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Dancing for Little Stars 2015 Volunteer Planning Committee

Jessica Benesh ★ Johannah Bradle ★ Beth Caramanidis
Bill Fischer ★ John Hobbins ★ Meghann Kasper ★ Erin Martin
Shannon Rahmlow ★ Lori Renning ★ Kelli Tabb

Parent Connection is a program of Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin, a non-profit organization that protects, heals, and cares for children and families in need. Our agency offers more than 30 programs that support the people of our communities during challenges and transitions in their lives.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015
OSHKOSH CONVENTION CENTER
Parent Connection welcomes you to:

**Dancing for Little Stars**

**Master of Ceremonies**
Nikki from 95.9 Kiss FM

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**Event Schedule**

6:30 pm - Registration, Cocktails & Hors d’oeuvres, Silent Auction

7:35 pm - Welcome, Family Services Intro and Community Awards Presentation

8:00 pm - “Dancing for Little Stars” competition

10:00 pm - Winners Announced

10:20 pm - "Afterglow" with more music, more dancing and more fun!

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Parent Connection is a parent education and early learning program that **Encourages**, **Strengthens**, and **Supports** families in the Oshkosh area. Services include Parents as Teachers™ Home Visitation, Family Wellness Workshops, Teen Parent Programs, Dads Programs, Family Fun Events, Supervised Visitation, and more. Your support helps to ensure that our local children are safe and thriving, and given the best start possible.

*Thank you for your support!*
Parent Connection Community Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of Parent Connection’s 2015 Community Awards:

2015 Good Heart Award
Gretchen Marin

The Good Heart award recognizes the efforts of individuals who continually make a difference in the lives of children and families in the community.

Gretchen has been involved with Parent Connection since 2011, helping our families with meeting their basic needs - often on very little notice. Through her work as the Owner of Neat Freaks, a local painting and cleaning business, she has been able to donate cribs, high chairs, beds, and many other basic necessity items. Even on her own birthday, she is thinking others. She hosts a party each year and asks guests to bring a donation instead of a gift, which she then gives to charity to help children and families in need.

“I have been where many of these families are, and feel fortunate that I am now able to give back,” she says. “It gives me so much joy to help make others’ lives easier.”

2015 Cherish the Child Award
Phil Marshall

The Cherish the Child award recognizes outstanding service by honoring area professionals who go above and beyond to provide care and support to children and families in our community.

Phil has worked in the Oshkosh School District for the past 22 years, most recently as Principal at Webster Stanley Middle School since 2012. He is well known for his commitment to helping each student realize his or her potential - one student at a time. He has been an ambassador for at-risk students and families in need, guiding those who are underrepresented and unable to advocate for themselves. “Watching children learn and develop when their basic needs are finally met is when I know I have done my job,” he says.

Phil was also a driving force behind fundraising for the auditorium renovation at Webster Stanley, a long overdue project that will benefit both the students with a more modern learning environment and the community with a higher quality performing arts venue. Through these efforts and many others, Phil has truly gone above and beyond to make our community a better place for all.

Meet the Dancers

1) Swift Shakers
Dancers: Melanie Phillips, Nicole Reader, Jaymee Lauersdorf, Melissa Lauersdorf and Jenna Serwe

Back in high school, they were the dream team. Four of these five young women danced together at Winnebago Lutheran Academy, and in many competitions across the state. Now, they are dusting off their dance shoes and stretching their muscles to entertain at Dancing for Little Stars. Although they are now dispersed throughout the area in many different fields of work and school, they are joining back together to support the work of Parent Connection, helping children in our community.

2) Bella Academy Dancers
Dancers: Julie Pamentor, Erica Hubbell, Karlie Nuccio, Kali Preston, Emily Popp, Nese Fountain, Toni Smedstedt and Mariah Darling

With a strong belief in helping our community, Bella Academy Dancers are honored to be part of Dancing for Little Stars again this year. In addition to their dancing, Bella students also provide the hair and make-up for all contestants in the Miss Oshkosh Pageant, and have provided free services to residents at the Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Center.

3) On Tap of the World
Dancers: Erin Martin, Anna Allen and Meagan Volocyk

Last year, three friends - Erin, Anna & Holly - had the chance to reconnect through Dancing for Little Stars. Now 18 years and almost nine children later (Holly is a soon-to-be mother of four), the group is back for another round! This year, Meagan fills Holly’s spot in the tap dancing trio. She and Erin are colleagues in Kimberly Clark’s customer supply chain division; Anna continues her work as an educator for the Howard-Suamico School District. The group is dancing this year to show their tremendous respect and support for the important work Parent Connection does to benefit our community.
4) Two to Tango

*Dancers: Marina Mishin and Ed Salazar*

“I greatly appreciate the services provided by Parent Connection to our community and our patients, especially first-time parents,” says Marina, a Physician Assistant at Aurora Health Care in Oshkosh. “I am happy to support this important mission and be part of such a fun event.” Her dance partner, Ed, has a background in computer science, cosmetology, acupuncture and massage therapy. He represents Bailando Latin Dance, promoting a motto of “Building Community through Dance.” He dances to educate and create awareness about child abuse.

5) The Cupcake Girls

*Dancers: Brianna Lucey, Hannah Buerger, Megan Wara, Kristin Holschbach and Haili Drury*

When in doubt cupcake it out, these ladies love to boogie! From the Gurus of the UWO Hip Hop team to the girls who just wanna have fun, these five lovely cupcake girls from under the polka dots at Tamara’s are always happy to get out in the community and show a little cupcake love! “We know that Parent Connection makes a huge difference in the lives of children in our community and are proud to support such an important organization.”

6) Yellow Rock Cloggers

*Dancers: Meghann Kasper, Cassie Binder, Jan Adams, Cindy Frost, Kim Giffey, Hannah Gregory, Emily Binder, Kathy Molinski, Ally Molinski, Calista Molinski, Elizabeth Warner and Mackenzie Warner*

The Yellow Rock Cloggers of Oshkosh formed in 1984, directed by Jan Adams and currently has 28 members, ages 7 and up. It’s a family oriented group of women that perform at many events, including fairs, festivals, nursing homes, and more. Clogging is an American Folk Dance of individual expression. This percussive dance with rapid-fire footwork keeps time with the downbeat, and can be done with all types of music. The Yellow Rock Cloggers are proud to be a part of the Dancing for Little Stars event, supporting the mission of Parent Connection!

7) Oshkosh Southwest Rotary

*Dancers: Megan Bartelt, Patty Shea, Jon Dudzinski, Autumn Urban and Nate Olson*

Oshkosh Southwest Rotary is proud to participate in many events and projects within our community including Battle on Bago, Partners at Learning, Little Oshkosh, Meals on Wheels, Oshkosh beautification projects, Parent Connection’s Christmas Party, Celebration of Lights, Celebrate Education, Shared Harvest, and many more. The group is also proud to be involved in International Service in Kenya and Peru. Helping the growth of future generations through educational programming is at the core of Southwest Rotary’s community involvement and one of the many reasons why they are proud to support Parent Connection.

**Meet the Dancers**

**Tonight’s Raffle Items**

1) Pig Raffle: Stock your freezer with delicious cuts of pork, ham, bacon and more from Beck’s Meat (processing included). $20 per ticket, unlimited entries.

2) Coach Purse Raffle: Purchase a box of chocolates for your chance to win. $20 each, only 100 chances will be sold!

3) 50/50 Raffle: 5 tickets for $5; 15 for $10; or 40 for $20

Winners will be announced tonight during the dance competition. See a volunteer attendant for your chance to win!