



June 24, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CELEBRATION TO RECOGNIZE SOLAR ENERGY INITIATIVE

Eleven Months of Planning Pays Off

Cerebral Palsy, Inc. (CP) is hosting a Solar Installation Celebration to recognize the completion of an eleven month project that will result in energy and cost savings for the locally run and funded non-profit agency. The celebration, at the Greater Green Bay Area's CP Center, will take place on Wednesday, June 29 at 2pm, 2801 South Webster Avenue, and is open to the public. A short program and ribbon cutting ceremony, along with a check presentation and speakers from contributing organizations, will be followed by refreshments made by clients from CP's Adult Day Services.

The project began in July 2010, when CP staff members took a tour at Options for Independent Living on Green Bay's west side, to see the solar panels they had installed. After the tour, Susan Saari, CP Compliance Officer and the solar project manager, immediately hit the ground running by contacting Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) to get the ball rolling. She worked closely with Kevin Pitts, an account management consultant with WPS, who provided an outline of the steps CP needed to take in order to move forward. Pitts was instrumental in all aspects of the project and assisted in the application for incentives and rebates available through organizations such as Focus on Energy, iCanConserve, and Wisconsin Public Service. Additionally, he coordinated a site assessment with Northeast Wisconsin Technical College's Fall 2010 Photovoltaics-Design and Site Class, Eland Electric Corporation for oversight of the install and with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 158 for volunteers to accomplish the installation. "Kevin Pitts was instrumental in getting this project off the ground. His assistance with the applications for rebates and incentives, and suggesting the use of volunteers to complete the install, provided CP with an opportunity that would otherwise not have been fiscally possible," said Saari. She added, "We live in a generous community and this project was only imaginable because of the many organizations which were instrumental in this process."

For the two-day install which took place on May 13 and 14, more than fifteen volunteers from the IBEW worked to install the 19.2 KW PV (photovoltaic) system, consisting of eighty 240 watt modules, on the CP Center's roof. A subscription with Enphase Energy, Inc. provides real time solar array output (energy produced) and can be viewed via CP's website at www.cp-center.org. The information available includes an overview of the power production, graphs displaying the amount of power produced over various timeframes, and the environmental benefits to date.

A Small Business Audit by Focus on Energy in the early stages of the process proposed additional improvements that could make an immediate impact on energy savings at CP. All indoor and outside parking lot light bulbs were updated with energy efficient replacements, movement activated vending machine controls were implemented, and a variable speed drive swimming pool pump was installed, all resulting in additional incentives and savings. Due to the incentives and rebates that CP qualified for, and the generosity of volunteers and donors, these energy initiatives will result in a pay back of CP's investment in approximately 1.5 years.

Cerebral Palsy Inc. provides services for the people of Northeast Wisconsin to promote community involvement, inclusion, and to enhance the quality of life of persons affected by temporary or permanent physical, sensory, and/or speech needs or conditions. CP served more than 1,200 families in the past year.

Services provided include Birth to 3 and pediatric therapies, assistive technology, aquatic swim and exercise, adult occupational therapy, inclusive child care, adult day services and outreach services to people of all ages. For more information about Cerebral Palsy, Inc. visit www.cp-center.org or call 920-337-1122.

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