Win Bennett and his older sister Mara have a unique relationship with PACER: their family has been involved in programs, volunteering, and development activities for many years. “We grew up with it — PACER was always part of our lives,” Win said. Mara was born with Williams Syndrome, a genetic condition that results in developmental delays and learning disabilities. When Mara was born, their parents sought PACER’s help, and they’ve been partners ever since. According to Win, “PACER provided great resources to our family, and I think my parents felt a strong desire for other families to have access to those same resources.”

Individuals with Williams Syndrome have strong verbal abilities and highly social personalities, but they may struggle with day-to-day activities. Win said that Mara is truly gifted at remembering people’s names — even those she’s met only once. “She’s very independent as an adult and works on a part-time basis. She does really well. I’m proud of her,” he said. “She still remembers everyone’s names, which is more than I can say for myself!”

When he and Mara reached high school age, Win saw the need for his sister to have social experiences similar to his own and thought she didn’t have the opportunity to socialize with friends. “If she was missing this social aspect, then other young people with various disabilities could be missing it as well,” he said.

Volunteer Spotlight continued on page 2
Win conceived the idea to start PACER's successful Fun Times program, and he envisioned activities that teens with and without disabilities could all enjoy together. Younger siblings Noel, Frankie, and Ben took leadership roles in Fun Times after Win graduated from high school in 2004. “It's amazing to me that Win had the insight and generosity to create Fun Times at such a young age,” said Paula Goldberg, PACER's Executive Director.

Win recalls that bringing friends together for a volunteer effort wasn’t difficult. “I brought some of my school friends and Paula recommended three or four teenagers with disabilities who she thought would like to be a part of Fun Times,” he said.

The group, which was designed to be small and organic, started going to Minnesota Twins baseball games, went bowling, and to the Mall of America. When asked why the teenagers continued to participate, Win said, “My siblings and I had groups of friends who were just phenomenal for what Fun Times needed — nice kids, with a good sense of humor, who were willing to participate. What we found after a while was that they enjoyed the events as much as the teenagers with disabilities did. My friends didn't consider it volunteering because they were all together with each other having fun.”

Win worked in India for a brief period after graduating from Brown University, before returning to Minnesota where he is a leader in both the business community and the nonprofit world. His work with PACER has grown with him: he currently co-chairs PACER's 15-member Young Professional Advisory Board (YPAB) which plans fundraising events and activities such as the “Raise a Glass — A Toast to PACER” event in February 2014.

“Win is an amazing person! He is a wonderful leader and entrepreneur,” said Paula. “He cares about others, and he's making a difference in this world. We are so thrilled to have Win as an integral part of PACER.”

Win recognizes the challenge in engaging young adults as volunteers. At the same time, he believes PACER's mission attracts those who are passionate about equality for children with disabilities and children who have been bullied. “PACER is an organization that's very pure of heart, and that's the common thread that unites everyone,” he said. “PACER has remained true to the founders’ vision and has never strayed from it: putting children with disabilities and their well-being, safety, and happiness first.”

When he founded Fun Times and attended events in high school, Win could not have anticipated that his involvement with PACER would provide such personal rewards for so many years. “I have always felt as if I were getting more from my time being involved with PACER than I was giving back,” he said. “I think that's a real credit to the personalities and the thoughtfulness of the staff at PACER. Every step of the way, PACER has helped me grow and develop, and the fact that the Fun Times program came out of it is great.”

Since Win started it in 2003, Fun Times is still going strong, and 20 attendees recently enjoyed bowling at Pinstripes in Edina, Minn. For more information about Fun Times activities, enrollment, and volunteering, visit PACER.org/funtimes or call PACER at (952) 838-9000. If you'd like to make a difference in the lives of children by offering your time, talents, or resources, please call PACER and ask to speak with Andrea Moore. Thank you for your support!
The remarkable Diana Ross — one of the most beloved and influential entertainers of all time — is performing at PACER Center’s Annual Benefit! Ross will bring her legendary sound and amazing repertoire of R&B, pop, soul, disco, and jazz to the Minneapolis Convention Center on Saturday, May 3, presented by Whitebox Mutual Funds. Ross’ phenomenal career has spanned four decades, beginning in the 1960’s as the lead singer of The Supremes. She continued as a solo artist and actress, receiving multiple major awards and reaching millions of fans worldwide.

Tickets to the Benefit include the performance, as well as silent and live auctions. This year, the Silent Auction will offer some brand-new surprises among the hundreds of amazing items, beginning at 6 p.m. at the convention center. Here are a few of the extra special opportunities you may bid on:

- **Lake Minnetonka Dining Experience** — Enjoy a relaxing dinner and evening for 8-10 people at a beautiful home on Lake Minnetonka. Your guests will enjoy appetizers and a cocktail cruise on the lake, followed by dinner prepared by an amazing chef from Mill Valley Kitchen.

- **For the Ultimate Vikings Fan** — A Minnesota Vikings jersey and football autographed by running back Adrian Peterson.

- **Streetzza Pizza Party** — Favorite local chef Nate Lane bought a historic fire engine and installed a wood-burning pizza oven to bring a unique dining experience right to your door! A wonderful party idea for 50 to 60 guests.

Don’t miss an Evening With Diana Ross Live!

Don’t miss out on this year’s Benefit! Act now to reserve your tickets by calling (952) 838-9000 or visiting PACER.org.
Live Auction Items
Following the Silent Auction, the Live Auction takes place in the auditorium where WCCO-TV news anchor Frank Vascellaro will serve as auctioneer. The auction will offer a few rare, priceless items and opportunities, including:

**A private tour of Jay Leno’s personal automobile and motorcycle collection**

Comedian Jay Leno is one of the most famous car buffs in the world, with an extensive collection of over 200 vehicles, including 90 motorcycles. You and three friends will enjoy an exclusive private tour of his expansive garage complex in Burbank, Calif., which includes everything from 1870s steam vehicles to a jet-powered motorcycle. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that no automobile or motorcycle enthusiast will want to miss.

VIP Tickets to see “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” live and tour Warner Brothers Studio

Picture yourself and three friends in the live audience for the Emmy Award winning “Ellen DeGeneres Show.” You’ll be guaranteed VIP seating during Ellen’s spectacular “12 Days of Giveaways,” when every guest receives fabulous gifts which were valued last year at $3,000 each. As part of this rare opportunity, you’ll enjoy an exclusive Warner Brothers Studio tour — watch actors at work on the set of a hit show such as “Mike and Molly” or “The Big Bang Theory” — plus round-trip airfare and beautiful hotel accommodations in Los Angeles.

2014 Benefit co-chairs Colleen McGough Wood, Mary Holmes, Joanna Hjelmeland, and Jessica Broyles

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**
952.838.9000
PACER.org

**2014 Ticket Prices**
$70 | $100 | $150* | $225* | $300* | $600*

*Tickets include Patron Party after the performance

PACER would also like to thank the Benefit Committee co-chairs (Jessica Broyles, Joanna Hjelmeland, Mary Holmes, Colleen McGough Wood); the Corporate Sponsor Committee co-chairs (Don Davidson, Hal Lieberman, Jim Oricchio); and the Silent Auction Committee co-chairs (Nancy Kaysen, Don McNeil, Jennifer Rowland, Raleigh Segal, Rishia Zimmern). Thank you to all of the Benefit committee members, generous sponsors, dedicated volunteers, and loyal attendees who are all Champions for Children with Disabilities.
A perfect Mother’s Day gift!

By purchasing an Extravaganza bag during PACER’s Silent Auction for $100, you will shine in your community for supporting programs for families of children with disabilities.

One of the Extravaganza bags will include this one-of-a-kind necklace and earrings set. Amethyst, Peridot, Citrine, Garnet Rhodium, Plated Sterling Silver.

Suggested Retail Value: $3,500

Only available at PACER’s Annual Benefit on Saturday, May 3, 2014. Purchase your tickets online at PACER.org or call (952) 838-9000.

This year’s Extravaganza is presented by Eagles Rock Jewels nancy@eaglesrockjewels.com www.eaglesrockjewels.com

Win a 1-year lease on a 2014 Jeep Cherokee Trailhawk

For your chance to win, purchase a $100 raffle ticket at PACER’s Annual Benefit, featuring Diana Ross, on May 3, 2014, at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Suggested retail value of the lease: $10,200

The 2014 Jeep Cherokee Trailhawk

The all-new sculpted and aerodynamic exterior of Jeep® Cherokee makes a strong statement. Bold and steeped in Jeep brand heritage, the fluid and modern design is a game-changer. This next generation Cherokee is equally at home on the rugged trail or uptown at the theater.

Generously Donated By:

Pace Park Chrysler Jeep

Purchase your Benefit tickets online at PACER.org or call (952) 838-9000.
Everyone wins at the Creative Kids Contest

*Top 10 designs available for purchase at PACER’s Benefit*

It was a morning of imagination, creativity, and fun with art as an enthusiastic group of young artists with disabilities took part in the ninth annual Creative Kids Contest on Saturday, March 2, at PACER Center. The children created their masterpieces using paints, markers, color crayons, and pencils. The first-place winner’s design will be unveiled at PACER’s Annual Benefit on May 3, and the top 10 creations will be framed and available for purchase during the silent auction. The winning design will be featured on the 2014 PACER greeting card, which will be available in time for the holiday season.

The Creative Kids Contest was originally conceived by celebrated artist and longtime PACER supporter Anthony Whelihan, who has provided encouragement and inspiration to so many children with disabilities who have participated. PACER thanks Anthony for generously donating his time and talent over the years. PACER also thanks volunteers Jessica Broyles, Noelle Sheehan, and Janna Collins for help in making this amazing event a success.

Congratulations to 10-year-old Lauryn Bambenek, who was the 2013 winner. Lauryn, who has epilepsy, is very talented. Her “Winter Wonderland” card about her favorite season is available for purchase at PACER.org/help/creativeKids/creative2013.asp.

And the survey says... support PACER with Survey Monkey

Helping PACER is now as easy as taking simple online surveys. PACER supporters can sign up on SurveyMonkey Contribute to receive short surveys from SurveyMonkey customers who need opinions on a variety of topics. For every survey completed, SurveyMonkey makes a donation to PACER, and all participants have the opportunity to win $100 in an instant win game. Participants’ identities and information remain confidential. Sign up at: contribute.surveymonkey.com/charity/PACER.
Roberto Guerrero, a high school student from southeastern Minnesota, is now on a clear path toward his future thanks to help from PACER. In a remarkable turnaround, he progressed from several years of academic struggles to a senior year of success in school.

Roberto has Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). In school, his biggest difficulty was in organization, which resulted in missing assignments. During a difficult junior year, Roberto received a diagnosis for his ADD. His mother Bridget sought help from PACER. Staff member Andrea Moore assisted with the development of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that fully recognized Roberto’s strengths. John Newman, an assistive technology specialist in PACER’s Simon Technology Center, also helped Roberto choose digital applications (apps) for his iPad that would make it easier to keep track of assignments and important due dates.

As a result, Roberto went from three failing grades last year to all As and Bs this semester. He says having an IEP that includes the tools he needs has made all the difference. “Andrea was a great advocate, and she helped us with the whole IEP process. I like keeping track of my school calendar and using the apps that John gave me,” he said. “I wouldn’t be where I am today without PACER.”

Because he is more organized, Roberto now has room in his schedule for other school activities. He plays trumpet in the jazz band and French horn in the school orchestra, and is on the track team. He intends to take the ACT college admission test this spring and is planning to go to college. Bridget sums up her son’s progress this way: “Roberto would have failed high school had it not been for PACER.”
Attendees of PACER’s Annual Benefit May 3 at the Minneapolis Convention Center should watch for Eleanor Swanson at the event. The 89-year old longtime PACER supporter and former board member has definite plans to be there. “I have only missed two benefits,” she says. “I remember the first benefit at the Children’s Theatre in 1982. I donated a Swedish cookbook and a dozen Pepparkakor (traditional ginger) cookies to the silent auction. I think the value of that donation was about $15!”

Eleanor’s value to PACER on the other hand is immeasurable, and by including PACER in her will, her contribution to children with disabilities and their families will continue into the future.

As a young transplant to St. Paul from her home state of Illinois, Eleanor was hired as a speech therapist, and her passion for working with children with disabilities was born. It was her involvement in a committee on the state Speech-Language-Hearing Association that led her to PACER.

“The contacts I made and the information I received through PACER about what was going on for children with disabilities at the federal and state level were extremely helpful,” she says. “Everything that PACER has done has been done with great care; they have always kept the needs of children with disabilities and their families at the top.”

In 1999, Eleanor faced major surgery, and that motivated her to help secure financial sustainability for PACER. “It was completely my own idea to designate PACER as a beneficiary in my will, and my family gave me full support,” Eleanor says. “I thought that PACER had done so much for me that I wanted to help make sure that children with disabilities can continue to get the help they need.”

Continued on next page

Champions for Children Tomorrow

Your help is needed to ensure that PACER’s innovative programs can continue for children with disabilities and their families. By making a donation to PACER’s $10 million endowment campaign, you can secure long-term sustainability and inspire hope for families that count on the services PACER provides.

There are many ways to give to PACER! Contribute by gifts of cash, stock, or signed pledge commitments payable over five years. You may also designate PACER as a beneficiary in your will, revocable trust, retirement plan, insurance policy, or charitable remainder trust. For more information about contributing to PACER, contact Gretchen Godfrey or Paula Goldberg at (952) 838-9000.
PACER Executive Director Paula Goldberg praises Eleanor’s multiple contributions over the years. “Eleanor is a wonderful woman,” Paula says. “She has brought energy and enthusiasm to everything she has done with PACER. We are delighted that she has chosen to make a gift to the Endowment Campaign.”

More recently, when Eleanor decided to step down from PACER’s board of directors, she suggested that her niece Karen Reynolds become a board member. Karen was a frequent attendee and volunteer at the PACER Benefit, and she “jumped at the chance” to work with PACER. She is particularly supportive of PACER’s work on bullying prevention. “PACER recognized the great need to address the bullying issue head-on, and I was very impressed by that,” she said.

After moving out of the Twin Cities, Karen considered stepping down from the board, but PACER’s recent long-range planning retreat left her so energized that she decided to stay on and make the four-hour drive to Minneapolis for the quarterly meetings.

Clearly, generosity is a value that has been passed down in Eleanor’s family, and her nephew’s wife Sarah Meek is also a part of the PACER board. In fact, Eleanor’s legacy continues beyond her own family to the general public, where she often promotes the work of PACER: “I have mentioned to young people I know, ‘If you ever want to get involved in a great organization, you should get in touch with Paula Goldberg!’”

Run it, walk it, or roll it — all for a very good cause! Join PACER supporters Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014, for the Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying, which kicks off PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Month in October. Held at the scenic Mt. Normandale Lake Park in Bloomington, Minn., participants can take part in a four-mile run or 1.5 mile walk/roll, followed by live music, guest speakers, and family activities.

The Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying is a dynamic event with national momentum — last year, 34 events were held in 27 states to help raise awareness and generate financial support for bullying prevention. All funds raised in Minnesota help PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center provide resources to students, families, and schools. The cost is just $20 for ages 17 and older, $10 for ages 7 to 16, and children ages 6 and younger are free. Online registration is available now! For more information, visit PACER.org/bullying.
The Ninth Annual National PACER Symposium About Children & Young Adults with Mental Health and Learning Disabilities will take place on Thursday, Aug. 7 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The symposium will bring together 1,100 teachers, administrators, and parents for a day-long event featuring outstanding national keynote speakers and breakout workshop presenters. This year’s lineup of keynote speakers will include:

- **Susan Jenkins, MD** is a child and adolescent psychiatrist nationally recognized for her work with youth and families, and she focuses on the needs of children and adults with various disabilities including: autism spectrum, Asperger’s, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, depression, and anxiety. Dr. Jenkins completed medical and residency training at the University of Chicago and the Mayo Clinic, and has practiced child and adolescent psychiatry in Rochester, Minn. for over 25 years. She is director of Bluestem Center for Child and Family Development in Rochester.

- **Jo Mascorro** is an excellent national speaker. She provides trainings across the country in areas of behavior intervention, communication strategies, and programming for students with disabilities. She is the author of the audio CD series, “Don’t Look Now, YOUR Behavior is Showing!” She has over 30 years of experience in the field of education and received both her Bachelor and Master’s degrees from Texas Tech University.

Several exciting workshops are also planned for this year’s symposium. One national speaker on early intervention will be Lise Fox, a professor in the Department of Child and Family Studies and the Director of the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities at the University of South Florida. She has extensive experience in early intervention, positive behavior support, and family support.

Registration for the symposium opens May 14 and spots fill quickly! To register, visit PACER.org (preferred method) or call (952) 838-9000. Cost for the event is $25 per person and includes lunch.

The symposium is designed to enhance awareness and identify strategies for responding to mental health and learning disabilities in children and young adults from the perspective of teachers and parents.

Registration opens May 14 PACER.org
$25 per person (includes lunch)
There was something for everyone at the Raise a Glass – A Toast to PACER tasting event on Feb. 21. at the Venue in downtown Minneapolis. As they sipped samples of locally made beer and wine, guests were treated to hands-on demonstrations of the latest in assistive technology from PACER's Simon Technology Center. Live music was provided by The Cactus Blossoms. Wineries such as Crow River and Indian Island as well as Surly and Flat Earth breweries provided samples.

PACER’s Young Professional Advisory Board (YPAB) organized the Friends of PACER event, and almost $30,000 was raised for the Simon Technology Center. The funds will enable the Center to continue to provide resources and acquire state-of-the art assistive technology that helps enhance learning, work, and independence for children and adults with disabilities.
We are so excited about PACER’s Annual Benefit coming up May 3 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. You won't want to miss a wonderful evening with the legendary Diana Ross. We'd like to thank everyone who helps to make the Benefit a success — the volunteers, silent auction donors, and our many corporate sponsors — and I would like to say a special thank you to our Presenting Sponsor Whitebox Mutual Funds. With your help, PACER is able to make a positive difference in the lives of children with disabilities and children who have been bullied.

Great seats are still available. You can order tickets online at PACER.org/benefit or call (952) 838-9000. Thanks again for being a champion for children. We look forward to seeing you there!