

# Promise Newsletter October 2016

## **Ellies Updates: Wisconsin Promise Participants**

Success stories from Promise kids and families keep rolling in as participants take advantage of opportunities and access Promise services. Lives are changing as a result of Wisconsin Promise!

[Read just a few of the responses we've received from families this month, and learn more about Wisconsin Promise participants.](#)

## **Fox Cities Community Conversation**

On the evening of Thursday September 22, 122 people gathered at the Miron Construction headquarters in Neenah for a community conversation facilitated by Lisa Malak of Local 5 Live in Green Bay. Leaders from local advocacy organizations, the Fox Cities Chamber, and Miron's representative on the Business Advisory council at the St. Elizabeth's Hospital Project SEARCH met numerous times to plan the event. They reached out to employers in the Fox Cities, school personnel, families and youth, and service providers to attend the conversation. Representatives from six legislative offices attended. The event had many corporate sponsors as well, and Zuppa's (a restaurant that employs a young adult with a disability) of Menasha provided a discounted rate on dinner, so attendees were well fed and had time to network and view videos of Wisconsin youth working before the conversation started.

Tania Hanford, Promise DVR Counselor, and Leah Eide, a Promise youth who had her first work experience last summer, told their employment story to the audience. Employers in attendance included Kwik Trip, Coca-Cola, Kimberly Clark, Thrivent Financial, Gulfstream, and others. Conversation at every table was lively; information was exchanged. Employers wanted to know how to get the word out to those not in attendance, and already connections among employers, teachers, and job developers look promising in the community's efforts to help youth with disabilities and other barriers get jobs in the Fox Cities community.

One exciting example of a connection made at the event: Lisa Malak offered a job shadow at the Local 5 Live station to a Promise youth. Stay tuned for more on that story!

[Watch an interview with Tania Hanford about the Community Conversation.](#)

## **Success Story**

Mom and Son Work Goals Achieved... Wisconsin Promise is working for this family! [Read more](#)

## **Promise Blog: Discovering Ourselves**

We make discoveries about ourselves throughout our lives...This is true during different periods of our lives, like college for example. We are constantly learning new things about ourselves. This is especially true when you are given more responsibility as a college student. [Read more](#)

## **Promise for Parents and Family**

### **Parents' Rights and School Records**

Learn Your Rights. School records contain important information for making decisions about your child's education. Learn what your rights are as a parent of a child with a disability [here](#).

### **Promise for Teen Participants**

Looking for a Job? Spread the Word! --- We know you have homework - and the last thing you want is more reading. So here's a short n' sweet job tip.

## **Meet Our Family Advocates**

### **Terri DeGaro**

#### **West Allis, WI; WDA 2&3**

Terri is working for the Family Advocate Network in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington Counties. She has worked for the Wisconsin Promise Grant since its inception as a Recruiter and PIC. As a parent with a special needs child she has been active with Wisconsin Facets, Parent 2 Parent, the West Allis Drug and Alcohol Coalition, PTA, and other groups. Her specialty training is in ADHD; as a parent she has faced some of the challenges with this disorder. She understands the stress a parent of a special needs child deals with and can empathize. A parent can only do the best they can with the information they have. Terri believes in helping parents get the resources and knowledge needed to effectively advocate for their children to make their lives better.

Meet more Promise advocates [Here](#)

## **Steering Committee Profile Members and Emails**

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