



September 2011 Newsletter

Company News

-Anytime you need to call in, make sure to call all appropriate people including the family and Senior. Also, if the child is at a daycare center, inform them as well. This needs to be done with as much advance notice as possible!

-If you receive an e-mail, phone call, or text from a Senior or any coworker in the company you need to respond in some form, even if it's just to say "thanks- got the message!"

-Thank you to all of the teams for your hard work to make the fall transition a smooth one! Keep it up!

-If you are interested in being on a list for families to call when in need of a babysitter or to be a floater please contact Char (cgeissman@hotmail.com).

-Don't forget to "Like" us on facebook!



Happy Birthday!

9/1 Esther Smith



Hours

*Every person is now responsible for turning in their own hours on a DAILY basis!

*E-mail or text Marie every day you work (johns323@rangers.uwp.edu or 262-880-5581)

*Include the date and time, the child(ren) you worked with, if a team meeting occurred, if at a daycare, or if travel time is included.

*If this information is not received, you may not be paid for these hours until the following pay period.

*Thank you, Everyone, for working with us on this new change!

Advanced Lines

-There are a few new responsibilities for you! Your Senior will be going over these with you shortly and if you have any questions- ask!

*Drop off all of the teams' timesheets to the office by the 5th of the starting month.

*Call Heather at the office (414-751-4222) and let her know what paperwork is needed for a child's house.



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Naperville Father Takes on Ironman for Sons with Autism

Families impacted by autism know that each day brings new challenges to endure. Naperville resident Howard Weiss knows this as well as anyone. Weiss has two sons with autism disorders.

Weiss saw the correlation between families dealing with autism and an Ironman. He decided that by competing he could raise both money and awareness for a cause close to his heart.

“(For families dealing with autism), it’s kind of an endurance race every day,” Weiss said. “I thought it relates to this Ironman, which is really the endurance event of all endurance events.”

Weiss’s 12-year-old son, Jackson, who attends Hill Middle School, is a high-functioning autistic, and 10-year-old Benjamin, who attends Brookdale Elementary School, has been diagnosed with Asperger’s syndrome. After Weiss went through the normal emotions that parents of autistic children go through — from denial to attempts to find a cure, to hopelessness and then coming to terms with the diagnosis — he felt he needed to take some kind of action.

“I was looking for something to do to get involved,” said Weiss, who is executive vice president of Esser Hayes Insurance Group in Naperville, “(and) feel like I was making a difference.”

More than a year ago, he learned about Turning Pointe Autism Foundation in Naperville, and was moved by the work they are doing. Weiss said he was especially impressed with Turning Pointe’s mission and the hope of helping children with autism become meaningful, competent adults.

Weiss got involved, serving on Turning Pointe’s board and executive committee. He then decided he wanted to participate in the Ironman Wisconsin on Sept. 11, which consists of a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile marathon all in one day. He also would use it as a springboard to fundraise for Turning Pointe. His goal is to raise \$10,000 to go toward the foundation’s \$150,000 yearly operational

fund. Weiss told friends and family about his mission, but he was surprised when word got out in the community.

“A lot of people have called me with their stories,” Weiss said. “I’ve turned them on to the message of Turning Pointe, which is that there is opportunity for these children.”

Weiss said he understands that parents of children with autism oftentimes become secluded because of their children’s behavioral or social issues. He said that he can relate to those feelings of hopelessness.

“My hope is that through this I can reach out to those families and let them know there is something out there to be hopeful for,” Weiss said.

According to Drew Glassford, executive director at Turning Pointe, the foundation’s typical fundraising comes from private families and corporate partners. But Glassford said Weiss is not the typical fundraiser.

“Howard is the great exception,” Glassford said. “Not only is he a parent, but he’s also a parent who is personally engaged in a significant personal effort on behalf of his sons to raise the bar for the future.”

Weiss, who has previously competed in marathons and half Ironmans, has been working out three to four hours a day, training in the early morning hours, late at night and on the weekends.

“I’ve always had the mentality, if you’re going to do something, you should do it to the fullest,” Weiss said.

Glassford said he has been particularly inspired and touched by Weiss’s efforts.

“As a parent of a child with autism, his life is challenged significantly already,” Glassford said. “To further put himself out there for an endeavor of this magnitude on behalf of our foundation is personally moving to me.”