



Recreational Opportunities **for youth and young adults with special needs** **Fox Valley Region***

2015-16 Edition

Aquatics

- **Adapted Aquatics** – Collaborative effort between the UW-Oshkosh Physical Education Department, Oshkosh Recreation Department, and Oshkosh YMCA. Classes are typically offered during the spring, summer and fall. Contact Tracy Gilles to sign up or to get more information at 920-236-3380 or tracygilles@oshkoshymca.org
- **Appleton Parks and Recreation Department** – The Special Needs Beginner Class is for children ages six and up who may have mild to moderate disabilities or who may require more of an intimate learning environment to maximize their potential. Participants will be given time to practice skills while positive and corrective feedback is given on how to improve. Contact the Program Supervisor at 920-832-3926 for any special requests prior to the start of the class.
- **The Aquatic Center at CP** - The CP Center offers individual and group aquatic exercise, swim instruction and open swim in two warm water pools. Classes include Special Needs Instructional, a swimming skills class providing basic water skills along with therapeutic exercises for children and young adults with disabilities; as well as a variety of open swim times throughout the day Monday – Friday. The facility and pools are equipped with a variety of handicap-accessible features, including handrails throughout and pool ramps. Pools are open to the public, no membership is required. For a complete class listing, more information, or to register for a class call 920-403-POOL (7665), or visit www.cp-center.org/aquatics-center
- **Fox Cities YMCAs** – You can find open swim and private swim instruction for children with special needs at your local Fox Cities YMCA. Call Angie Kennedy at 920-954-7628 or email her at akennedy@ymcafoxcities.org with questions or for information on how to register at the Appleton location. To find out details about open swim and private lessons at Heart of the Valley YMCA, contact Belinda Price-Dejany at 920-830-5707. Open Swim and private lessons, including private lessons for children with autism in partnership with the Autism Society of the Fox Valley, are offered at Fox West. Contact Nikki Boyd at nboyd@ymcafoxcities.org or 920-560-3412 to learn more. The Neenah location offers a "Helping Hands" class on Wednesday nights for various ages, skills, and disabilities. Purchase a punch card and attend when you can. Additionally, the Neenah YMCA also offers private swim lessons and open swim. Contact Kelli Briski for more information at kbriski@ymcafoxcities.org or 920-886-2132.
- **Oshkosh YMCA** – To learn more about swim lessons for individuals with special needs at the Oshkosh YMCA, contact Roxanne Lee at 920-230-8913 or roxannelee@oshkoshymca.org
- **Swimtastic Swim School** - Swimtastic provides private, semi-private, and group lessons for children with disabilities all year round. Parents appreciate the easy registration process, flexible class times, small class sizes, individual attention, and professional loving staff. Swimtastic is a fun and relaxing environment with 90-degree water, palm tree shower, and water slide. For more information contact 920-722-7946 (SWIM) or sign up online at www.swimtastic.com

Baseball/Softball

- **Discovery League** – Part of Neenah Baseball, Inc., Discovery League provides an “organized baseball opportunity” for people ages four and up with special needs. Games are played on Sunday evenings from 6:00 – 7:30pm at Southview Park in Neenah from mid-May through July. For more information, contact Kathy Delchambre at 920-734-5641.
- **Miracle League - Fox Valley & Green Bay** – The Miracle League, with locations in Appleton and Allouez, is an organized baseball league for kids ages 4-19 with cognitive and/or physical disabilities. Two unique features of the league are that the player is paired with a volunteer buddy and the games are played on an accessible rubberized field. Games are played on weeknight evenings at John Wollner Fox Cities Miracle League Field in Memorial Park in Appleton and Resch Miracle Field and the Favre Family Miracle Recreation Area at Allouez Optimist Park in Allouez. Register early for a spot on a team roster. For more information about the Fox Valley league, visit www.foxvalleymiracleleague.com or email MFoxValley@goodwillncw.org. To learn more about the Green Bay league, check out www.greenbaymiracleleague.com or email liegeoispaul@aol.com

Basketball

- **Horizons Sports Organization** – Horizon Sports serves as a sponsor for a local wheelchair basketball team. Horizon’s offers a junior league for ages 10-19 (with enough interest) and an adult league for ages 18-40 plus. The team practices one time a week in Green Bay and plays 1-2 games a month with the season typically running October through March. The team competes as an independent team in the National Wheelchair Basketball Association. Contact Bruce Makholm at 920-731-5195 for further information.

Bowling

- **Sabre Lanes Wheelchair Bowling Leagues** – The “Roll On” wheelchair league is for people who are physically handicapped and is offered for 10 weeks in the summer, starting in June. The “Walk and Roll” league pairs up an individual in a wheelchair with someone who can walk (if available) and occurs in the fall for 8 weeks. Both leagues are available to people of all ages throughout the Fox Valley. Adaptations such as using a bowling ramp are made as needed. For more information, contact Corey Bringman at Sabre Lanes at 920-739-9161.

Clubs

- **4-H** – Provides children ages 5 years – one year post high school with positive educational opportunities to learn new skills, develop leadership qualities, and contribute to their community. Accommodations are made as needed. Call Outagamie UW-Extension at 920-832-5123 for more information about program offerings or a club in your area.
- **AKtion Club of the Fox Cities** – Sponsored by the Appleton Fox Cities Kiwanis, AKtion Club provides individuals ages 18 and older an opportunity to develop initiative and leadership skills, serve their community, become fully integrated into society, and demonstrate the dignity and value of citizens with disabilities. AKtion meets the first and third Wednesday of the month from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. at A Very Special Place in Little Chute. If you are interested in learning more about the AKtion Club of the Fox Cities, contact Jay Stephany at (920) 968-6360.

- **Boy Scouts – Bay-Lakes Council** – Provides unique programs for individuals with physical, intellectual, or emotional disabilities. The Cub Scouting program is for boys in grades 1 – 5; the Boy Scouting program is for boys in grades 6 - 8; the Venturing program is for young men and women in grades 9 - 12. The upper age limit is waived for individuals with intellectual disabilities. With parental involvement, youth with disabilities can be mainstreamed into traditional scouting groups or participate in special needs groups where groups exist or can be organized. Contact David at 920-734-5705 ext 141 or david.lardinois@scouting.org

Curling

- **Green Bay Curling Club** - Developing a curling program to accommodate individuals with special needs. Curling using “the stick” for those who can stand and walk on the ice as well as Wheelchair Curling will be offered. Curlers must be of an age and strength to handle the 42 pound stones. Plans are to offer beginning lessons and regular curling opportunities such as leagues and “bonspiels” (tournaments). Program development is underway but is not complete at the time of this publication. Please watch the website at www.curlgb.com for program updates or contact gbcurling@gmail.com

Dance/Theatre/Cheerleading

- **Dance Lessons for Kids with Special Needs – Village of Allouez** - This class strives to improve timing, motor planning skills, balance, and coordination in a fun environment and is open to special education students who love movement, dance, and music. It offers specific stretching and strengthening exercises, general movement patterns, Brain Dance and progress to beginner ballet, jazz and hip hop moves. The class instructors are experienced in dance instruction and physical therapy. For more information on this and other programs please visit the Allouez Recreation website at www.allouez.recdesk.com or contact Allouez Parks and Recreation at 920-448-2804.
- **Green Bay Elite Cheer** – Cheer team designed for all abilities. Team is co-ed for ages 6 and up. Practice once a week and perform with a “cheer buddy”. Contact Julie for more information, 920-983-1700 or GBEJULIE@aol.com
- **Green Bay Fusion** - Team Shine is a cheerleading team for athletes of all abilities ages 5 to 21. The season runs from August to March with practices held one night a week. Participants learn a 2.5 minute routine full of jumps, stunts, dancing, and fun tailored to maximize the athletes’ abilities. To learn more, call 920-328-8497 or visit www.greenbayfusion.com
- **Kids on the Move** – Offering a class in Appleton and Green Bay, Kids on the Move integrates individuals with special needs into classes with their peers based on their skill level. Students can choose from tap, jazz, ballet, and hip hop dance classes or a theatre class. Check out <http://kidsonthemovewi.com/> to learn more!
- **Marcia’s School of Dance** – Provides dance classes for children, teens, and young adults with special needs. Classes typically begin in September if there is enough interest. Call 920-733-1552 or visit <http://www.marciasschoolofdance.com/> for more information.

Day Camps

- **Camp Hope** – Sponsored by the Appleton YMCA and held at Plamann Park in Appleton during the summer. Camp Hope is a two week day camp for children ages 6-15 who have cognitive or physical disabilities. Activities include swimming, arts/crafts, singing,

guest speakers, and sports. For further details, contact Bobbi DeWitt at bdewitt@ymcafoxcities.org or 920-209-0159.

- **Empower Me!! Camp** – Provides a 5-day summer camp for children living with high functioning autism. This day camp provides opportunities for the development of social skills in a fun environment. It is offered by the Neenah-Menasha YMCA. Contact Judy Seibel at 920-886-2147 to register.
- **Intensive Sensory-Motor Camp at the CP Center** -This camp utilizes an intensive individualized therapeutic and group approach to improve functional self-cares, social and motor skills in the home and community. Children participate in diverse activities under the leadership of specially trained and certified Occupational Therapists. Full access to CP Center's varied resources is an integral part of programming. Our swimming pools, sensory center, adaptive playground and accessible art studio may support the groups' objectives. Parents will be provided with home programming strategies to enhance functional skills. Each child will be assigned a camp "buddy" who will assist them in the completion of the activities. Ages 5 and up. To learn more, go to <http://www.cp-center.org/childrens-developmental-services/smiles-for-children/>

Fishing/Hunting

- **Adaptive Sportsman** - Adaptive Sportsman Inc. has a mission of providing outdoor recreation for physically challenged people. They feature fishing, target shooting, ATV rides and hunting. Participants can borrow adaptive equipment or inquire about resources to help acquire their own. More information is available at www.adaptivesportsmen.org
- **Challenge The Outdoors, Inc.** – "Dedicated to serving the recreational needs and desires of the physically challenged sportsperson." Provides numerous adaptive sportsman activities for those who love the outdoors including deer, turkey, and pheasant hunts, fishing events, archery shoots, clay shoots, etc. Most events include provision of needed equipment, mentors, and food. They also attend events such as Timber Rattlers baseball games, car races, etc. For more information or a calendar of events call 920-593-6300 or visit their website <http://www.ctoforme.org/>
- **Fishing Has No Boundaries** – Started in 1986, this organization hosts annual fishing events "to open up the great outdoors for people with disabilities through the world of fishing." Annual events are scheduled each summer throughout Wisconsin (Chippewa Valley, Eagle River, Fond du Lac, Hayward, Madison, Milwaukee, and St. Croix Valley). Specialized equipment is provided at each event. If you are interested in events in any of the areas, contact the headquarters in Hayward, Wisconsin at 1-800-243-3462 or visit their website www.fhnbinc.org

Football

- **Challenger Football League** – Sponsored by Fox Valley Pop Warner Football, Inc., this opportunity provides a no/minimal contact, flag football experience for boys and girls ages 6 – 16 that have special needs and are unable to participate in other football divisions. Teams are made up of 8-12 players and are individualized to the players' needs with parents/buddies assisting as needed. Five games are played beginning in September. For additional information contact Sue Hipple at shipple@new.rr.com or visit www.appletonfootball.org and click on Challenger League.
- **Kimberly High School Football Camp** - This football camp is for all children with special needs ages Pre-K through 8th Grade. The camp is hosted by members from the Kimberly High School Leadership Class, the Kimberly football team, the Kimberly

football coaching staff, and Kimberly faculty at Papermaker Stadium in Kimberly during the month of May. The camp consists of 8 to 10 fun and exciting stations that range from trying on football equipment to practicing touchdown celebrations. More information and sign-up sheets will be posted on KimberlyFootball.com in April.

- **Xavier Hawks Football Camp** - This co-ed camp sponsored by the Autism Society of the Fox Valley, in cooperation with the Appleton Xavier High School Football team, is held every August or September for individuals with autism of all ages and playing abilities. This special day-long camp starts with stretching and warm ups, continues with skill work at ten different stations, and concludes with an awards ceremony and picnic lunch for all participants and their families. Interested in participating? Contact Bob Olson by phone (920-788-5298) or email (bob.olson1976@gmail.com).

Hockey

- **Appleton Parks and Recreation Department** - Appleton Parks and Recreation, Appleton Family Ice Center, and Brad Roethlisberger, Head Coach of the WI Warrior Sled Hockey Team, offer a sled hockey workshop for athletes with physical or cognitive disabilities that have use of both arms and hands. Athletes ages 6 - 18 will be instructed in basic skating, turning and stopping on a sled. The sled hockey workshop will take place Saturday, October 3 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at the Appleton Ice Center. Pre-registration is required. To register, go to www.appletonparkandrec.org
- **Wisconsin Skeeters** - This sled hockey program is for both girls and boys interested in playing sled hockey. Sled Hockey is a type of ice hockey where players sit in adaptive sleds and propel themselves up and down the ice with sticks. The program attracts individuals from around the state. Participants can practice/play as much or as little as they want. Kids are provided with sticks and sleds and the program does have additional equipment to use on an as needed basis. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Brad Roethlisberger at 920-592-0986 or hockeyrefbar@sbcglobal.net

Horseback Riding

- **BEAMING, Inc.** – Provides equine assisted activities and therapies (EAAT) to individuals ages 4-adult with a wide range of physical and developmental diagnoses. The organization's mission is to enhance the quality of life for individuals with special needs through developing connecting relationships with people and horses. Teaches individuals riding and horse care skills. Most riding lessons are taught in groups of 2-4 individuals. Each rider has volunteers walking along side and leading the horses if needed. Located in Neenah. Contact 920-636-5001 or www.beaminginc.org
- **CHAPS Academy, Inc.** – Located in Kaukauna, The Special Gifts Program provides counseling services to youth and their families impacted by autism spectrum disorders, ADD/ADHD, anxiety, and other behavioral challenges. Counseling sessions are 45-60 minutes. For children ages 4-13, experiential play therapy is used to facilitate growth in skills. For teens and adults, counseling sessions entail strengths based and solution focused treatment paired with executive function coaching. Treatment for each youth and family is individualized. Goals are collaboratively developed between client, his/her parents and counselor. The Special Gifts Program offers an equine assisted camp experience once a month out of the CHAPS' Shiocton location as well. For more information, contact CHAPS Academy, Inc. at 920-986-3003 or www.chapsacademy.org

- **Exceptional Equestrians** – Offered in West De Pere, Exceptional Equestrians is a program for children and adults with special needs offering equine assisted therapy services, including hippo therapy for kids age 2 and up, therapeutic riding for kids age 4 and up, and adaptive riding for adults and kids ages 8 and up. Horses offer a unique experience to clients providing them with multi-sensory input which improves functional skills. Exceptional Equestrians works closely with Country Kids, Inc. an outpatient pediatric therapy clinic offering traditional OT, PT and SLP services. For additional information please visit www.exceptionalequestrians.org or call 920.347-3174.
- **Free SPIRIT Riders** – Founded in 1987, Free SPIRIT (Special People in Riding Therapy) Riders' mission is to enrich the lives of children and adults with disabilities through safe, therapeutic interaction with horses. Located in Fond du Lac, it's open to anyone over two years of age with a diagnosed developmental, physical, visual, cognitive, emotional, or social disability. Both riding and grooming classes are offered beginning in May and running through November. For more information or to download Rider Registration forms, visit www.freespiritriders.org or call 920-924-9920.
- **Meadowood Farms** – Located in Brillion, Meadowood Farms welcomes people of all ages with various disabilities for year round hippotherapy. They offer a group of excellent horses and qualified instructors to learn from. If interested in learning more, visit www.meadowoodfarmwi.com or call Marc at 920-251-9154.

Martial Arts

- **ATA Black Belt Academy** - Teaches life skills (honor, respect, perseverance, courtesy, self esteem, goal setting), bullying prevention and the art of self defense quickly and easily through Taekwondo. Welcomes all ages and abilities. Several of their instructors have autism. Call 920-882-7887 or visit their website www.appletonata.com to learn more.

Music

- **Appleton & Oshkosh VSA Choirs** – For those who like music, this is a great opportunity. Run through VSA Wisconsin: the State Organization on Arts and Disabilities, the choir invites anyone age 18 and over, with or without a disability, to be a part of their group. The Appleton group meets each Tuesday from September – December and February – May at First English Lutheran Church in Appleton. They meet from 6:00 – 7:00 each week with a concert in December and May. Contact Tiffany Vollrath at 920-716-1018 for more information. The Oshkosh choir rehearses on Mondays from 6:00 – 7:00 from September – December and February – May at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Oshkosh. For information about the Oshkosh choir contact Alexis Graff at alexisgraff@gmail.com
- **Expressive Therapies** - Provides music therapy and mental health therapy throughout the Fox Cities. Offering numerous groups ranging from Social Skills and Music Therapy to CRESCENDO (a band for teens that are looking to make connections and work on social skills). Work with individuals, groups, or families to meet a wide range of goals. Will see individuals/groups in office, home, or the community (facility, schools, etc.) to best meet the needs of the individual. For more information check out www.expressivetherapies.net or contact Sara at sara@expressivetherapies.net or 920-284-0891.
- **Music for Special Needs – Youth (Age 1 – Teen) and Adult (Ages 20 and older)–** A part of Lawrence Academy of Music's well known Music for the Very Young Program,

children ages 1 through teen will participate in musical activities that focus on interaction and socialization skills as well as fine and gross motor skills. The adult program provides opportunities for socialization, interaction, and the use of music for self-expression. A board-certified therapist teaches classes arranged by age groupings every semester (15 week sessions). Class size is limited, so early registration is recommended. To register, call the Academy of Music at 920-993-6278 or visit go.lawrence.edu/academy-specialneeds

Playgrounds

- **Adaptive Playground at the CP Center** - The CP Center encourages families with and without special needs to use the Robert Cloud Memorial Playground for children of all abilities. The playground has a rubber surface which allows children to move independently in their wheelchairs, swings that enable children needing trunk and core support the freedom and excitement to experience movement, and much more. Public access hours: Saturday & Sunday from Dawn until Dusk; Monday – Friday after 5:30PM until Dusk. Children must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult. The CP Center is located at 2801 S. Webster Ave., Green Bay. *Please note, the building is not accessible during these times. No pets are allowed on the playground; however service animals specifically trained to aid a person with a disability are welcome.* Visit <http://www.cp-center.org/common-paths-early-education-and-care/robert-cloud-memorial-> to learn more.
- **Oshkosh Inclusive Park** – The result of a community effort, and made possible through a partnership of individuals, businesses, and the city of Oshkosh, the mission of the Oshkosh Inclusive Park Project is to create a safe and accessible outdoor recreational environment for individuals of all abilities and ages. Opened in summer 2015, come check it out at South Park in Oshkosh. Visit <http://www.oshkoshinclusivepark.com/> to get more information.
- **Universal Playground** – Located in Appleton's Memorial Park (1620 East Witzke Boulevard), the playground design integrates a variety of play experiences while providing for access and needs of persons with physical, sensory or developmental disabilities.

Soccer

- **TOP Soccer** – TOP Soccer stands for The Outreach Program of Soccer, which is available for children ages 6 – 16 that have special needs. Each player with special needs is assigned a buddy who encourages and supports each participant. The league plays for a total of 18 weeks over the course of the school year with three six week sessions running September – October, January – February, and April – May. Games are played from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. on Saturdays at Maplevue School in Kimberly. Hosted by the Kimberly Area Soccer Association, Inc. but open to all Fox Valley youth, contact Wayne Stoflet at 920-788-5840 for more information.

Social Skills

- **Building Hope Therapy Services, LLC**- Interdisciplinary support system for children and their families. Develop and implement individual and group treatment plans to address needs based on unique strengths and challenges. Needs may include social skills, self regulation, sensory modulation, social participation and self esteem. Provide therapy sessions for the neurologically diverse community. Call 920-202-2262 or visit www.buildinghopetherapyservices.com for more information.

- **Empower Me!! Camp** – See full description under Day Camps.
- **Sensory-Social Group at the CP Center** – This group promotes integration of sensory/motor skills which facilitate functional use in activities of daily-living. Varied activities advance bilateral integration, eye-hand coordination and overall motor planning while encouraging social communication. Parent education and resources will be provided. 8 week sessions offered several times throughout the year. Age groups: 2 ½ - 7 and 6-12. For more information, check out <http://www.cp-center.org/childrens-developmental-services/smiles-for-children/>
- **Self Esteem & Social Skills Classes** - An offering from American Foundation of Counseling Services in Green Bay. A self-esteem/social skills group is offered multiple times throughout the year for 6-9 year old and for 9-12 year old children. Children interact with peers in a therapeutic environment and address issues such as: respecting boundaries, expressing feelings appropriately, dealing with teasing and anger, identifying self and others positively, and accepting responsibility for wrong-doing. For more information and for dates of the group, contact Marilyn Brennan, LCSW at (920) 437-8256 or visit <http://www.afcscounseling.org/groups.php>
- **Social Skills and Teen Group Classes** – Sessions designed for ages 3-5, 6-12 and 13 and up for students to develop and practice appropriate social interactions with peers. Instruction and supervision by facilitators trained in ABA techniques. Spring, summer and fall sessions. Contact Wisconsin Early Autism Project at 920-338-1610.
- **Social Skills Classes** - Lund Van Dyke, Inc. offers classes for all individuals that have social deficits, specializing in working with individuals with autism. Weekly classes are offered in Northern and Central Wisconsin. All ages are welcome. Contact Maggie Cook, Social Skills Class Coordinator at 920-857-9041.

Sports Activities

- **Adapted Sports Program** – The Adapted Sports Development Program allows individuals with all ability levels within the Fox Valley Region to participate in quality sports and aquatic development programs. Instruction is provided to individuals from elementary age through adults with an emphasis on adapted physical education and is typically done on a one to one basis. To learn more, please contact Chris Stratton at strattonc@uwosh.edu
- **B.I.K.E.: Bringing Independence to Kids Everywhere!** – This adaptive bike riding program, led by Physical and Occupational Therapists, will have your child riding their two-wheeler upon completion of the program. Using a variety of equipment, teaching strategies and opportunities for sustained practice, clinicians facilitate the successful acquisition of new skills. Direct training, practice and family consultation are included. Each participant will be paired with a BIKE buddy to maximize safety. Specialized bicycles for training and partnerships with local vendors for additional modifications are available if needed. Ages 8-18. For details, go to <http://www.cp-center.org/childrens-developmental-services/smiles-for-children/>
- **Inspire Sports** - Provides various opportunities for individuals with special needs to grow physically and mentally. Peer mentors teach the fundamentals of the specific sport in a fun and engaging manner. One-to-one mentoring program creates a fun and safe environment for individuals to overcome any challenge. Visit www.inspiresportswi.org/events.cfm for a list of current programs in the Fox Valley. Contact inspiresportswi@gmail.com or 920-419-2025 with any questions.

- **myTEAM TRIUMPH** – Join an athletic ride along program created for children, teens, adults and veterans with disabilities who would normally not be able to experience an endurance event such as a road race or triathlon. Together, teams will “Triumph” through the race to the finish! For more information visit <http://myteamtriumph-wi.org/>. Captains have the opportunity to be part of a team, and enjoy some of the great outdoors, running, biking or swimming with their Angel team.
- **Special Olympics** – Provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of sports. Interested individuals over eight years of age with a cognitive disability are eligible to participate in the program. Sports offered include: aquatics, basketball, bocce, bowling, power lifting, softball, t-ball, and track & field. Contact Mandie Wilson at 920-725-0943 for more information. Any children between the ages of 2-7 are welcome to participate in the Young Athletes Program, which is an inclusive sports-play program open to children of ALL abilities. Young Athlete Program participants meet in Darboy during the winter months. Contact Greg for additional information at 920-858-7449.

Tennis

- **Adaptive Tennis at Oshkosh YMCA** – A new offering in 2015 for youth ages 7 – 18 with developmental or intellectual disabilities, it provides an opportunity to build hand-eye coordination, meet new people, and learn a lifelong sport. Offered once a week in the fall. Contact Sheila Counts at 920-236-3400.

Variety

- **Able and Active** – Sponsored by SOAR Fox Cities (formerly known as The Arc Fox Cities). Provides an easy-going social outlet for youth entering and navigating through the transition years with others in their age range. SOAR Fox Cities hopes to connect transition students with the community, students from other schools, and other SOAR Fox Cities services in a comfortable, inviting environment. Contact Ashley at 920-731-9831 x111 or ashley@soarfoxcities.com for more information.
- **Bingo Blast**– Come join in the fun, socialize with friends, win a prize and move to the music. The Appleton YMCA offers this weekly opportunity on Thursdays from 5:45 – 7:00 PM for individuals with special needs ages 18 and older from September - May. It is free for YMCA members or \$14 for a seven week session (\$2/night). Contact Sue Grosenick at 920-954-7610 for more information.
- **Building for Kids: Spectrum Saturdays** - The Building for Kids Children’s Museum in Appleton opens its doors on the third Saturday of each month for children with autism and their families for a lower sensory experience. Guests are invited to explore the museum’s exhibits and connect with other families from 9:00 – 10:00 am. These events are free for children with autism and their families. For more information please call Jill Bockin at The Building for Kids Children’s Museum at 920-734-3226 x 16.
- **Caring Hearts** - Exists to encourage people with developmental and physical disabilities by sharing the love of Christ through quarterly outings providing an environment of caring and connection. If you know of anyone who would like to be part of this exciting ministry, please contact Monica Betters at mbetters90@new.rr.com
- **Chance** – Chance provides recreational events and activities to adults with disabilities ages 18 and older. Each month upcoming events are posted on www.claritycare.org Participants travel to different events throughout Wisconsin. Some of the events offered include sport events, zoo trips, fishing excursions, dances, and much more. Chance also provides a camp experience throughout the summer to enjoy nature and the

outdoors. For information, please contact chance@claritycare.org or visit their website www.claritycare.org

- **Creative Play Respite** – Sponsored by SOAR Fox Cities (formerly known as The Arc Fox Cities) for children 3 – 12 years of age who have a developmental disability. Provides a day of educational and meaningful activities every 4-6 weeks so parents can get a break from caregiving. Contact Lisa McCallister at 920-725-0943 or lisa@soarfoxcities.com for additional information.
- **Disabled Citizens** - A group for individuals with disabilities ages 18 and older, Disabled Citizens provides an opportunity for interested individuals to provide support to one another, advocate for issues of importance, and have fun. The group meets monthly in Appleton. To learn more, visit www.disabledcitizens.org
- **Hangin' Out** – Group for children ages 7 to 13 with high functioning autism or Asperger's syndrome who want to socialize with other kids in a positive environment. For more information email Diane Nackers at asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org
- **IndependenceFirst** - Biking Buddies program loans out DUET bikes free of charge so youth and adults with disabilities can enjoy biking. Also provide Youth Leadership program to provide successful transition for young persons with disabilities from the school environment to individual educational, employment, recreational and housing goals. Please contact Alie Kriofske-Mainelle for more information at 414-226-8112.
- **Kidz Klub** - An after school program held once a month for elementary school age youth with and without disabilities. Youth take part in circle time along with large and small group activities. This program is held at one of the local elementary schools and anyone is welcome to attend. Contact Lisa McCallister at 920-725-0943 or lisa@soarfoxcities.com for more information.
- **Open Gym at Monkey Joe's** - Held the first Saturday of every month, the Autism Society of the Fox Valley (ASFV) hosts a family social activity at Monkey Joe's. The facility is open exclusively for ASFV from 9-10 am. Kids on the autism spectrum get a great social and recreational activity, siblings get a chance to meet other siblings, and parents have an opportunity for networking. It's free for ASFV members, and non-member families may attend for a \$5.00 fee. For more information, visit <http://www.focol.org/asfv/monthly.htm> or email Michele Matz at Michele@verhagen.us
- **Reel Movies for Real Needs** – Enjoy a movie in the theater in a setting that might be more comfortable for children with special needs – with the lights up and the sound at a lower volume. One Saturday morning a month, a 'first run' movie is played at the Appleton East Cinema for the regular matinee price. For more information and to see the movie for the month, visit <http://marcustheatres.com/marcus-specials/sensory-specific-films>
- **Play and Learn: Sensory Edition** – A 45 minute program offered once a month on Saturday mornings at the Appleton Public Library. No need to sit still and be quiet! This program, for developmental ages birth to eight years, will teach early literacy skills through a series of play-centered learning stations. Recommended for children on the autism spectrum or with sensory integration challenges. Questions? Email Ann Cooksey at acooksey@apl.org.
- **Special Touch Chapter**—Non-denominational Christian group meets monthly to explore their faith in a variety of gatherings. Open to older teens and adults who have a physical challenge and/or a mild cognitive challenge and want to participate in faith-based activities. Contact Jane at ybluejay@aol.com or call 920-428-4828.
- **Teen Social Activity** - The Autism Society of the Fox Valley organizes a monthly community outing for teens (age 13-20) with high functioning autism or Aspergers'

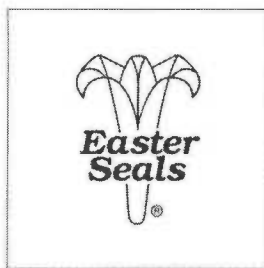
syndrome. The activities are adult directed and supervised by a licensed Speech Pathologist. Examples of past events include trips to Old Country Buffet, Funset Boulevard and the EAA museum. For more information, contact Diane Nackers at asfvevents@autismfoxvalley.org.

- **Teen Stop** - An after school program for youth in the middle school age range. This group does age appropriate cooperative activities which encourage positive interaction between youth with and without disabilities. Contact Lisa McCallister at 920-725-0943 or lisa@soarfoxcities.com for more information.
- **TnT** – Sponsored by SOAR Fox Cities (formerly The Arc Fox Cities), TnT serves youth with and without disabilities ages 13-23. Bimonthly meetings, as well as additionally scheduled educational, social and recreational activities, provide a number of opportunities for fun, community service, and socializing. Contact 920-725-0943 to speak with Lisa McCallister (lisa@soarfoxcities.com).

One Time Offerings

- **Appleton Parks and Recreation Hockey** - See full description under Hockey.
- **Appleton Parks and Recreation Playground Fair** – Every July during Children's Week, the Parks and Recreation department offers a Playground Fair. It's two fun-filled days of carnival games, inflatables, great food and entertainment. During the Friday of the Playground Fair, the fair opens early (from 12:30 – 2:00) specifically for children with special needs. Watch <http://appletonparkandrec.org/> for the details.
- **Great Pumpkin Party** – Halloween celebration held each year at Country Inn & Suites in Appleton. Provides a safe and accessible space for children with special needs to trick-or-treat. 2015 date is October 22 from 4:00-6:00 pm. Questions call 920-830-3240.
- **Green Bay Fusion** – Offers a cheer experience in an open gym format for individuals with special needs once a quarter. To learn more, including the dates, call 920-328-8497 or visit www.greenbayfusion.com
- **Fishing Has No Boundaries** – See full description under Fishing/Hunting.
- **Kimberly High School Football Camp** – See full description under Football.
- **Xavier Hawks Football Camp** – See full description under Football.

This list is provided to you by:



Easter Seals Disability HelpLine

820 W. College Avenue

Appleton, WI 54914

920-832-0344

www.eastersealswisconsin.com

Creating solutions, changing lives.

A huge thank you to Easter Seals' volunteer Alyson Krokosky who is responsible for updating this important family resource each year!

*This list is provided for informational purposes only. The fact an organization is listed or not listed is not an endorsement or lack of endorsement of the program. Updated August 2015.