

## **Vogt's John Brady bodyslams cancer & Alzheimer's with wrestling fundraisers**

**By Patty-Pat Kozlowski**

The cure for cancer or Alzheimer's will probably be found in a lab, but the road to get there is found in places like Vogt Recreation Center.

On October 4, Rec Leader 3 John Brady held a pro-wrestling fundraiser and raised \$700 for Alzheimer's research. Brady's father died of the disease in 2000. Brady has also organized these family and community friendly events to raise funds for MS, which his wife Claire has, and cancer, a disease for which Brady himself was operated on two years ago.

"Combat Zone Wrestling has been a great partner, not only for fundraising but also for giving the community another option to enjoy at Vogt Rec," said Brady. "Our next wrestling match will be in the Spring of 2014."

Brady, who has been with PPR "a long, long, time," started out as a Pool Maintenance Attendant at Lincoln Pool and then became a Lifeguard 1, Lifeguard 2 and Water Safety Instructor. He was encouraged by Herbie Brown and Joshua Wagner to take the Assistant Recreation Leader test and became an After-School Liaison working with Kathleen Muller in the After School program. Muller and Lorraine Pool encouraged him to take the Leader 1 Trainee test, after which he was assigned to Scanlon Rec Center. There he dedicated himself to the youth ice hockey program, making a huge impact on the kids in that community.

"I would write a sports story every Saturday afternoon and fax them to the local newspapers on the games that occurred each weekend," Brady recalled. "The children and the parents loved seeing the articles and their picture in the paper that week. I believe in doing things different and I have been very successful in my career and life in following that concept."

After Scanlon, Brady became a Leader 2 at American Legion and then a Leader 3 at Vogt Recreation Center where he's been for the past 7 years.

Brady's wrestling events have drawn great crowds and raise funds for worthy causes, and he sees them as a unique way to get the community to use Vogt Rec Center as a facility the whole family can enjoy. A night full of bodyslams, trash talking and figure-four leglocks is just another brick on the road to find a cure.