



Luncheon and  
"Show Your  
Purse-onality"  
silent Auction

October 25 11:30 am—1:30 pm  
Radisson Paper Valley, Appleton

Call 920-968-1742 or visit [www.fvssn.org](http://www.fvssn.org)

**Welcome to Our World**

**Announcing the 2011-2012  
Sibshop schedule**

**Check it out at [www.fvssn.org](http://www.fvssn.org)**

Fox Valley Sibling  
Support Network



Dedicated to brothers and sisters of people  
with special needs and long-term illnesses.  
**920-968-1742 [www.FVSSN.org](http://www.FVSSN.org)**

**Volume 10, Issue 1  
September-November 2011**

Harriet Redman, Executive Director  
Amy Marler, Sibshop Coordinator

# SibNews

**News for and about individuals concerned about siblings with special needs or long-term illnesses.**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 9/7 **Adult Advisory Group**  
NOON— Atlas Coffee Mill
- 9/10 **Sibshop on the Farm**  
12:30—4:00 pm
- 10/1 **Sibling's Choice  
Nominations due**  
Send forms to FVSSN office
- 10/2-8 **Celebrating Abilities Week**  
Throughout Fox Valley
- 10/6 **Abilities Award event**  
6:30 pm **FREE** Fox Cities P.A.C.
- 10/8 **Views from Our World  
Sibshop** 10 am—2 pm  
Oshkosh YMCA
- 10/22 **Views from Our World  
Sibshop** 10 am—2 pm  
CP Center—Green Bay
- 10/25 **Celebrate Sisterhood**  
11:30 am—1:30 pm  
Radisson Paper Valley—Appleton
- 10/27 **Country Pumpkin Party**  
4:30-6:30 pm  
Country Inn and Suites
- 11/9 **Adult Advisory Group**  
Noon— Atlas Coffee Mill
- 11/19 **S.P.A. Sibshop** for girls & moms  
10 am—2 pm  
Gill Tech, then to Fratello's at Fox  
River Mall - Appleton



## Sibs in the City by Jane Stevenson

Just when you think you know it all or that what you do know doesn't really matter much, you meet up with other siblings who are at different levels of "siblingness". You share, you laugh, you cry, you learn.

At the *Sibs in the City* event this summer, Wisconsin siblings (Paula and Roy Hogle, Janie Stevenson, Susan Olson and her brother, John, and Christiana Redman) participated in a round table discussion with Illinois Sibs. *Food for Thought: The Dynamic Sibling* was the topic presented by Linda Sandman, MSW, LCSW, Clinical Director of the Developmental Disabilities Family Clinics at UIC's Institute on Disability & Human Development.

Now this might sound rather dry, but I assure you, it was not. Linda began with True and False questions; and from there we all were reflecting on our journey of being a brother or sister to a sibling with a disability.

Linda stressed coping attitudes to keep us grounded. We move forward when we can adapt to the current situation, we resolve (deal with it) to create meaning in our lives, and make connections with others.

Accepting change is a "biggie". To understand change, we can ask ourselves: is this something I can control? or is it out of my control?

As siblings, we help each other by sharing a common culture; we have walked in each others' shoes! We learned that its important to be resilient; have self-control, and develop coping strategies. It helps to have open and positive communication with one another. Sounds simple, but it's not easy!



Find more information, visit  
[www.FVSSN.org](http://www.FVSSN.org) or email  
[fvssn@fvssn.org](mailto:fvssn@fvssn.org) or "like" us  
at [www.facebook.com/  
FoxValleySiblingSupportNetwork](http://www.facebook.com/FoxValleySiblingSupportNetwork)



## Help needed!

Once again this year, FVSSN will be hosting a room at the Great Country Pumpkin Party sponsored by Country Inn and Suites for kids with disabilities and we need help. If you like decorating for Halloween, contact Harriet.



And visit us at:

**GREAT COUNTRY PUMPKIN PARTY  
THURS, OCT 27, 2011 4:30-6:30 PM  
COUNTRY INN AND SUITES  
355 FOX RIVER DRIVE, APPLETON**



Left: John enjoys the Chicago Disability Pride Parade.  
Right: WI Sibs Jane, Paula and Susan get acquainted.



Fox Valley Sibling Support Network   
 506 E. Parkway Blvd  
 Appleton, WI 54911

**Tuesday, October 25th**

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Radisson Paper Valley Hotel  
 333 W. College Ave., Appleton

Join us as we celebrate the unique and very special bonds we share as sisters-our biological and our friends who are like sisters. Enjoy a delicious lunch, fun "Show Off Your Purse-inality" silent auction and a great time networking.

**\$45 per person**

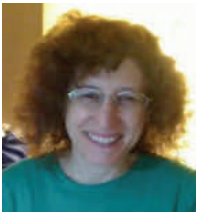
**\$360/table of 8      \$450/table of 10**

For more information or to make reservations, call 920-954-1015 or email [mschenian@aol.com](mailto:mschenian@aol.com)

## Sibs in the News!

This column shares with readers recent articles, books or blogs written by or about children or adults who have siblings with special needs.

**From Rachel Simon's blog:** *It's ironic. Being a sibling of a person with a disability means always feeling connected to someone else. Yet because of the way our society thinks of that someone else, it also means feeling far apart from others.*



Rachel Simon, author of *Riding the Bus with My Sister*  
[www.rachelsimon.com/blog](http://www.rachelsimon.com/blog)

**From Special Siblings, Special Love YouTube video:**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ve-yGz5KzYs>

*I don't think of my sister having a disability. I see it as she has something extra, not something missing.*

Laura Murahashi

*The best part about having a brother with a disability is it really makes you think about what is important, what challenges matter...what really matters.*

Anthony Cangialosi



**Welcome to Our World** is the theme of this year's Sibshops for children ages 6-12 who have brothers or sisters with disabilities or long-term illnesses. These siblings are extraordinary. They are **role models** to their siblings, their classmates, their friends and their community. They are **advocates** for themselves and often for people with disabilities. They are **caregivers**. Even the very youngest often look out for their vulnerable siblings at home, on the playground or in the aisles of the grocery store. It is all part of their unique world.

Through tons of lively, sib-focused fun activities at Sibshops, kids will get the chance to understand their world more, appreciate their incredible role as siblings better, and celebrate it all with lots of new friends.

The fee for FVSSN Sibshops is \$12/ child, but sign up as a Super Sibshopper and just pay \$7 per Sibshop. Financial assistance available. For an application and a Sibshop registration form, visit [www.fvssn.org](http://www.fvssn.org)

**FIRST FOR FREE**  
 ■ Sibs who are attending their first Sibshop are FREE!



**Sibshop on the Farm**  
 Sept. 10 12:30-4:00 pm

Mulberry Lane Farm — 3190 Cty Rd B, Hilbert  
 Play Sibshop games, pet lots of cute animals, milk a cow, ride a pony, enjoy a hayride. Plus snacks and a pumpkin to take home.

**Views from Our World Sibshop**

Oct. 8 10 am—2 pm

Oshkosh YMCA—3303 W. 20th Ave., Oshkosh  
 or attend this Sibshop at the CP Center in Green Bay on

Oct. 22 10 am—2 pm

Have fun at this Sibshop while better understanding your sibling's condition and your important role as a brother or sister.

**S.P.A. Sibshop for girls & moms**

Nov. 19 10 am—2 pm

GillTech at 230 McCarthy Rd—Appleton for fun hair styles  
 Fratello's at Fox River Mall for lunch and more girl talk



## Celebrating ABILITIES

Celebrating Abilities is a Fox Cities-based project to increase awareness of the abilities of individuals in our community, regardless of any apparent disability.

Join us for the Abilities Award event on Thursday, Oct 6 at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center at 6:30. You'll be inspired by a message from Mike McGowan. Thrown from a horse in July 2000, Mike is paraplegic. Yet he believes there is no such thing as "can't" and continues to ride and train horses.

The program features the annual presentation of Abilities Awards. Refreshments served. Event is free and accessible.

**Sponsored by Bethesda Lutheran Communities and Thrift Shops, Affinity Health System and the Northeast Regional Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs.**

**MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.FVSSN.ORG**

\$12 per child at the door. Only \$7 with the Super Sibshopper discount. To Register for any of the above, email [fvssn@fvssn.org](mailto:fvssn@fvssn.org) or call 968-1742.

## Watch for information about the next Future is Now!

As an adult sibling, do you ever worry about the future of your sibling? Ever wonder what your responsibility is? Ever concerned about what happens to your sibling once your parents are unavailable? Then Future is Now! is for you. You will meet other adult siblings, discuss future planning issues such as housing, work, retirement and leisure, legal, financial and what is available in community to help. Guest presenters, videos and materials help participants complete a "letter of intent". Watch [www.fvssn.org](http://www.fvssn.org) for announcements.