

## Party at New Day

The Badger State Buddies jumped out of their vans and ran up to the New Day Retirement Center. The boys bumped into each other on purpose and exclaimed over the animal tracks in the snow. The girls carried bunches of balloons on ribbons.

Inside, Mrs. Larsen and Mrs. Boatman reminded them to wipe their feet. A worker with a walkie-talkie told them to walk quietly in the halls and stay on the green border. They followed him down a hall, then a ramp, and another hall, and another one. They piled their coats on a piano bench, since it would not be needed.

There was not a lot of time to set up the party room, so they worked quickly. Jobs had been chosen at Mrs. Larsen's house: tape hearts to the wall, set paper flowers on the tables, and pour the punch. Jacob and Roberto also tied balloons to chairs.

The senior citizens came into the room. Some used canes or wheelchairs. The Buddies stood in lines and showed their clapping, bouncing dance. When they ended with the song "If You're Happy and You Know It," the seniors stomped and shouted "Hurray!" with them. Next, it was time to give out valentines.

Ella had visited New Day before. She and the leader had talked about how to be sure there were enough cards for every guest. Ella handed extra cards to the kids and pointed

them toward the guests who were still waiting. Then, it was time to give out the red punch.

Kyle met a man, Mr. Thornton, with a gray beard. They talked about school, and the Packers, and sledding on the hill on the UW campus. They saw Roberto grab a napkin to clean a spill, and talked about how easy it is to spill punch.

Kyle knew he should ask questions, but couldn't think of any. He looked around for ideas. There was a photo on the wall. "Is that the merry-go-round at Lakeside Park?" he asked.

"Yes, it is," said Mr. Thornton. "It's one of mine. I took that picture. I've always been a camera bug."

"A camera bug," Kyle grinned. "Our club has a project for camera bugs. Hey, Roberto, come over here." Kyle introduced Roberto to Mr. Thornton. Roberto had lots of questions about taking good photos.

Jacob visited with Mrs. Krakow. She explained that the paw prints by the front door came from a rabbit. "We fed the

