

# Disability Advocacy Day 2021!

www.peoplefirstwisconsin.org  
PeopleFirstWi@gmail.com  
414-483-2546

## Going Virtual!



**Save the date: March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
10:00 AM-2:00 PM.**

This year Disability Advocacy Day will be virtual on a Zoom meeting.

**Registration Opens February  
15, 2021**

Disability Day of Action is a virtual event focused on connecting Disability Advocates with their legislators to talk about issues that matter to them. Attendees are expected to participate in the morning briefing and call their legislators in the afternoon.

### AGENDA AT A GLANCE

#### **Morning:**

10:00–12:00 Check in to the Zoom meeting

- \* Briefing on issues
- \* Learn how to use the Phone2Action System to call your legislator

#### **Afternoon:**

Use the Phone2Action System to call your legislators!



# People First Wisconsin Chapter Spotlight

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## Fond du Lac!

We caught up with Pam Jandura, co-advisor of People First Fond du lac. And she had this to say:

### 1.) What are you the most proud of about your chapter?

Everyone agrees that we do a great job of encouraging, providing tools, and making plans for our People First members to vote. We are particularly proud of our community's involvement with People First. We have had dozens of community leaders, business owners, and legislators participate in our meetings. We are proud of our relationships and our respected standing in the community



### 2.) It seems like your group is surviving and finding good things. Any tips about staying positive and keep advocating?

One of our volunteers, Michele, puts it best. "We believe that as Americans, we have rights." We strive to learn about our rights and exercise our rights to vote, work, and live well in the community.

### 3.) What are some of your chapter's goals for 2021? Examples: get 2 more members, using social media?

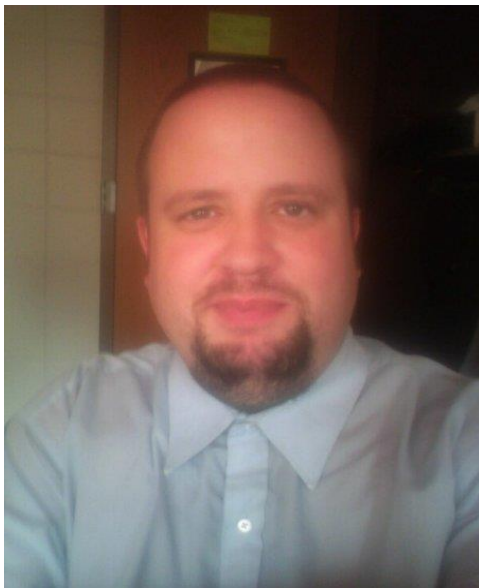
At January's meeting we welcomed Brenda, a representative from the Fond du Lac chapter of NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. One of our members had expressed interest in learning more about managing mental illness. Brenda led us through an interesting exercise to teach us what it is like to have an attitude of self-doubt when doing new things, like going on a job interview. We'd like to invite Brenda back, maybe to discuss the topic of bullying. One of our goals is to continue to face hard topics head on, with open discussion and respect. One of our members, Vickie, says, "I'd like to learn more about voting." Our group discusses voting, makes plans for voting, and we are already planning for everyone to vote in the April, 2021 election. We often invite community leaders to our meetings, and we recently hosted state assemblyman Jeremy Thiesfeldt, who paid us a campaign visit a few months ago. We are also looking for more community volunteer opportunities. Emily, one of our members, recently volunteered at a community baby shower for needy families. We have also volunteered at brat fries. We'd like to do more events like these.

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## Living Well Covid meet-ups

### Self-Advocate Reviews



**Lynndale I, Fox Valley**

“It's means alot to me to know that we can make new friends and to share with each other and feel accepted and loved and trusted thanks everyone to help me grow to be the person that God created me to be.”

**Larry B. Milwaukee, WI** It gives me great opportunity to stay in touch with my People First Community / People across the state of Wisconsin. Julie does a wonderful job helping people of all abilities stay connected, in the community and on top of COVID19. The tips & toolkits are fantastic.

Without these efforts and virtual meetings, life would not be the same. As President of People First Milwaukee, this gives me great ideas on how to structure future meetings, both now and in the future. Thank you for all you do.



**Maddie. Grafton, WI** “I like talking to Julie about *Bob's Under the Bridge* and --everyone helping us.”

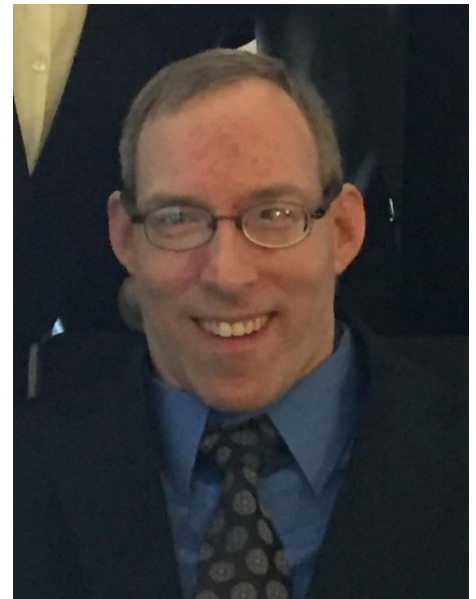
# Living Well Covid meet-ups

## Self-Advocate Reviews Continued

The People First Self-Advocacy meet ups have been so helpful to me. They are a great way for people to network and help one another during these unusual times and they are a great way for self-advocates to help one another. I look forward to continuing these meetings and possibly expanding the out-reach to self-advocates and their families statewide. A big thanks to the Julie and the team at People First Wisconsin and a special thanks goes out to the funders for making this happen.

It's a great way for participants to connect during these challenging times and the phone option on Zoom is very helpful. This is especially important to me because I have Cerebral Palsy and talking with everyone gives me a variety of perspectives. I feel that every person is a gift and has something to contribute to the community and conversations. I hope these meetings continue during this pandemic and many years to come”

**Ramsey L. Hudson, WI**



“I like to talk about the Packers with everyone. I like learning about everyone in our group. Last week Julie said they had snow in Madison. **Nick. Grafton, WI**





# Announcements



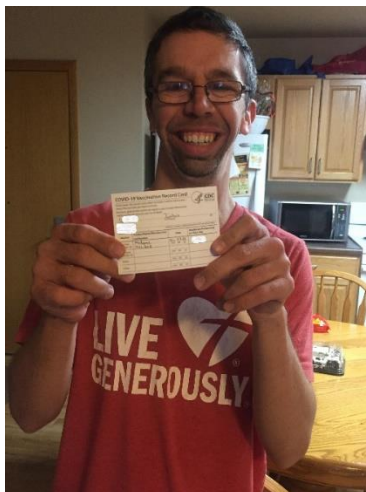
People First self-advocate Julie Blasky and Living Well Self-Advocates Nathaniel Lentz and Kristi Scheunenmann are presenting the Living Well COVID Resource Toolkit to self-advocates from Balance, Inc of Grafton, WI.

\*People First Chapters—Members! Want to show off your awesome chapter? Are you proud of your advocacy? If so, send us your pictures! And you could be on our website!

<http://www.peoplefirstwisconsin.org/>

\*Subscribe to the Self-Determination Channel!

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgSBRbXjC\\_loiTS92fjGvxA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgSBRbXjC_loiTS92fjGvxA)



People First Board member, **Josh Gretebeck**, got his first Covid vaccine. Josh had this to say:

“Getting my Covid vaccine helps protect me and others. Like my mom and the people, I work with at the nursing home”

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## Get published in the People First Newsletter!



Want to tell your story? Does your chapter have something you're proud of? Or an event to publicize? If so, we'd love to hear from you! If you'd like to have something included in the next issue, **April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021** please send in writing or on tape to:

People First Wisconsin 5150 N Port  
Washington Ave Glendale WI 53217. The  
**Deadline** again is **April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**. Call Kate  
or Erin at 414-483-2546 with any questions.



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