



VAL MADSEN, MS, CTRS

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST



RCAW
Respite Care Association
of Wisconsin

PERSONAL PROFILE

Val Madsen, M.S., CTRS has 20 years of experience working in community respite care programs with both children and adults. During her tenure, she grew programs to serve more clients in a high-quality setting, while also developing a focus on primary caregiver needs. Val's love for training others grew over her career, as did her passion for helping others problem solve and figure out ways to make challenging situations work. While she supports respite providers, staff, and primary caregivers, she always prioritizes the needs of the care recipient.

Val earned a master's degree in Therapeutic Recreation from UW-LaCrosse. She incorporates recreational therapy as often as possible in her interactions with care recipients, and training providers and staff to work with care recipients. With her focus on person-centered care and a unique model for respite, her program was recognized by ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center in 2019 as one of 13 nation-wide 2019 Innovative & Exemplary Respite Services (the only one in WI that year).

TRAINING PROGRAMS DEVELOPED

- Respite Care Provider Training - The training is a competency-based, entry-level respite provider training curriculum that is part of a national project involving eleven states.
- Bringing Respite to Your Community - This workshop provides information and building blocks needed to start a respite program in communities throughout Wisconsin.

WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS

Based on her experience as a certified trainer for nationally known organizations and her direct interactions with care recipients, Val has developed numerous customized workshops for agencies on a variety of topics, as well as presented at a variety of conferences.

A few of the topics areas include:

- "Caring for Challenging Behaviors" – Created and leads a four-hour training program on working with children and adults with challenging behaviors. Conducts this training throughout the state to caregivers, parents, and professionals.
- Adventure Education & Team Building – Leads a variety of team building and experiential education sessions for children, young adults, and professional adult groups. Sessions are customized based on individual group goals and objectives.
- Disability Specific and Adaptive Recreational Workshops - Develops and presents workshops around disability-specific topics and adaptive recreation.

CERTIFIED TRAINER EXPERIENCE

- Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) - Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Instructor (2009-2014)
- National Caregiver Training Program (Department of Veteran Affairs) - two-day training sessions throughout the US for family caregivers of Veterans wounded post 9/11 (2011-2012)
- American Red Cross - Professional Rescuer CPR/ First Aid Instructor (2006-2013)

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Easter Seals Wisconsin, Respite Care & Camp Wawbeek (2001-2012)
Gio's Garden - Therapeutic Respite Center (2012-2019)
Imagine a Child's Capacity - Independent Contractor (2019-current)
Wonewoc-Center School District - Substitute Teacher (2017-current)

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