troop #26  
Grafton Lions Club  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation  
GreaterGood.com  
Health Care System Consultants

Steve & Stacy Hilbert  
Knights of Columbus Wisconsin  
State Council  
Gene & Marjorie Kreienbrink  
Rosalyn Matsoff  
Salvatore & Mary Marchese  
Bob & Bev Modahl  
Craig and Sandy Modahl –  
in memory of  
Marion & Larry Hearn  
Karen & Duane Nadolski  
Ozaukee County Arc  
Shirley Parlow –  
in memory of Marvin  
Pick N Save We Care Program

Sylvester & Madeline Prom  
Lanny & Rochelle Polansky  
Barb & John Przekurat  
Margaret Rossman  
Mark Styles  
St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
Storage Concepts  
United Way of Northern Ozaukee  
Wilma Richardson  
Warren Stumpe  
Bonnie & Gerald Wagner  
Robert & Ruby Williams  
Gus Wirth  
Jeanne Wright  
Arthur Young