

SibNews

wisconsibs
Sisters & Brothers of People with Disabilities

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News for individuals concerned about sisters and brothers with special needs.

Volume 14, Issue 3

April-May 2016

Siblings Deserve their Own Day

**Fri.
April 8
5:30 PM**

← Fox Cities Siblings Day Celebration

FREE. Open to the Public.
Presented by WisconSibs and hosted by The Building for Kids
100 W College Ave., Appleton

National Siblings Day

**Sunday
April 10**

**Sat.
April 16
8:30 AM**

← Journey Forward— Fox Valley Wksp #2

211 E Franklin St. Appleton

Circles of Life & Sibshop

WI Annual Conference for Families of Children with Disabilities & Professionals
CIRCLESOFLIFECONFERENCE.COM

Pewaukee, WI

**Th-F
April 21-22**

**April 30
10 AM**

← HUMAN RACE DONATE ONLINE WALK on Thrivent grounds

**Sat.
May 14
8:30 am**

← Journey Forward - Madison

Radisson Hotel Madison

Register: arcdane@chorus.net

All Wings Fly

Appleton International Airport

**Sat.
May 14
4:30 PM**

Nowadays, there seems to be a celebration on every day of the year.

Things like National Pancake Day (March 8), National Pi Day (March 14), even days like National No Housework Day (April 7) crowd the calendar. So we can't miss celebrating National Siblings Day (April 10)!

Think of it like Mother's Day or Father's Day. On these days, most children show their appreciation for their parents by sharing a meal, giving small presents, or simply sending cards. We do this to show how much we care

and thank them for all they do for us.

Our siblings are just as important to us, but perhaps in different ways than our relationship with our parents. Your siblings are the ones who don't

tell your parents when they saw you steal an extra piece of cake. And you may be the only person who can keep your sibling calm after a hard day at school or take their mind off yet another medical procedure.

Sure, they know how to push your buttons, but also know your favorite

ice cream flavor and what you prefer on sandwiches.

It's important so show how much we care about our siblings. Like it or not, you'll be stuck with them for quite a while.

This year, on Sunday, April 10 make sure to spend some quality time with your siblings.

Maybe even let them steal that extra pancake!



Fox Cities Siblings Day Celebration

Friday, April 8 5:30 PM

See back for information



How it Began

This special day was first created by Claudia Evert from Manhattan, NY. She tragically lost both her sisters at an early age.

In remembrance of them, she created this day to honor the good times and strong bond siblings experience.

It's been recognized by President George W. Bush

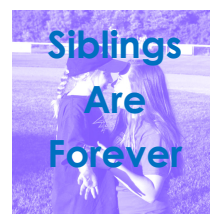
and Bill Clinton and 88 state governors. The date, April 10th, is in honor of Claudia's sister Lisette's birthday.

For us who have a sibling with a developmental disability, research reports that we usually

have close relationships with our sibs (Orsmond & Seltzer, 2000)

Further, in a national study of adult siblings, most reported that their brothers and sisters made them more

empathetic and compassionate. (Hodapp, Urbando, & Burke 2010).



For details about these events and more, visit www.wisconsibs.org or contact the WisconSibs office.

I'm not the Only One



Olivia Ashikino spoke at WisconSib's Celebrate Sisterhood event in October.

My name is Olivia Ashikino and I am proud to be a WisconSib. I am 14 years old and I'm a 9th grader at Green Bay East High. My sister Machaela is 20 years old and is in her final year of high school at East.

Some of my sister's favorite things are, swimming at the pool, beach and at Kelly Lake, long car rides, going to our grandparents house and riding on the four-wheeler and going to the store, especially Target. All of those things are great, but sometimes it's a little hard to understand what she wants because she is non-verbal and is also deaf. On the up-side, when I see her at school and she sees me, she "runs" to me and smiles at me and it's such a joy because her smile just lights up the world.

I have been involved with multiple WisconSibs programs, but my favorite is Sib Camp. The first year I went I was really nervous, but then I realized on my second day there,

I'm not the ONLY ONE with a sibling that cannot talk and has a lot of challenges. A four day overnight camp with people you've never met before makes you realize that there are more people just like you. It makes you feel like you're part of a community with people that have the same or similar life as you and we now have a friendship we can all depend on.

When I attended Teen Sib Leadership Day, I found out about SibDays of Summer; a day camp for kids ages 6-12. I volunteer there now because I love kids and I want to teach them what WisconSibs taught me. Every year at SibDays of Summer, we have a theme. Last year was "Sibvivor" and we had team challenges and group activities. We talk openly and express our feelings, good or bad.

One of the days we go to Camp Hope for Curt's Carnival and we

do fun games. Some of the campers get to see their sibs and it makes me so happy that they're genuinely excited to see their sib at Camp Hope.

It's great to have Sibshops, Sib Camp and SibDays. Camp offers each of us the opportunity to get away and not have to worry about our sibling.

When you have a sibling with a disability, it can be very nerve racking but you never know what the future can hold. Knowing other people that have siblings with disabilities helps because we can talk, laugh and know what the other is going through.

Openings still available for SibDays of Summer, Sib Camp and Teen Leadership Camp.

Call for a brochure or visit wisconsibs.org/what-we-offer/summer

Sib Sightings



Working on their *Sibs Are My Peeps* entry



Wrapping "Mummies" and making sundaes at S.P.A. Sibshop



Friends Sibshop "Pictionary" with shaving cream



Siblings having fun at Vegas Madness

Summer is for Siblings by Anna Benz, 2016 WisconSibs intern

Sometimes the smallest of events can hold such a big place in our heart.

In summers, I enjoy taking my brother on walks in our local nature preserves. Even walks around the neighborhood will do. His favorite thing to do is wave at cars as we sit on a highway overpass walkway.

I asked some of my fellow WisconSibs, and here are some simple activities they especially look forward to do over the summer.

- Make smoothies or milkshakes and relax in the back yard. Feel free to add this treat to any outings you may take.
- My brother especially enjoys roller coasters, which is actually very surprising.

Try something new this summer.

- Local parks are always wonderful. Slides, swings, and even feeding ducks in a pond are great fun for the two of you.
- When it's raining, break out your sib's favorite board or video game. The puddles and mud after can be even more fun!



TEEN Sibs!

Looking for leadership opportunities?

Sib Teen Leadership Award
-Call or email for application by May 1

Sib Teen Leadership Day
June 23, 2016

Teen Leaders in Training
July 28-31, 2016

SibDays of Summer
(sib teen leader volunteer)
July 18-22, 2016

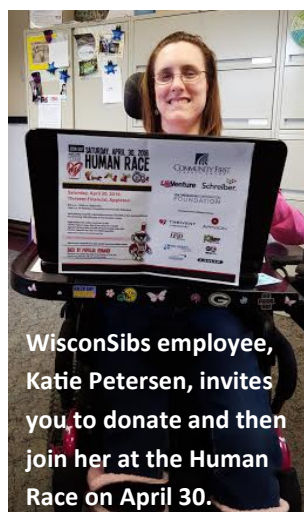
Or for more information,
visit: wisconsibs.org

WisconSibs in the Human Race

The Human Race on April 30th, of course! This annual 5k walk, 5k non-competitive run or one-mile walk is held at Thrivent Financial on Ballard Rd. in Appleton. The Volunteer Center organizes the food and fun for more than 50 nonprofits in our community raising money for their causes. Our goal this year is to raise \$4000 to help teen siblings attend Leaders in Training Camp.

Help us by making an online donation at
www.fundlyenterprise.com/Event/WisconSibs#/

Then join us for the event on April 30th to celebrate!



UW-Madison band members keep it lively and always fun.

Remember: Dogs, kids, wheelchairs and strollers are all welcome on the Thrivent grounds, 4321 N Ballard Rd. Appleton.

A Project from Recent S.P.A. (Sisters are Pretty Awesome) Sibshop

Some days we just get the blues. To help brighten those days, sisters and their moms painted little rocks and pebbles with cheery hearts and rainbows at a recent Sibshop. They took them home to scatter about outdoors among the new spring flowers and grass to present a lovely surprise to whoever may find them. Try it. You may just bring a smile to someone who needs one.



wisconsibs

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- We are Wisconsin siblings of people with disabilities.
- We are role models to our siblings, our peers, our friends, and our community.
- We are caregivers and companions.
- We advocate with and for our siblings for a bright future.

Get Involved. To register FREE as a WisconSib or a WisconSib Fan, to donate, or volunteer, visit wisconsibs.org/get-involved/



National

Siblings Day

Fox Cities



Friday, April 8 5:30 pm—8:00 pm

Building for Kids 100 W. College Ave., Appleton, WI

Play. Eat. Learn. Create. Celebrate Siblings!

FREE for families of all ages

Presented by

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