

Connecting Communities

A newsletter from Better Together and the Community Connector Team at ODC

What is Your Gift?

Each of us is born with and acquire unique gifts throughout our lifetime. Some of us are good listeners, some are caring and compassionate, some are teachers, and some know how to fix a computer no matter the challenge! What we do with those gifts determines how enriched our lives can be.

While meeting with Cindy, I began to learn what some of her gifts were. Cindy has a gift of the hands, as she enjoys creating different forms of art. She has a gift of the heart, as she desires to reconnect with her Lutheran faith. I certainly can't forget about Cindy's gift of the head, which includes her fiery passion for self-advocacy.

Our meetings have led to Cindy discovering assets in the community where she can apply her gifts. Some of these places include; St. John's Lutheran Church of Spencer, The Chestnut Center for The Arts in Marshfield, and the Wisconsin BPDD's online resources for self-advocacy. I look forward to this journey with Cindy. It will be interesting to see how she continues to connect with her community and use her gifts to enrich the lives of those around her.



Community Shout Outs

The Community Connectors had an opportunity, during February and March, to partner with Portage County Youth Services for an after-school program called 'Exploring Your Community'. Kids involved in the program learned more about the people and places in their community while at the fire station, police station, YMCA, Riverfront Arts Center, and sculpture park. Thank you to all involved with this amazing opportunity connecting to the community!



Upcoming Event!

Community Pickleball Event at the Aspirus YMCA in Weston

Saturday April 13th from 1pm-3pm

Learn to play pickleball | Meet new people

Socialize with others in your community

FREE and open to the public

Community Events

Marshfield

Art Share

for adults 18+

bring your own supplies

Tuesday April 2nd & Tuesday April

16th @ 6pm-8pm

Chestnut Center for the Arts

Merrill

Grand Opening Celebration for
ODC

Merrill ODC

300 E. 2nd St.

Friday, April 5th @ 11am

Spencer

Cribbage at the Library

Marathon County Public Library -

Spencer

Tuesday April 9th @ 1:30pm

Stevens Point

Spring Fling Vendor Event

Great Northern Distilling

1011 2nd St, Stevens Point

Saturday April 6, 2pm-6pm

Wausau

Social Hour

Marathon County Public Library

300 N. First St.

April 10th

1pm & 6:30pm

Wisconsin Rapids

Wisconsin's John Muir - SWC

Historical Museum Exhibit

April 2, 2024

1pm-4pm

South Wood County Historical Museum

For more information on Community Connection, please contact

Anna Morehouse

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Upcoming Better Together Events

In April RPE is sponsoring our event at the new Food and Farm Exploration Center.

Our May event will be sponsored by Simplicity Credit Union and consist of a pizza party and an art project of painting bowls that will be used during the Empty Bowls program.

If you or your organization would like to sponsor an event with friends in Better Together, reach out to Sami today!

Better Together Contact

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Door2Dreams

Creating Independent Housing for
Adults with IDD in Central WI

What started as a grassroots movement in 2019 formed by parents of adult children with disabilities and committed community members, Door2Dreams has become a moving and growing nonprofit organization, currently supported by the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin. To address housing options for adults with disabilities, the board and advocates behind D2D has worked to secure property adjacent to The Grove (old convent) which plans to open to residents in 2028 should their funding goals be met. They have held 5 listening sessions and plan to conduct more. For more information you may visit their webpage at <https://www.door2dreams.org/> or call Karen Medo at 715-570-8849.

Community Inclusion Showcase

March's Better Together Event - Open to the Public

Over 25 local organizations that support our community and the advocacy and inclusion of, for, and with individuals with disabilities and their supports attended the Community Inclusion Showcase - the first event open to the public to be held at the Inclusa Atrium within The Nonprofit Commons (the old Delta Dental building) on March 12 from 1-6pm. The ODC Connectors hosted fun games and even did a little juggling. Smokehouse BBQ was the featured food truck feeding attendees yummy brisket, cornbread, and mac n' cheese.

Several of the participating organizations donated door/raffle prizes - there were 89 people that registered, meaning 90-100 people attended the event. It was a great time to learn about what services are provided in our community and a really special way for the organizations to get to know one another and provide collaboration opportunities.

The event was put on by the Portage County Disability Coalition - to find out more about this group, reach out to Samantha Szynskie, co-chair, at sszynskie@odcinc.com or 715-347-7461.

