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Come for a visit!

On the web...

www.northernbridges.com

At our board meetings...

Our Board of Directors meet monthly. Check our website for dates and times.

CONTACT US:

For general questions, please call toll free 1-866-306-6499.

For newsletter questions or comments call 715-635-3122 Ext. 1817 or email: jjoyce@northernbridges.com

NorthernBridges' Mission

Providing our members the best life possible

A Life Story

Written in his own words by Joshua Carbon, NorthernBridges member

As a child I had a rough life. I was picked on and bullied in school. I was ridiculed and abused. Today I was given a chance to live out my life with some supports. I have friends and family that live close by.

I'm enjoying my life being independent. Yes I have had ups and downs when I first moved back to my hometown, but that's the past and I'm in the now. Its been 10 months and I've made some improvements with help from New Horizons North and Northern Bridges.

I have a Guardian who cares about me and loves me a lot. My Father works hard to come visit me. I have a Significant other I love and care about. My Life I'm Living is a reward for me since we only get one life. I begged and pleaded with people to help me live independently they listened and look at me now. I live with two other gentlemen in a semi-Independent living arrangement made possible by

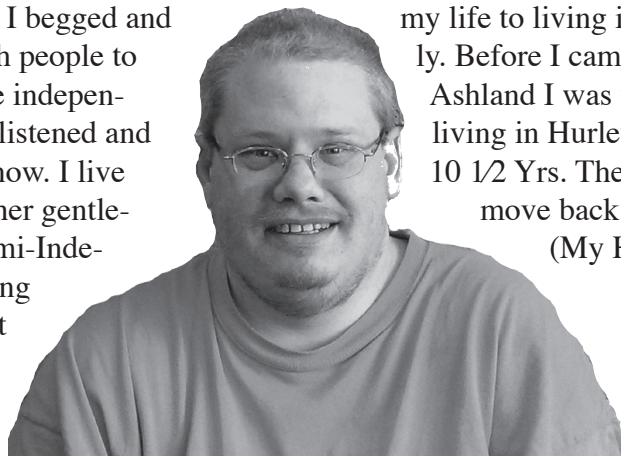
NorthernBridges, Ashland County, And New Horizons North. I have supports through New Horizons 5 days a week, and I meet With My NorthernBridges Care manager as needed or every 6 months.

I am Thankful That I am Living Independently. My Schedule Consists Of Daily Chores, Weekly Chores, Going for walks, Visiting Friends and family whenever I want, Cooking twice a week for me and my roommates, and I have A Volunteer job thru the City Police Dept. Making sure the parks stay clean, and Safe. I also volunteer thru Faith in Action Network Ashland County, and at the Memorial Medical Center Thrift Shop.

I have it made here in my hometown; I have come a long ways from being in group homes most of my life to living independently. Before I came back to Ashland I was working and living in Hurley Wisconsin 10 1/2 Yrs. Then decided to move back to Ashland (My Hometown).

The End

Joshua Carbon



Congratulations to Our Olympic Heroes

Two NorthernBridges' members from our Superior hub were among the 200 athletes who competed in the 2011 Special Olympics Wisconsin Winter Games near Wausau.

NorthernBridges funds recreational programming through The Challenge Center, which helps to supervise participants in such meaningful activities as the Special Olympics.



Dan Wendt has participated in Special Olympics for 20 years. He was very excited this year to win

three bronze medals. He loves Special Olympics because the trips are always fun and exciting.



Roy Breezee has participated in Special Olympics for 30 years, and won a Gold Medal in the 2001 International Special Olympics in Alaska. He was very happy to win his medals this year. Special Olympics is meaningful to Dan because he loves traveling to new places and making so many great memories.

County Wait Lists for Family Care Cut By More Than Half

The number of elderly and those with disabilities on county waiting lists for Family Care services has been cut by over half since NorthernBridges began delivering the benefit to northwest Wisconsin 20 months ago.

“We are right on schedule to eliminate wait lists in the 11 counties we serve by 2012,” said NorthernBridges’ CEO John T. McMahon. “One of the goals of the state’s Family Care program is that those who qualify for services will not have to wait, sometimes for years, to get the help they need. NorthernBridges’ goal is to do that within three years of opening and I believe we are well on the way to achieving that goal.”

Those on wait lists totaled 1,193 when NorthernBridges opened its regional hub offices in the spring and summer of 2009. Since then, over 615 people have been taken off the lists.

“We work in partnership with the county Aging and Disability

Resource Centers that manage the wait lists,” said Nancy Brede, NorthernBridges’ Director of Care Management. “We average about 31 off the wait list every month.”

Wisconsin pioneered Family Care to fight rising long-term care costs and rescue over 11,000 people statewide who had been on waiting lists for long-term care.

“People on the wait lists have a higher incidence of emergency hospital visits and health issues,” said Grace Burkinshaw, a registered nurse and NorthernBridges Resource Center manager. “Along with improving their health and quality of life, it is actually cost-effective to help them get services and off the wait list.”

“With each person taken off the wait list, we are nearer the time when wait lists no longer exist,” said McMahon, “and we manage our resources wisely enough to help all those in our communities who truly need our help.”

Please Share Your Stories With Us!

If members, family, or friends would like to share stories, healthy recipes, caregiving tips, poems, or any other thoughts, please drop us a line. We will post in this newsletter or on our website in the “Members” section at:
www.northernbridges.com
or write us at:

NorthernBridges
“Member Newsletter”
514 Service Road,
Spooner, WI 54801

Beware of Scam Artists

By Karen Johnson, NorthernBridges' Regional Manager



My dad had been sent several letters looking like they came from Publishers' Clearing house.

According to these letters, he won awards in several different amounts. All he had to do was call a number to verify his bank account information.

These letters looked official and I could see the excitement in his eyes. Thankfully, he contacted me

and I was able to look it up on the official Publishers' Clearinghouse website and found the letters to be a scam.

Some scam artists may send out real looking checks in an attempt to get you to send money. You may receive an official looking letter that includes what appears to be a real looking check. Using a variety of false promises, the scammers will tell you to wire back a portion of the check.

DO NOT fall for these Fake Check

Scams. Whatever the set-up, the results are always the same. If you send money back, you'll be out twice. YOU will owe the bank the money you withdrew and the scammers will have the money you sent in their pockets!

Be smart. Be safe. Be protected.

If you or someone you know believes they have been the victim of a scam using the name of Publishers Clearing House, contact Publishers Clearing House at 1-800-645-9242.

Health Screen a Lifesaver for Sister and Brother

With her easy smile and ready sense of humor, you would never guess what a tough year it's been for Therese Creuzer.

It started on a high note for the Luck woman, who has a developmental disability. After being on a county wait list for services, she was able to join NorthernBridges.

It was from questions and answers during that first NorthernBridges health screen that the care manager discovered there could be a problem. She made sure Therese saw a doctor who found she had colon cancer.

Therese had surgery then struggled with an infection that put her in a nursing home for a time last summer. "It was no picnic," she said.

Because colorectal cancer runs in families, the doctors advised Therese's brother Jeff to have a colonoscopy, an outpatient procedure recommended for everyone over 50.

"They found what the doctor said was the biggest polyp he's ever removed," said Jeff. "Another five

months and he said I would have been full of cancer."

Today both brother and sister are doing well.

"I tell everyone to get tested," said Jeff. "It's one of the most curable cancers if you catch it early. I have a brand new granddaughter and that kind of changed everything for me. I want to be around for awhile."



Member Therese Creuzer with brother Jeff.



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Toll Free 866-994-7484

Superior / Douglas Co.
3631 Tower Avenue
Superior, WI 54880
715-392-2288
Toll Free 877-307-2288

Hayward / Sawyer Co.
15735 US Hwy. 63
Hayward, WI 54843
715-934-2282
Toll Free 877-934-2282

Centuria / Polk &
Burnett Counties
1001 State Hwy. 35
Centuria, WI 54824
715-646-1477
Toll Free 866-751-3147

Spooner / Washburn
& Burnett Counties
514 Service Road
Spooner, WI 54801
715-635-3122
Toll Free 877-635-3122

Ashland / Ashland &
Bayfield Counties
400 3rd Avenue W.
Ashland, WI 54806
715-682-1024
Toll Free 877-434-1025

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& Iron Counties
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Park Falls, WI 54552
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Toll Free 877-857-0696

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1500 Port Arthur Road
Ladysmith, WI 54848
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