



## **News from THE WALLACE GROUP**

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**ProAct, Inc.**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **WISCONSIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL NAMED TO PROACT, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Seasoned physical therapist Deanna Wanzek started Special Children Center  
in Hudson, teaches pediatrics at St. Catherine University in St. Paul**

ProAct, Inc. has named Deanna (DeDe) Wanzek, a veteran physical therapist and former business owner, to its board of directors.

The nonprofit organization serving people with disabilities has a growing program in Hudson, Wis., where Wanzek is employed by Avanti Center. “Many of the Hudson participants are people that I saw as children,” she said. “It is very interesting to me to see the life cycle— how things were for them when they were children and now how life is for them as adults.”

Wanzek joined the board after learning about ProAct from established board member Dr. Barbara Rebhuhn, someone she’s known for 30 years. Much of Wanzek’s work involves helping children to gain needed motor skills and adults to regain skills lost through an accident or injury.

## **New ProAct board member/page two**

The physical therapist is a successful closed head injury survivor, having suffered from a broadside car accident 22 years ago. “I was extremely fortunate. Had he hit the car about three feet more toward the front I probably would not be here,” she said.

Her business background can be traced through the history of Avanti Center, a nonprofit that provides physical, occupational and speech therapy to children and adults with disabilities. Wanzek was a founder of Avanti, which began as a for-profit organization, Special Children Center. She sold her portion a few years ago, and it has since grown to serve adults as well as children.

As an owner, she handled the business side, but also learned every job at the operation. “When we first started, my husband and I would put the kids to bed early on Friday nights and do the billing at the kitchen table,” she said. “He would run to the local all-night grocery store to make copies.” The early grassroots organization has grown to 35 employees, many of them part time.

Among Wanzek’s qualifications, she earned her certification as a physical therapist from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. She is also a pediatric clinical specialist, a certified lymphadema therapist and a certified kinesiotape instructor. For the latter, she travels internationally, teaching others about chronic pain treatment using the special elastic tape. Kinesiotaping is used across the lifespan, and can facilitate or inhibit muscles as well as providing stability. It is perhaps best known through professional athletes, but can also be used for pain management in other adults and to help facilitate or relax muscles in children.

**New ProAct board member/page three**

Additionally, the newest board member is a pediatric instructor at St. Catherine University in St. Paul. As part of the school's doctorate of physical therapy program, she covers typical and atypical development, as well as treatment techniques. She has specialized in pediatrics for 30 years, and uses a holistic approach to evaluation and treatment.

Wanzek is married, has three children, and makes her home in River Falls, Wis.

ProAct is headquartered in Eagan and maintains additional sites in Red Wing, Zumbrota and Hudson, Wis. Its mission is to serve individuals experiencing barriers to employment and self-sufficiency due to developmental disabilities, mental health issues, traumatic brain injuries, and other conditions.

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