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Capable Partners Inc., is in good standing with the state of Minnesota as a non-profit organization and is registered as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization with the I.R.S. of the United States government.
Hello to all the Capable Partners and Supporters,

I would first like to start out by thanking all the Board members and Coordinators for the help they have given for the members to make Capable Partners such a great Club. Even with the economy as bad as it is they have worked hard to raise money and keep the club going strong. For the most part, it was a great year with little setbacks. We have had some of our best outings to date.

The board is working on trying to add more outings for everyone to enjoy. We have gained some new members that will help get our name out to people that are looking at how to get back into the outdoors. Again this year, one of our big setbacks was due to weather. The MNRV (Minnesota River Valley) duck hunting blinds were totally destroyed by the floods this spring and summer. For those of you that have been there it flooded up to Old 212 and those who haven’t, the water was about 14 to 20 feet above normal water level.

We also had a poor year at the Lac Qui Parle deer hunt due to the Minnesota River being so high all summer. We almost were unable to hunt there at all with the road out to the island and the island being underwater until about a month to three weeks before the hunt.

The board decided to add a new line of clothing for members to order and show support of the club. At the last few Board meetings we have been trying to figure out how to get more members involved with some of the work that the board members do.

The first way you can help the club is to volunteer to help at one of our expos. The expos are the Minnesota Deer Classic and Game Fair. We need as much help as we can get from members, as mostly board members work these events and it adds more work and starts to burn out good members.

Another way would be if you belong to Clubs other than Capable Partners such as DU (Ducks Unlimited), PF (Pheasant Forever), an American Legion, Lions club or have one in your town, please go ask for donations of any kind. The more money we raise, the more outings we can add to get you out in the outdoors.

You can also come to a board meeting and volunteer to help the board with things that we talk about there. We as the Board try to do the best we can to make Capable Partners better and more enjoyable for its members.

I invite all the members to spread the word about Capable Partners as much as possible. You would be surprised who might overhear you and want to help out in many different ways. I hope to see you all at many outings this year and try to get some more funding for new outings.

Thanks again for choosing me as your president for the last two years. It’s been enjoyable and a good learning experience. I still plan on being involved with coordinating on a few of the outings.

I would like to welcome Dean Petersen as our new president of Capable Partners.

Our Vision & Mission

The Vision and Mission of Capable Partners is to create a well-known and respected Twin Cities-based non-profit organization of sport persons whose mission is to volunteer their time and talents to provide hunting, fishing and related opportunities for the physically challenged.

**Our Goals**
- Outreach to as assist new/existing members to participate and realize their potential.
- Educate & promote disabled issues
- Create accessible outdoor opportunities with more participants, locations and events.
- Develop our membership through experience and teaching to obtain skills and independence to organize. These individuals will become future event and outing leaders in the organization.

**Our Values**
- Friendship and Fraternity
- Family participation and support
- Independence through doing
- Education and awareness
- Sense of accomplishment
- Building self-esteem

*Our organization defines disabled as*
“A physical impairment that substantially limits them from a sport activity.”

04 Spring 2012
Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate as we would have liked, but if you like sitting in the cold with a breeze blowing down your back you should of joined us at the hunt.

Those who came and bagged their turkey were pleased with their results. We had a very good turnout with 28 hunters bagged 30 turkeys. It’s nice to have our seasoned veterans and new members joining us for the hunt. I always enjoy being apart of someone harvesting their first turkey.

As always there is plenty of food for our hungry hunters. On the menu this year was brats, hot dogs, beans, chips and them great rolls.

The best part of the day is to brag about the successes you had harvesting a bird or complaining about the big Tom that didn’t present a shot… All part of the hunting experience.

Thanks to Tom Gindorff and Gregg Runyon for all their effort in putting together another great outing.

I look forward to seeing everyone there again next May.

Story By Violet Foster
The 2012 Capable Partners banquet was a huge success with a record attendance. For that to be possible, we need to thank MDHA (Minnesota Deer Hunters Association) North Suburban Chapter for changing their banquet date so the larger hall would be available to Capable Partners.

Capable Partners would like to thank everybody that was so generous with volunteering their time and donations. A special thank you goes out to Perry Bauer for emceeing. Congratulations goes out to Evan Newton and Kevin Affolter, they are the winners of the two raffled off bear hunts.

We are unable to acknowledge everyone’s gracious donations, but here are a few. Sue Painter for her beautiful quilt donation, Hangin Out On A Limb Outfitters for donating 2 bear hunts, Wings North Hunt Club for donating a membership and hunting. Action Trackchairs for donating a picture and bringing an all terrain wheelchair to view, Vexilar for donating 1 underwater camera and 1 fish finder, Clam for donating 2 portable fish houses, Sunset Pines Resort for their donation of 2 nights for 4 people weekend vacation in Willard WI. Mike Cornick, Scot Poehler, MDHA, Mike Pfluger, Mark Kochaver for their print donations, Ann Simpson and Kaye Parks for basket donations, Bill & Barb Vice donations, Whistling wings taxidermy, Hawk Creek taxidermy, Mid America taxidermy, Pat & Ruth Moore, Dale Tribby, Duck Commandor, Minnesota Twins, Minnesota Wild, J & R Tackle, Capra’s, Joe’s, Foiles Migrators Inc., Images in Motion and Jack’s Bakery.

Thanks again to everyone for making this an incredible banquet and being so generous with your money to help raise the funds needed to keep capable partners, one of the leaders in the country for how many outings we provide to our members.
What a crazy last two years! For those of us who love ice fishing, 2011 was how we like it to start out. With good ice, they were able to pull the big ice shacks out early. With no snow and safe ice we were able to enjoy a fantastic early season panfish biting.

During the middle of the ice fishing season, one of our members was nice enough to mention Capable Partners to Z’s Outdoors in Buffalo, MN. They talked about our mission & goals and one of our goals the last few years has been to find more accessible ice fishing shacks for our members to enjoy.

Z’s Outdoors stepped to the plate and offered Capable Partners members an opportunity to fish for $10 per person during the week if they had vacancies. I was lucky enough to experience fishing out of one of their 20 foot Ice Castles on two different occasions, on two different lakes.

On one of the fishing trips, we were fishing for Crappies and having some success. While we were sitting around waiting for another school of crappies to move back in, I noticed Dave setting his hook and as he started reeling his line. The pole was bending a little more than your average crappie. Wow, as I was looking in the other direction, Jeff sets his hook. So, now we have 2 fish on and in no time another fish was on Gary’s line, really, 3 fish on?

I tried to reel up and I couldn’t. After a while we all decided that Dave has a real fish on, but the rest of the lines were all tangled up from one fish. After a nice fight with the ultralight, Dave was able to pull a nice 4 pound Northern through the hole (pictured). I believe it took 20 minutes to straighten out that mess.

Unfortunately Z’s Outdoors was not able to offer the same deal to Capable Partners members this year. They still have their fish house available on 4 different lakes in the Buffalo area and also on Lake of the Woods.

Z’s Outdoors is very accommodating for our wheelchair members. So please give them a call and book a day on the ice next winter. (763-682-3474) We want to thank Z’s Outdoors for all the generosity to Capable Partners and we look forward to a long-lasting friendship.

Sadly, the 2012 ice fishing season was almost non-existent as everyone knows. With the unusually warm winter, comes bad ice making conditions. Unfortunately for most of our physically challenged members they need a permanent shack to withstand the elements. With that said, it took forever for safe ice to arrive, so the big shacks could be safely pulled out.

Thanks to Troy Lanie with BLESS (Brandon Lanie Ethical Sportsmen Society) A few of our members were able to enjoy one day out on the ice. Hopefully we have good ice next year. Troy has graciously offered Capable Partners the use of his fish house on request for next winter, with Bless’s supervision. We will be sending out e-mail updates on the dates it will be available and what Lake it will be on.

Some more exciting news for 2012, Scott Kalk and family have offered the use of their fish house on Prior Lake for next winter. Scott’s fish house is 7 x 14 and will be very wheelchair friendly. Unfortunately we were not able to pull it out safely this year. Capable Partners would like to thank the Kalk’s for this great opportunity. If you are interested in ice fishing Prior Lake next winter. Please contact Craig Simpson at 763-549-1842.
The call from the Prior Lake Sportsman’s Club came on the first Saturday in June at 6 am for a great day of fishing, lunch and bags of filleted pan fish.

June 4th was a perfect day for sunnies and crappies to bite wax worm filled hooks. Each pontoon brought in a full pail of fish for cleaning.

Thanks to the new owners, Thane and Kelly Tande, of the Kasotty Dar Marina, we could park and load up the pontoons for the day fishing.

Once again the sportsmen and sportsladies put on a very tasty picnic followed by the fish cleaning, which provided Capable Partners with a bag of fish for their own cooking.

Remember the first Saturday of June on Prior Lake!

Story by Terry Hanson
What a wonderful day we had. Nineteen people attended the annual Lake Mille Lacs evening fishing outing. The lake was peacefully calm with the world, no large waves to endear as in past years. The weather was warm and sunny. It didn’t take long to get everyone loaded and be on our way.

Before we knew it the captain was looking for a particular depth to drop the anchor right in that area of some schooling walleyes. As leeches were put on jig and slip bobbers are set, we hear that sweet sound of fish on! The net comes flying out from above the rafters and it didn’t take long before we had your first walleye in the net. What a fabulous start to an evening of fishing on one of the greatest walleye fisheries in the world!

The board made the decision this year to shorten the fish trip to 6 hours from the normal 8 hours. The reasoning we made the decision was that several members were getting tired driving home after fishing 6 hours and waiting for their fish to be cleaned if they so choose to.

A total of 43 walleyes were caught with 32 keepers. The Perch bite was one of the best we have experienced and several were over thirteen inches long. Some too small to keep, but they were put back to grow up for next time.

The 2 largest fish that were caught were 24 inch walleye by Tom Lindskoog and Jon Tuthill. (Pictured on the front cover)

Thanks to Joe Psyk for another great trip and Perry Bauer for being the chef, good job guys!

With such great success on our evening fishing outings. The Board of Directors has decided to add a second one this year and I will be the coordinator of the second outing. I look forward to seeing you on the water.

Story by Violet Foster
The day started out with rain. Rain, sleet, waves several feet high crashing against the rocks made one rethink about taking a boat out on one of Minnesota’s largest lakes. A lesser fisherperson would have turned back towards home. Thoughts of bed and sleep sounding real good.

A Capable Partner is a different type of fisherperson. We came to fish. A little bad weather isn’t going to make us head back home. So with raingear on, we boarded the boat and headed out to where our captain assured us we would find walleyes.

For a while it seemed we wouldn’t catch even a minnow. Sometimes those slow times can be the best. It gives us an opportunity to get reacquainted with fellow partners. Some we haven’t seen in a few years, some we meet for the first time. We swap fishing stories from days past. My favorite was the time I casted out and my reel fell off the rod. It takes a real Capable Partner to have Duct Tape on the pontoon we were fishing from, but I digress.

The fish started biting. You could feel the excitement every time a fellow partner caught a fish. First one, then another was reeled in. Some were too small to keep by less than an inch; some too big to keep by less than an inch. Didn’t matter, it was the fun shared that mattered the most.

Let’s not forget the food, the burgers and dogs always taste best when eaten with residue of bait and watered fingers. It was good eating.

It was while I was eating my hot dog that it happened, just happened to glance over to the rod I had balanced against the side of the boat. I noticed the top was bent. I grabbed the rod, and before I knew it, I was reeling in a big one. It was me against the fish. I reeled, it pulled, and at times I thought I’d lose it as my arm and hand started to tire. I won in the end and with the help of the Captain we netted the biggest catch of the day. Because it was the biggest, it exceeded the size limit and had to be set free. I didn’t mind. To me it has always been about the catch and release.

Other fish were caught that day but mine was the biggest. My only regret, the one year I finally catch a big one, was the one year no one put money down for catching the big one.

Story by Dorothy Balen
This year we celebrated our 10th annual Capable Partners ATV ride!! This year’s ride was scheduled for August 20th and it ended up being a beautiful day for a ride. The trails were in good shape and there was enough mud to keep people happy, that wanted to be playing in it. There was another group of riders that didn’t want to stop and get muddy. So they cranked it up and covered a little more of the trails system. They eventually ended up putting on 30 miles.

This year Terry McQuoid, and the McQuoid family, opened up their resort in Isle for us to use as a staging area. It was a great set up for us. The access to the Soo Line trail was right across the road, and easy to get to.

Again Troy & Nicole Lanie and the rest of the BLESS (Brandon Lanie Ethical Sportsmen Society) crew did a wonderful job of helping to pull this event off. Most of the BLESS people went up on Friday to set up “camp”.

Saturday morning started off with a pig out breakfast for those who showed up early, that is one thing for sure… if BLESS shows up there is going to be food.

Many thanks go out to Karen Miller from Polaris, who lined up the 6 passenger Rangers for us to use. These were brand new.
machines that were completely covered in mud by the end of the day. Again thanks to Karen and BLESS for picking up the machines for us to use. Without those machines it wouldn’t be much of a ride for Capable Partners.

BLESS continues to support Capable Partners strongly. They brought up their motor home and a 24 ft. toy hauler / fish house they had built for Capable Partners and other groups to use. And all the cooking equipment and food needed to fill up all of the starving riders, which is what they accomplished with a meal of burgers, brats, dogs and all the fixings. If you went away hungry it was your own fault.

Along with the Polaris supplied machines, BLESS, various other people and their machine, it was nice to see a few Capable Partners members get out on their own machines. Dave Guzzi would win the award if we had one for submerging his machine in the mud pit the most, but never getting stuck... (pictured)

By the smiles on all of the faces in the group pictures, I believe it was a great time had by all. And I am looking forward to this years ride and hope you all can make it!!

Story by Bill Vice
Several of our Capable Partner members had the pleasure of volunteering for Child Wish fun day. All the children that may be afflicted with a life threatening or terminal illness were treated to several unique activities.

They had the opportunity to shoot shotguns, 22. rifles and try a couple different types of bows.

For many of them it was their first time to enjoy these activities. All were encouraged to try everything to the best of their ability. All participants did an incredible job with marksmanship and safety.

Their was a few misses, but I believe with a little work, we will have some marksman in the future.

Lunch was served about noon. Brats, chips, fresh fruit, baked beans and pizza.

It was a very humbling experience to enjoy the day with these young people with terminal illnesses; enjoying life to the fullest! We could all take a lesson from them. Making the best of everyday despite the challenges they deal with on a daily basis.

Anyone wishing to join next year to help or learn more about this wonderful organization should contact childwish.com.

Story by Violet Foster
The annual picnic was very warm and humid with a smaller crowd than usual. Those in attendance enjoyed pork chops cooked by Jayme Welsh and many home made goodies. With the heat so high we enjoyed the air conditioned building.

We were all treated to a dog training demonstration given by Jeff Latour for Elk River Kennels. He was quite informative on how to train your dog. He had ones just starting their training and one that was a seasoned veteran. Jeff has volunteered at River Valley with setting out decoys helping the disabled hunters and bringing a dog to help retrieve the birds.

One of the activities that some of the participants look forward to partaking in is a little friendly competition of shooting a few clay pigeons, surprisingly everybody shot well for not shooting since last fall.

We have changed the date of the picnic this year to July 15, in hopes of it not being as much of a conflict with our busy weeks surrounding the 4th of July weekend.

We also hope to give away Minnesota Twins tickets and have some archery targets up for a little friendly competition, so please bring your archery equipment.

Thanks to Jayme for all the hard work setting up the event and the cooking.

Story by Violet Foster
I was up at 4:00 am, couldn’t sleep at all that night, it seems that I was going over and over what I would need to bring for the hunt. We are on the road by 5:00 am; we drive to the Carlos Avery machine shop, half sleepy. I grab our tag number telling us what blind we will be at for the day. We will be in number 5, right near the shop, no more than a mile or two from where we stand. It’s still dark so we don’t exactly know where we are going. We find our blind, Tim drops me off with all the equipment and he drives the vehicle a safe distance away, so it doesn’t affect the hunt. Before Tim walks away, he tells me to take out my shotgun first and have it loaded; there could be a deer standing in the middle of the field when the sun comes up. I sit there setting up chairs, and putting on my orange vest. I pull out my shotgun and start feeling in my gear bag for shells. I find a shell, I attempt to load it, but for some odd reason it doesn’t go in. I look around for another shell or two. Trying one after another, I suddenly remember that the only shells I have are 12 gauge. I start to panic, did I or did I not pack the 20 gauge shells? I look through all my pockets, gear bag and gun case, not a single 20 gauge shell to be found.

I go out looking for Tim, he is just coming around the corner with a flashlight walking toward me, and I tell him I forgot my shells. He looks at me and closes his eyes probably thinking “oh dear, what did I get myself into!” He quickly decides to ask someone driving up the road, but as soon as we hear they don’t have extra shells, Tim decides to drive to Wal-Mart in Forest Lake, which is at least a half hour away to pick the right slugs.

There I sit, in the cool darkness and I keep looking for shells. Not a single 20 gauge. I sit there looking out hoping that when dawn arrives, there is not a deer there to make me feel worse than I already felt. It won’t happen again, lesson one – never forget your ammo. Tim arrives a good 45 minutes into the morning. It’s now at least 7:00 am, he is walking in and the sun has arrived. He tells me to load my shotgun up. We sit, and talk about what to expect.

It’s calm, only an occasional breeze comes through rustling the fallen leaves. The birds are chasing each other from tree to tree, all around us. Dusk starts to set in and I find myself more focused on my rifle and thoughts about the hunt. When dusk finally hits, the last breeze comes through, taking with it, the last few rays of light. It’s dark again, we never saw a deer. I start thinking that perhaps it’s all luck.

I head home and find that I am tired, aching all over from sitting. I find that Sunday is also an ache day; having just spent the Saturday sitting all day, I expected to have more energy. It’s too exhausting. I find that I cannot go out Sunday afternoon hunting; I just don’t have the energy.

Tuesday Oct 11, I’ve made arrangements to meet with a Capable Partner member, Jeff. I had met him at qualifications on September 15. I had met him and another member, Bill, during Cambridge site in. I had qualified with a 30-06 rifle at 50 yards and had also hit the 100 yard target. Close shots, all within a 6 inch circle.

I felt pretty good with my rifle and scope, but not so much when it comes to the shotgun. Even though it had been my first time shooting slugs, I was still a little cautious when it comes to a shotgun. The recoil and the loudness was more than my 30-06. Both Jeff and Bill recommended the >>
Monday October 10. It was starting to cool now, still a bit high in the 70’s, but cooler than the weekend. I meet Jeff at the Carlos Avery Machine Shop and choose a location where on Sunday, deer had been seen. He quickly asks if I have my shotgun shells with me, since the story of my forgetfulness soon got around.

This time, I overly prepared dropping only 20 gauge shells into my gear bag, and more importantly I put a shell holder right on my stock, filled with 5 new 1 oz slugs. I also quickly put the stock recoil pad on my 20 gauge, thinking that since I had already bought it, I may as well use it. Jeff drops me off at the new location, a blind facing a 60-yard field with oaks and other trees surrounding the field.

He walks back in and tells me to get the chairs and shotgun ready for the evening. It’s still early but you never know what will come out of the woods. He sprays us both with scent eliminator; we spray all our clothes, our shoes, our hats and our clothes. We talk and get to know each other; Jeff is an archery hunter, he enjoys the challenge of harvesting a deer with a bow and arrow. At this time, that seems like a far away dream to me.

We sit for an hour whispering the whole time and more importantly continually being told to not move my head so fast, when watching out for deer, and to not talk with my hands. I find that I am continually reminded of not talking with my hands. Deer can see movement so I attempt to stop moving my hands. He pulls out a device called a range finder. I had seen these before in hunting stores, but couldn’t find a use for them. I think that they are for archers to guessimate how close a deer.

As we talk, he points toward different objects around us and tells me that trees or edges of fields and bushes are so and so far away. Seems that everything is within 80 yards, meaning I can shoot anywhere if a deer comes out. We wait silently, whispering to each others movements we see around us. Dusk hits and no sooner do I see a movement, a deer comes out. We wait silently, whispering, letting me know about how far different objects are from where I am at. The field has a crest about 90 yards away, further out, almost 200 yards away is an old corn field and even further out is the woods. I am ready, the moon is almost full, but there is so much rain we really can’t see much. I keep thinking that rain and deer don’t mix, but Jeff keeps telling me it’s ok, deer have to eat and it’s not raining that hard.

It’s been warm and they might just enjoy the cool weather. We wait, this time, both my hands are holding on to the shotgun. I sat quietly, whispering, and continually scanning the horizon. Within 10 minutes of sitting we watch a young doe run out into the field. I get into position but it immediately raises its white tail and jumps right into a corn field. Not enough time to see it through the scope, just enough time to watch it prance away. Soon, dusk fell and as I scanned one more time across the field at approximately 80 yards Jeff signals to me that there are deer straight ahead. I look out and see two deer.

Still not knowing if they are bucks or does, I slowly move to position my shotgun on the second deer. It’s a doe, large and seems to be relaxed. I slowly start squeezing the trigger and nothing happens – I forget to release the safety! I click on the safety and immediately shoot watching my deer run off into the corn field. I know I missed, that one click caused the deer to look up right at me and run.

I felt as if I did not have the skills to be a hunter. Jeff looks at me and says “I’ll have to go out and look for it, but I think you missed.” I remember that last second, and I recall using my right pointer finger to pull the trigger hard. I was in such a hurry I pulled the gun to the left, completely missing the deer. Jeff, watching the deer, apparently saw the dirt jump up that when it hit. He still had to look just to be sure. He came back and said “Congratulations, you missed completely!”

It’s apparent that I was in the moment and that I did not or could not hear what he was saying. When I clicked >>
Thursday October 13, a new moon and a new day. I was totally disillusioned, thinking there would be no way I could ever harvest a deer. I looked up at a clear sky, some wind gusts, colder than the previous days. The road getting there was a muddy mess from the previous night’s rain. Puddle after puddle caused my automobile to jump and steer off the road. I was telling myself that there could not possibly be any other mistake I could make. I now knew to move slowly, eyes directed to your sides when you do move, move slowly and deliberately. I also knew to use the spray scent eliminator all over myself and my equipment.

Thursday’s hunt was going to go perfect. I checked my shells, took a sweater with me for layering in case the night became unusually cold, and went over and over about how I was going to be conscious and aware of what Jeff would be saying. I needed to be aware of the deer, relaxed and listening to Jeff’s instructions. The location was exactly the same as the night before. I felt more sure of myself, the surrounding’s were the same as the previous night, only no rain. Just a mild breeze and much cooler. This time I sat right in front of Jeff, I wanted to be able to look from left to right across the field. Mostly scanning to my right. Jeff would be scanning to the right of me. We could catch or watch any deer that came across the field. Mostly scanning to the right of my left. Jeff would be scanning to the left across the field. We watch them slowly move across. One young tom and perhaps five hens. We don’t want to scare them off, so we sit quietly watching them move right across the field from left to right. Soon they are in the woods behind us. I keep a watch on them scanning the horizon and looking immediately behind me to my right. The turkeys have moved on and are on their way to the bog. The magic hour was soon to come.

I think we did not say a word to each other that last few minutes before dusk set in. The warm sun was hitting us directly so it warmed me up. It felt good. I was very alert, waiting and watching. I thought this would be a night of learning. I did not think a deer would appear. I was prepared, only thinking about the weekend hunt. Who would I call up to help me hunt?

I now knew how to sit still, sit silently scanning the horizon for a glimpse of a deer. Soon a doe jumped out to my left, I get into position and watched as it hid behind an island of trees about 50 yards out. After about 10 minutes it raced back into the field where it had come from. I stayed scanning the area with my scope, but I could no longer see it. Something had spooked it. Soon the magic hour came, it would be dark and I would be without a deer again. I would chalk this night up as a learning experience.

I had seen a doe and I was happy. As I was off in my thoughts, Jeff suddenly signals to my left, again in the same field. This time a buck with perhaps a six point rack comes out and hides behind the island of trees. A doe soon follows, I find that I have already softly released the safety, am aiming at the buck and watching it slowly move across the field. Jeff whispers to me that it’s about 190 yards out, too far. I watch it slowly move, relaxed and stopping to listen.

Soon a third buck appears, this one seems smaller. It comes out from behind the island of trees and moves into position. I place the scope’s crosshairs right at the lungs area. I tell myself to listen and relax. Jeff tells me it’s only 140 yards; I should be able to hit it. He tells me to aim a little above what I would normally aim at. I take a shot and look up. Jeff is smiling and says “I think you did it! I watched it get hit.” I also knew I had hit it. I was relaxed and the shotgun was sitting very stable on the blinds window. Jeff walked out quickly, he walks about halfway out into the field and returns quickly, he asks for the shotgun, I presume he is thinking it might still be alive somewhere. He disappears over the ridge where I hit it and disappears.

It’s dark by now and I can barely see him. His lamp is moving back and forth. He seemed to be nodding his head. I start to feel terrible, all sorts of thoughts come through my head - “did I miss?” Jeff returns with a big smile and congratulates me, he said “you hit it and it went down quickly”. “It’s right behind the road.” I keep asking him if he really saw it, he says “I touched it”. I soon start feeling faint. It’s my first hunt ever, my first deer. I am hyperventilating, my knees are feeling weak and I am nervous from the rush of harvesting my first deer!!! Not sure what just happened.

I quickly gather all my things, pack away our chairs, clear the chamber’s of shells and pack my shotgun in its case. Jeff walks out to get the truck. I put our entire gear together ready to see my deer. He soon returns with his truck. We place all our equipment in the truck and headed out to see this deer. We soon stopped and found the deer on the side of the road. It’s sitting there lifeless; I look at the antlers and count three. It looks bigger than what I expected. It’s even larger than what I thought.

I look around for blood, but there is none. Jeff says it was a single shot; it barely made it 140 yards. It had enough energy to go through and perhaps hit the heart directly, either way it jumped up and ran to the bog perhaps 20 yards. It was the thrill of a lifetime. It was one of the most exciting moments ever. I can compare it to the excitement I felt when my two sons were born. It was exactly what I was looking for. This young buck had fallen and was now sitting waiting to be thanked, blessed and bring joy to many, not just myself.

I would like to give a special thank you to Jeff and Tim for all their help and being part of fulfilling one of my lifelong dreams.

Story by Carlos Martinez
In Memory

It was a Saturday morning around 11:30am when Jason picked me up for our evening deer hunting. I pulled on my camouflage farmer pants and grabbed my orange vest out of my bag to wear over my coat. It was a cooler day out, in the lower 50's and I had a tough time sleeping the night before deer opening season. This year had been rough on me because my two best friends Greg Waite and Allen Buss had passed away. If it wasn’t for Greg and Allen I would of never joined Capable Partners.

It was seven years ago, as I sit in my driveway one summer day reading a book and drinking a beer. When Allen and Greg drove up, just returning from a hunting meeting or a fundraising event for Capable Partners. Greg asked me if I’d like to hunt or would want to join. I was scared because I didn’t know if I could shoot well enough to pass the proficiency test or if I’d even fit in. I finally joined and it was one of the greatest things I have ever decided to do in my life. It changed me!

I said to myself. I wanted to dedicate this year’s hunt to my beloved friends. We arrived early and waited for everyone to show up. We signed in and pulled numbers from the hat to see which blinds the hunters would be in that night. I drew blind 6; it’s in the woods surrounded by large white pines. After a while we started seeing deer moving through the brush. Like most hunters, with the site of deer movement your heart starts pumping.

Two yearlings came out from behind this tree and walked right up within ten feet of my blind and I was trying not to breath, cough and sneeze. I had made the decision earlier that day that I would only shoot an adult deer. It took about another hour till I saw this doe running to get away from a trailing buck. They went about 60 yards away from us. I wanted to shoot that doe; she was just the right size to fill my freezer. But, before I could get a good shot, they went behind the blind. It didn’t take long before that buck had pushed the doe right beside the blind. She kept walking by while the buck was still trailing her. He was walking with his head down, snorted, pawing the ground with its front hoof. He made a major mistake by stopping about 15 yards away and I shot. He walked about 30 yards and fell down.

Jason and I high fived each other and he said that’s for Greg and Allen and am glad they were there to share it with me.

Story by George Bruhn Jr.

Cambridge Deer Hunt

The Capable Partners 2011 regular season rifle deer hunt held at the Becklin Property by Cambridge was very successful. With 10 deer being harvested, that’s the highest total to date. Due to the passing of Allen Buss, I assumed the coordinators position for 2011 and beyond. I couldn’t have done it without the cooperation from every hunter and the assistance from their helpers. Bill Vice helped out tremendously with helping hunters to their blinds, sitting with someone, or showing up to track deer.

Thanks to all the hard work from MN DNR and Isanti County Parks we have a great place to hunt! They planted food plots by quite a few blinds this year and all blinds, except number 4, produced at least 1 deer. Oliver Becker and Ken Johnson both shot really nice does out of blinds 2 and 3 respectively, and George Bruhn shot a buck out of blind 6. Great job and thanks to everybody. I hope to see you out hunting this year.

Story by Dean Petersen
THE GALLERY
THE GALLERY
Early risers on this morning were greeted with fog and mid-forties, but by shooting time it was a sunny, cool (60’s) perfect day for this event. A full roster of participants downed 85 of the 100 birds that were released; each participant was awarded up to 3 freshly-cleaned, take-home birds.

Thank you, once again to the club members who provided their dogs to retrieve the pheasants along with their much appreciated help whenever it was needed. This year the club also provided cooks to cater the event including sloppy Joes and hotdogs; thank you, ladies – very well done!

Jim Vorderbruggen aptly stepped in for Jim Zumbush to do the registrations as the latter was unable to make the event this year. However, the Zumbushes were well represented again with the much appreciated help from Jerry & Laurie who provide their essential wheelchair transportation services, their “refreshment runs”, their retrievers, and generally filling in any gaps whenever they saw some. For the rest of you AB’s, it has been said before and it needs to be said again: You are indispensable!

Eight participants were first-timers this year including “young guns” Eli Vorderbruggen – 12, Michael Koich – 14, and Taylor Simpson, Craig’s daughter. Eli’s brother, Josiah – 13 was also present as a two-year veteran.

This event each year runs like a well-oiled machine thanks to so many of you who provide the “oil” (those of us who know who you are, please recognize them); Thank You!

Story by Russ Eigen.
It was a great day, weather nearly perfect. Nearly everyone was able to take birds.
Twenty two hunters took sixty six birds out of eighty. Everyone went home with three birds.

We had several new hunters with us; they were surprised how fast the birds flew. One said more practice is needed. They hope to come again in 2012.

Spaghetti was served for lunch. A good time was had by all. Hope to see all of you next year.

Story by Violet Foster
I received a call from Bob Fashingbauer, the Wildlife Area Manager for The Vermillion River Complex in January. Dave Guzzi, Roger Hauck & myself have been working with Bob to try and get a hunt setup for The Vermillion River Complex in Dakota County. Bob wanted to know if we could get the hunt going this fall. That’s just the words we needed to hear to get the ball rolling on this project. So we picked dates of Oct 20th through Oct 23rd for 4 afternoon hunts. We had initially planned on using portable blinds for the first year, so we would have an idea of best places to position that permanent blinds.

That’s when the next phone call came in from Nic Harrington, a Boy Scout working on one of his badges wanting to help us with a project. So Capable Partners couldn’t pass up the opportunity.

So the next thing you know we have a full blown stand project going on building 8 stands for the Dakota County hunt. We did the build in a couple of stages at Carlos & down at Vermillion. We got the stands all completed and placed around the end of September.

We had 27 hunters sign up for the 4 day hunt. We threw all the names in a hat and drew names for each of the 8 stands for each day. We had a Topo map so the hunters could look over the area and pick which stand they wanted to hunt. We had a good hunt and a number of deer were seen, but only 1 deer was taken, an 11 point buck.>>
We had the same Carlos group down helping along with a new helper Dale Trippy for MDHA from the Dakota County area. So thanks to all these guys for their help & Bob Fashingbauer for working with us in getting the hunt setup. We plan on a few changes for next year but already are looking forward to a great hunt in 2012.

Story by Gregg Runyon Vermillion
Deer Hunt Coordinator
It wasn’t the best year for waterfowl hunting at the MNRV. The flood last spring and early summer completely destroyed the blinds plus destroyed the habitat the ducks use to hide and feed off. Other years the floods have destroyed the blinds, but we were always able to put the pieces back together, that happened almost every year. I don’t think there was a year in the past fifteen that I and other hunters didn’t go down there and repair the blinds. With Nate Sjolin’s drafting ability and help from Bill Vice, Dan Larson, Vince Swenson, Jeff Anchulz, Jane Heinks, Jim Vorderbruggen, Matt Brown, Jason Fitzgerald, Trent Barthel, >>
have a few hunts. It started out very poor and went downhill from there. Nine geese and no ducks were taken on the first hunt, next hunt three geese. The total harvest for the season of 2011 was thirteen geese and five ducks.

We noticed there were new blinds to the east & west of ours and I did see them harvest birds that would have come over our blinds, (Oh well that’s hunting).

I would also like to thank Jeff Latour of Elk River Kennels and his son with their well trained dogs in helping us out on our hunts the last two years.

I didn’t see it but some of the hunters with me that were in the cove blind saw one of his dogs make a three hundred yard retrieve. Jeff is more than willing to help us out. He has helped us out at Sherburne National refuge also.

His phone is 763-263-6200 or cell 612-991-8295. He also has retriever pups for sale.

Story by Jim Vorderbruggen volunteer coordinator

Deer Classic

This is a huge THANK YOU to everyone that made it out for the Deer Classic. We had a great turnout this year. It was a new responsibility for us too, with doing security. It went very well and the owner of the Classic said we did a wonderful job. Way to go Capable Partners!!!!

I believe that most of our members had a good time down there. Not too stressful of duties and I think every one had plenty of free time to wander around the show. Again we made some good contacts with vendors and groups that may be willing to help out our club. So I believe it was a success.

Thanks again and we hope too be doing it again next March.

Story by Bill Vice
Maple Grove Archery Hunt

What a wonderful fall we had to hunt this year. Because of the warmer than normal weather our group hunted hard every month of the season. In fact two hunters took three deer (all doe) the last eight days of the season.

Bruce Wohlk (pictured) in this article took a large doe on December 23,

Wade Wiebold (hunting with Terri Schrank) shot a doe and her fawn that happened to saunter by his stand on December 30; now that is quite a feat.

Other successful hunters this fall was Tony Gutzwiller (Dale Schons’ partner) a doe harvested September 21, Ken Rueter was (Craig Simpsons’ partner) one beautiful evening and harvested a 7-point buck on October 1.

So for the year five deer were harvested as compared to two in 2010 and only one deer in 2009.

In addition the number of days hunted was up considerably this year as compared to previous years. The numbers are 57 days this year, 41 in 2010, 46 in 2009, 32 in 2010 and 38 in 2007.

Have a great year and please contact me if you would like to join us in hunting this great opportunity in Maple Grove.

Ken at: h20wolverine@comcast.net 763-607-0411

Carlos Avery Deer Hunt

The Carlos deer hunt opened on Oct 8 & ran through Oct 16th. We had 30 hunters signed up for the hunt. We battled the wind almost all week, but the deer moved and we were able to harvest 13 deer. A few shots were missed and we had some new hunters harvest their 1st deer. Reno (pictured) scored 1st with a 5 pt buck. Glen took a doe & Ken filled both his tags with a doe & fawn on opening day. Rick Wagner harvested a doe on the 2nd day. One of our oldest hunters Joe took a doe along with Barry from up north.

We hunted hard for the next few days without getting any deer. One of our new hunters broke the ice, Carlos shot his 1st deer a 3 point buck & Ken harvested a doe.

The the next day Eddie (pictured with his father Brent) shot his 1st deer. I think I know who is going to be getting the little deer award this year. Way to go Eddie! I was able to take the last deer of the year for a total of 13 deer. We missed a couple of deer, but didn’t loose any this year.

We made use of the Monticello range, thanks Jim for helping sight in everyone. We also used 2 other ranges to get the hunters sighted in, thanks to Bob & Bill for the use of the ranges.

I need to pass along thanks to Jerry, Lloyd, Darrell, Ole & Roger for all your help & the whole Carlos gang for putting up with us for the week again. All that is left is, Thanks Again for another fantastic season!!

Gregg Runyon
Carlos Deer Hunt Coordinator
Capable Partners Clothing

Green Hoodie
M-3XL $35.00 each

T Shirt Brown & Green
L-3XL $10.00 each

T Shirt Pink & Green
M-XL $10.00 each

Cream & Green
$15.00 each

Camo & Yellow
$15.00 each

White Mesh & Green
$15.00 each

Cream & Black
$15.00 each

Orange & Green
$15.00 each

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TOTAL ORDER

Name: Violet Foster
Address: 30169 Helium St NW Cambridge MN 55008
City: 763-444-4427
State: Zip: fosterjean37@yahoo.com
# 2012 Calendar of Events

Visit [www.capablepartners.org](http://www.capablepartners.org) for updates and additions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Contact Person(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>January - April</td>
<td>Prior Lake Ice Fishing</td>
<td>Craig Simpson</td>
<td>763-549-1842</td>
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<td>January - April</td>
<td>Ice Fishing Wheelchair Accessible Fish Houses</td>
<td>Z’Outdoors</td>
<td>763-682-3474</td>
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<td>March 3</td>
<td>Banquet Kraus Hartig VFW Spring Lake Park Social hour starts at 4</td>
<td>Nate Sjolin</td>
<td>763-286-9086</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>Turkey Hunt–St Cloud</td>
<td>Gregg Runyon</td>
<td>763-441-2834</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Ron Welle</td>
<td>320-987-3526</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>Turkey Hunt–Cambridge</td>
<td>Dean Petersen</td>
<td>612-388-0156</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>Turkey Hunt–Carver</td>
<td>Nate Sjolin</td>
<td>763-286-9086</td>
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<td>March 17</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day Corn Beef and Cabbage Lino Lakes Legion #566</td>
<td>Violet Foster</td>
<td>763-444-4427</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>Mark Ryan Turkey Shoot LeBlanc’s Little Falls, MN</td>
<td>Tom Gindorff</td>
<td>651-429-7625</td>
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<td>June 2</td>
<td>Prior Lake Fishing</td>
<td>Terry Hanson</td>
<td>763-535-9603</td>
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<td>June 10</td>
<td>Muskie’s Inc. Muskie Fishing Lake Minnetonka</td>
<td>Rod Guthier</td>
<td>952-888-6494</td>
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<td>June 15</td>
<td>Lanesboro Trout Fishing</td>
<td>Stan Koich</td>
<td>651-455-0154</td>
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<td>June 16</td>
<td>Lake Milles Lac Fishing 4pm-10pm</td>
<td>Violet Foster</td>
<td>763-444-4427</td>
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<td>June 30</td>
<td>Lake Milles Lac Fishing 4pm-10pm</td>
<td>Joe Psyk</td>
<td>763-497-2062</td>
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<td>July 1</td>
<td>Contact Nate to sign up for LQP Fall Deer Hunt</td>
<td>Nate Sjolin</td>
<td>763-286-9086</td>
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<td>July 14</td>
<td>Lake Milles Lac Fishing 9 am to 3pm</td>
<td>Dave Heidtke</td>
<td>763-535-2718</td>
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<td>July 15</td>
<td>Picnic Buffalo Gun Club</td>
<td>Jayme Welsh</td>
<td>612-965-4686</td>
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<td>August 1</td>
<td>Pulaski Fishing</td>
<td>Jim Zumbusch</td>
<td>320-963-5879</td>
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<td>August 10-11-12 and 17-18-19</td>
<td>Game Fair A great opportunity to volunteer and enjoy this great event for free</td>
<td>Violet Foster</td>
<td>763-444-4427</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 18</td>
<td>ATV Ride Isle, MN Bring your own machine or ride on Polaris Ranger</td>
<td>Bill Vice</td>
<td>612-232-2495</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
<td>Archery Deer Meeting All Hunters Must Attend Maple Grove</td>
<td>Ken Rueter</td>
<td>763-424-8513</td>
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<td>August 25</td>
<td>Minnetonka Fishing</td>
<td>Dave Heidtke</td>
<td>763-535-2718</td>
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<td>Frank Walther</td>
<td>952-448-3398</td>
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<td>Sept 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Monticello site in for LQP &amp; Cambridge and Carlos Avery</td>
<td>Jim Voderabruggen</td>
<td>763-497-3330</td>
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<td>September 8</td>
<td>Caribou Gun Pheasant Shoot</td>
<td>Violet Foster</td>
<td>763-444-4427</td>
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<td>Sept 6 &amp; 13</td>
<td>Cambridge Site in for all gun hunts 1-6 PM</td>
<td>Bill Vice</td>
<td>612-232-2495</td>
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<td>Sept 15 to Dec 31</td>
<td>Archery Deer Hunting Maple Grove</td>
<td>Ken Rueter</td>
<td>763-607-0411</td>
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<td>Sept 15 - 23</td>
<td>Lac Qui Parle Deer Hunt</td>
<td>Nate Sjolin</td>
<td>763-286-9086</td>
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<td>September 22</td>
<td>Major Ave Pheasant Shoot</td>
<td>Jim Zumbusch</td>
<td>320-963-5879</td>
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<td>Sept. 25 &amp; 27</td>
<td>Monticello site in for Carlos Avery and Cambridge</td>
<td>Gregg Runyon</td>
<td>763-441-2834</td>
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<td>September 29</td>
<td>Carlos Avery Waterfowl Hunting</td>
<td>Tom Gindorff</td>
<td>651-429-7625</td>
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<td>September 29</td>
<td>MNRV Waterfowl Hunting</td>
<td>Dave Guzzi</td>
<td>952-220-3346</td>
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<td>Steve Scheunemann</td>
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<td>Jim Voderabruggen</td>
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<td>October 1</td>
<td>Carlos Avery Meeting Machine Shed 6pm Must Attend</td>
<td>Gregg Runyon</td>
<td>763-441-2834</td>
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<td>October TBA</td>
<td>Pheasant Hunt with Pointing Dogs</td>
<td>Dave Guzzi</td>
<td>612-220-3346</td>
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<td>October 6 - 14</td>
<td>Carlos Avery Deer Hunt</td>
<td>Gregg Runyon</td>
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<td>October 18 - 21</td>
<td>Vermillion Dakota County Deer Hunt Afternoons Only!</td>
<td>Gregg Runyon</td>
<td>763-441-2834</td>
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<td>November 3 - 11</td>
<td>Cambridge Rifle Deer Hunt</td>
<td>Dean Petersen</td>
<td>612-388-0156</td>
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<td>Nov - Dec</td>
<td>Cambridge Late Season Bow &amp; Muzzle Hunter</td>
<td>Dean Petersen</td>
<td>612-388-0156</td>
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND CONTRIBUTION/DONATION FORM

What if you were to become disabled and couldn't hunt or fish anymore? What if you are disabled and you want to go hunting and fishing again? Now you can have a partner to renew or inspire your love of these sports and to provide access to a safe and quality adventure in the Great Outdoors! Whether you are disabled or not, we want to insure that these activities can always be a part of your life.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
City/State: ________________________________
Zip Code: ________________________________
Home Phone: ________________________________
Cell Phone: ________________________________
Alternate Phone: ________________________________
E-Mail Address: ________________________________

I AM:  (check all that apply)
☐ DISABLED If Physically Challenged, what is your disability?
☐ WHEELCHAIR ☐ WALKER
☐ SCOOTER ☐ ABLE BODIED

INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS or DIRECTED CONTRIBUTIONS

☐ FISHING (Summer) ☐ RIFLE DEER
☐ FISHING (Winter) ☐ DUCK/GOOSE
☐ BOW FISHING ☐ PHEASANT
☐ ARCHERY DEER ☐ TURKEY
☐ SHOTGUN DEER ☐ ATV RIDE
☐ VETRAN ☐ SNOW TUBING
☐ NRA MEMBER

NRA NUMBER: ________________________________

Contributions are Welcome! All contributions and donations may qualify as tax deductible. Capable Partners is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. A contribution can be designated for a specific outing, purchasing fishing or hunting gear or underwriting other activities such as the newsletter, annual picnic, annual banquet, or general fund.

☐ I have enclosed a $25.00 fee for membership
☐ I have enclosed ______________ as a contribution
☐ I am requesting a scholarship for membership
☐ If you have a boat or land for Capable Partner’s use, please check this box.

Please provide any comments, questions, special considerations for scholarship, or instructions for directed contributions.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
City/State: ________________________________
Zip Code: ________________________________
Home Phone: ________________________________
Cell Phone: ________________________________
Relationship: ________________________________

How did you find out about Capable Partners?
☐ Family & Friends ☐ Internet Search ☐ Advertising

In the event of an emergency, please identify any information to be relayed to an emergency caregiver:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________