

BRAIN Waves

JULY 2023



Inside This Issue ...

Brat Fry/Car Show

Leah's Notes

Memory Minute

Upcoming Events

Contact us ...

We are a ministry of
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 Follow Us!

Quote of The Month ...

*"Love what you
have before life
teaches you to love
what you lost."*

Leah's Notes ...



Leah Zehel, *Directo*

The Gathering Place Celebrates 15 years!!!!!!

Time flies when you are having fun! This could not be truer for The Gathering Place, this past April marks 15 years that we have been open! The Gathering Place has been serving families and their loved ones dealing with memory loss for 15 years and it has been nothing but a privilege. We are still currently the only "social model day program specific to memory loss" in Sheboygan County and surrounding counties

as well. The Gathering Place has served over 300 participants and their families over the years. I like to say our program has a ripple effect, by helping our participants we are helping their families and friends as well. Throughout so many people lives we have showed them love and compassion, given freely by our volunteers, staff, and so many friends to our program. This past year we had t-shirts made up and the quote on the back is "The Gathering Place where friends become family." Once someone has been touched by our program; be it staff, volunteers, participants, or families, they become part of our family.

This program started in 2006 with a request to Pastor Mark Janzen. A member of our church asked where she could

get respite care for her husband living with dementia. After much research, Pastor Mark came up empty handed, there was no such services offered in Sheboygan County. This is where the idea of The Gathering Place was first conceived. After a year of planning with several church members and individuals from the community, The Gathering Place opened its doors on Tuesday, April 8th, 2008. It is quite interesting how our program has evolved over the years; the initial focus was to give caregivers a break from the tasks of daily caregiving. Although this idea remains true, we have shifted our focus to be on the "participant" with memory loss. By enriching and empowering them which fosters their independence. Our pro-

continued on page 4 ...



Celebrate 15 years of
The Gathering Place!!

BRAT FRY & CAR SHOW

AUGUST 22 • 5:00 TO 7:00 PM
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
730 COUNTY ROAD PPP • SHEBOYGAN FALLS

SAVE THE DATE

BRAT FRY, CAR SHOW AND DJ!
This year will be even bigger and better...
You do not want to miss it!

All proceeds for this event will benefit The Gathering Place and Memory Matters programming!





Memory Minute

By Leah Zehel

This past month Claire from the Kohler Art Center came, and we discussed the ideas of artist Kea Tawana

Rules to Live By:

1. Don't argue. (It takes two).
2. Don't be over-suspicious
3. Write an overdue letter
4. Give soft answers
5. Keep your promises (or don't make any)
6. Forgive your enemies
7. Find the time
8. Apologize if wrong
9. Think of someone else first
10. Appreciate Life (list good things)
11. Be gentle, compassionate, kind, (firm but quiet).
12. Laugh a little more
13. Express your thanks
14. Pray
15. Listen ■



Memory Matters Calendar

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| July 6 | Music with Bob Welsch |
| July 13 | History Lesson with Linda |
| July 20 | Summer Nutrition |
| July 27 | Socializing out for Lunch |





TGP Special Events & Activities

Families always welcome to our Entertainment Events!

- July 3 & 4 **CLOSED**
- July 5 *Music with Tom Luke*
- July 10 *Music with Rob Peterson*
- July 11 *Two Sharps and Two Flats*
- July 12 *Outing to Maywood*
- July 18 *Music with Two Sharps Two Flats*
- July 19
 - SPARKS
 - *Music with Bob Welsch*
- July 25 *Bell Choir*
- July 26 *Music with Jim Olschmidt*
- July 27 *Music with the Accordion Club*



Leah's Notes continued from pg.1

a respite program. Positive changes are seen by families when someone starts in our program because of all the different interactions and engagements they have throughout the day. The participants want to be here, they look forward to seeing their friends and going out for the day and having a purpose. In turn this gives caregivers the peace of mind while their loved ones are in a safe environment filled with love and compassion. Throughout the years we have offered many different types of activities from guest artist, music entertainment, games, community service and outings. Socialization is a priority in all activities. The Gathering Place treats a person with dementia as a person, a person who

has a lot to offer the community. We treat them with the respect they deserve, focusing on the things they can do, not the things they cannot.

All of this would not be possible if it was not for our volunteers. Several volunteers have been here from the day we opened. Our volunteers take ownership in this program, they are truly the reason for our success. The Gathering Place is so incredibly thankful to our volunteers, families, friends, those that support us financially and that attend our fund raisers. Finally, we are so thankful to all of you who have prayed for this program. Give God the Glory!!

Leah
Director ■

