

Karen Waggoner & Family
7770 Waggoner Road
Argonne, WI 54511

Becky Lundeen &
The Whole Nature's Edge Family

My son Jon is a simple but complicated young man full of so much talent. So much went on in his eight years before I adopted him, it would take me a book to tell you part of it. Even in our home school district, where I am a teacher I just believed the school would take care of him and address at least believed the school would take care of him and address at least some of those educational needs. But they didn't and he was enrolled in the ED program and at the end of a four year battle (he was never tested) they began to listen to me (I threatened to go to a lawyer). After testing him they discovered his main label should be CD! Four years they could have been helping him in a different way and they didn't

In the mean time I had also been going through doctors trying to find one that understood Jon and could help him. Finally Dr. Boismenu of Rhinelander took him under his wing. Dr. Boismenu is a pediatrician and has knowledge of ADD and ADHD problems in children. Dr. Nick said that Jon was more complicated than he usually handles but he promised to keep looking for someone that would be good for Jon (actually I just broke down crying not knowing what I should do next). It took over a year with Dr. Nick having us come in at the end of the day so we could let out the emotional roller coaster of feelings we were going through. Then one day when we walked into his office he pointed at me and said I have the doctor for Jon. When inside his office he told me about Dr. Gbadebo in Marshfield and called right then and there and got an appointment for Jon. He talked with Dr. Gbadebo to straightened out his meds and correct some behaviors but then he turned to me one day and said now let's work on making this boy happier! He loves animals and only shows emotion when he talks about his animals. I have the place that can help him but it may be a ride for you to get there.

So, we began the trek to Nature's Edge, over a three hour drive one way there and then back home. For a year we did the trips with just a few breaks.

Some of the terms used to describe some of Jon's problems are compulsive, impulsive, obsessive, a neurological dysfunctions (not but like autism), selective mutism, and a mood disorder also a IQ that is not one number but two because there is such a diversity between the 2 scores. But, after the first visit Nature's Edge, we knew something would be done for him and we had hope.

Becky and her staff were so friendly and Becky has a way of finding out what a person is good at and where they need help and how exactly to do that in a most unconventional way. Becky put my older son Ken to work while there clocking volunteers hours,

helping and writing a couple of the situations for interaction for the social group Jon also joined. Jon could never multi task before but now he can. She had Jon riding a horse, reading and answering questions but most of all she got him smiling, laughing, talking out loud, telling jokes and understanding jokes from others, and saying what he wanted to do and why!

Nature's Edge is such a wonderful place and what a wonderful way to end our journey getting our Jon on the road to some kind of normalcy. Becky and all of her staff, all the animals and volunteers are our angels. God bless them and may they have a wonderful 2008. You bet we'll be back so Jon could ride in their horse show next summer- none of us would miss it!!!

Karen Waggoner