

## Hello 2012

It has been a year with being on hiatus, but the Pack is back with the news. Thank you to all for your patience and continued support. With a slightly new look, the message is still the same-to bring about awareness, support, and news to those affected by alpha-1 in Wisconsin. We hope our out-of-state subscribers also enjoy the information. Our newsletter is 1 to 2 pages long and will be published four times a year in swing with the changing seasons of Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall. Subscribers receive our issues by either email or U.S. Post. As always, we appreciate any donation towards our newsletter for the cost of mailing and printing. To subscribe, please contact our main office at [info@thealphapack.org](mailto:info@thealphapack.org) or 920-395-5062.

## Saying Goodbye

We would like to recognize the loss of a few members who have passed away in 2011. **Ronald "Ron" Bernard** in Green Bay went to his final gig on July 1. Most likely he is keeping them all in stitches with his jokes and one-liners. He was 72. **Dianna McClung** in Mercer joined the heavens on September 30. She will be watching over us with the strength and courage she had on earth. She was 56. They will both be missed and we are grateful for the memories they leave behind. Our sympathies go out to their loving families and dear friends.

## Gift of Life Received

Congratulations to **Johanna Ringeisen** on the gift of life she was given on August 10, 2011. She received a single lung at Loyola. She is and continues to be an inspiration!

## Get Well Wishes

Get well wishes to **Paula Kyllonen** who has been hospitalized and bed-bound since breaking her ankle in June 2011. She has had setbacks along the way, but her will is strong to get back on her feet. With continued rehab the goal is for her to be home by spring 2012. To send encouragement to Paula, mail cards to San Luis Medical and Rehabilitation Center, 2305 San Luis Place, Green Bay, WI 54304. She misses all from the Green Bay Region and looks forward to attending meetings again.

## National Conference in Seattle

The Alpha-1 Association's 21st Annual National Conference will be held on **June 8-10** at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue, 900 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004, 1-425-698-4250. For further updates, visit [www.alpha1.org](http://www.alpha1.org) or contact **Louise Koonce** at 1-800-521-3025 Ext. 16.

## Education Day Coming to Milwaukee

Save the date for **September 22**. Co-sponsored with the Alpha-1 Foundation, the Alpha-1 Association will bring their National Education Series to Milwaukee and provide access to current medical information and resources for Alphas and their families. If you would like to attend, please call **Alexis Artiles** at 1-800-521-3025 Ext 18 to REGISTER. Hotel TBA.

## 2011 Highlights & Recaps

*Thanks to members Judy Parker and Jan Hoehne's* jewelry craft skills, member-designed t-shirts, raffle sales, and volunteered time, the Alpha Pack raised over \$2000 in MN at the 20<sup>th</sup> National Conference in June. *Lunch with the Scientists* was held at the Discovery Health Institute on August 5<sup>th</sup> where members and guests could hear talks on the current stem cell research in Madison. *Newly designed Alpha-1 Awareness posters* made their way to Wisconsin clinics and hospitals this last September. *Dr Elizabeth McPherson* focused on Alpha-1 for her grand rounds on October 28<sup>th</sup> at Marshfield Clinic. *Jaime Freitag and family* organized a wonderful Christmas Party on December 5<sup>th</sup> in Milwaukee for 75 guests who donated 40 raffle baskets & raised \$590. *Thanks to industry representatives* (Accredo, Baxter, CSL Behring, Coram, and Grifols), our meetings and events in 2011 were sponsored with food and refreshments. *With the help of donations*, the Alpha Pack was able to give back \$5880 to help Wisconsin families in need, participate in health fairs, spread awareness, donate to research, and support national organizations. It was a wonderful year. Thank you!

## Got Alpha? Get Tested!

With the help of local physicians, the Alpha Pack offers free and confidential testing for A1AD. Results take about one month to return. Check our website for upcoming screenings at [www.thealphapack.org](http://www.thealphapack.org) or call 920-395-5062.

### 2-3 Volunteers Needed

**Feb 21... 11a-1p Employee Health Fair, Pewaukee, WI**

Contact our office 920-395-5062 or [info@thealphapack.org](mailto:info@thealphapack.org)

## WI Home Energy Assistance Program

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) administers the federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Public Benefits Energy Assistance Program. LIHEAP and its related services help approximately 225,000 Wisconsin households annually. For more information on WHEAP, call 1-866-432-8947 or visit [www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov](http://www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov). In addition to regular heating and electric assistance, specialized services include:

- Emergency fuel assistance
- Counseling for energy conservation and energy budgets
- Pro-active co payment plans
- Targeted outreach services
- Emergency furnace repair and replacement

## Leading the Way

In 2011, we welcomed new leaders for the following meeting regions- Lynnette Chadwick (Milwaukee), Patrick Tenant (Milwaukee), and Johanna Ringeisen (Green Bay). We look forward to a new year of meetings and great times with them! For our 2012 meetings schedule, visit [www.thealphapack.org](http://www.thealphapack.org).