

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Brigade and Children's Hospital Collaborate on Therapy Steps

When Jenny Krikava, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin - Fox Valley, Community Relations Coordinator, recently toured the Boys' & Girls' Brigade it put in motion a collaboration that would benefit children in rehabilitation. As a United Way volunteer for the Developing Children and Youth Impact Area, Jenny was touring agencies as part of a discovery process to learn more about their services. She was particularly struck by the Brigade woodworking shop and reached out to their staff for a solution Children's Hospital was seeking. The children's physical therapy area was in need of specially constructed wooden steps to aid children in reaching mobility goals. The steps needed to be constructed according to specifications so that the children could walk up steps, reach a small platform, and then learn to walk down the steps, with access so a physical therapist could guide the therapy.

When learning of the need, Marnie Spielbauer, Brigade program director, contacted volunteer Adam Fisk. Marnie knew that Adam was an expert woodworker and was always willing to help with just about anything. Jenny provided the specifications for the project and Adam went to work building the steps. The steps were put to immediate use to benefit the boys and girls that needed physical therapy. Jenny Krikava stated, "We are grateful to Adam and the Boys' & Girls' Brigade for providing these beautifully crafted steps. The unique programming for youth the Boys' & Girls' Brigade offers, like the woodworking shop, is such a wonderful resource to have in our community and we are honored to be the recipient of the quality work they do."

Brigade executive director, John Dery, commented, "This small collaboration is a demonstration of how local non-profits are willing to work together to provide solutions that will improve the lives of boys and girls. We are thankful for the many volunteers who are willing to partner with us in this effort. Adam Fisk is a great example of one of the many volunteers that Brigade relies upon to mentor youth, who give so generously of their time and talents which we are very grateful for."



CATPTION: Pictured (l to r) Nurse Ann Christensen, from Children's Hospital of Wisconsin – Fox Valley, and Boys' & Girls' Brigade woodworking volunteer, Adam Fisk, pose on the therapy steps that the two non-profit groups collaborated to build. The photo on the right shows how the steps are being used to benefit children in physical therapy. Therapist Tina Kloehn works with patient Molly Buettner.