

NAME AND BIRTHDATE OF INDIVIDUAL WITH PWS (OPTIONAL):

I would like to sponsor a membership:

☐ Individual ☐ Family

We ask that each individual and/or agency requesting a membership be sure to renew their request each year so they may continue to receive our mailings and newsletter.

PWSA of Wisconsin, Inc. 38 S Main Street #226 Oconomowoc, WI 53066 (920) 733-3077



Prader-Willi Syndrome Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

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PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

JOIN AND EXPERIENCE THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP





WHAT IS PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME?

Prader-Willi syndrome (PWS) is the most common known genetic cause of life-threatening obesity in children. Although the cause is complex it results from an abnormality on the 15th chromosome. It occurs in males and females equally and in all races. Prevalence estimates have ranged from 1:8,000 to 1:25,000 with the most likely figure being 1:15,000.

PWS typically causes low muscle tone, short stature if not treated with growth hormone, incomplete sexual development, motor and social development delays and a chronic feeling of hunger that, coupled with a metabolism that utilizes drastically fewer calories than normal, can lead to excessive eating and life-threatening obesity. The food compulsion makes constant supervision necessary.

Children with PWS can be sweet and loving, but they display characteristics of the Prader-Willi personality that can cause social and behavioral problems. They also have many complex and unique medical issues.

With knowledge, support and understanding, persons with PWS can and do become valued members in our communities. They need to be supported by parents, care givers and professionals who have the knowledge and tools needed to assist them in doing this. PWSA of WI, Inc. provides a variety of services to make this possible.

WHAT IS PWSA-WI?

The Prader-Willi Syndrome Association of WI, Inc. (PWSA-WI) is a chapter of the national organization, PWSA (USA), and is an independent organization whose mission is to support, educate and advocate for persons with Prader-Willi syndrome, their families and professionals in meeting the challenges of this disability.

We strive to help parents, families and professionals gain a better understanding of the unique needs of children and adults with Prader-Willi syndrome. People contact the office via phone or email. Staff answer questions, provide support and connect callers to resources. Through the quarterly newsletter, The Wisconsin Connection, new information is shared with families and professionals. When requested, staff and/or volunteers help educate others through consultations and trainings. PWSA of WI, Inc. is frequently called upon to advocate for persons with PWS. It has become the voice of all who are impacted by this disability.

WHY BECOME A MEMBER?

Your Membership Includes:

- A quarterly newsletter, The Wisconsin Connection
- Discounts on trainings or conferences
- FREE OR LOW COST social and support opportunities
- The ability to apply for scholarships and financial help
- Assurance that there will be a voice for all who have Prader-Willi syndrome.
 PWSA of WI, Inc. celebrated 30 years of reaching out to provide support,
 education and advocacy to persons with Prader-Willi syndrome and their loved ones across the State of WI.
- Every year scholarships are awarded to campers who have PWS and are in need of financial assistance so they can attend summer camp.
- Each Winter/Spring a social event is sponsored by PWSA of WI, Inc. for persons with this disability, their siblings, and those who support them. More than 100 people who have Prader-Willi syndrome attend. This is a time for making new friends, rekindling old friendships, sharing and having a great time. The unique nutritional and behavioral needs of the participants are specifically addressed.
- Once a year, a training workshop or some other educational project is conducted that helps those
 who work with children and adults with PWS gain a better understanding of their needs and how
 to make the lives of those with Prader-Willi syndrome more successful.
- Every day, information and support is provided to callers and others who seek help. Brochures and other printed material are shared at no cost.
- When requested, onsite training and consultations are conducted.

