

**MARATHON YOUTH SERVICES
NEWSLETTER
April 1, 2006
Volume 6, Issue 4**



It happens! Especially at this time of the year. Every little boy, or girl, has the experience of getting their kite caught in a tree. (Or at least they should...) I saw it today in fact. As spring break week in the Wausau area is winding down, it's obvious there have been some failed attempts at keeping these gravity defying wonders out of the grasp of Charlie Brown's nemesis, "the kite eating tree".

These are not the stick and newspaper variety I used to manufacture when I was a lad; but rather, fancy and colorful creations from Target, Shopko and Wal-Mart. Nevertheless, they're subject to the same laws of nature as their predecessors and will invariably find the limbs of an otherwise friendly tree. Then, after much anxiety and fussing it's Mom or Dad to the rescue!

Seems to me that somewhere in there is an analogy... Life for a kid is filled with the hazardous limbs of seemingly friendly trees. And, it often takes a thoughtful and caring adult to help decipher the dangers and occasionally provide the helping hand of rescue.

Sometimes even Moms and Dads need a ladder, or the help of a friend, to get the kite down. At MYS we fancy ourselves as that friend, or ladder, in the quest of kids and young adults to grow into confident pilots of their own kite. That certainly reflects our mission with the families and residents of Reynolds Group Home and our Adult Family Homes. And our clinic, Marathon Family Counseling Center continues to offer assistance to the community through yet another Community Awareness Seminar.

This month's seminar addresses a very important issue of safety for our kids; Internet Safety. We encourage our readers to join us, and share this announcement with friends, family and colleagues. Have a look at the seminar



notice attached to this newsletter, and feel free to reproduce and share it. Our clinic staff will be joined by experts on the topic to educate and advise.

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1. As March winds down at **Reynolds Group Home**, the guys are enjoying spring break and preparing for the final push to the semester's end. A couple of the boys have made commitments to sports participation for the spring season; Gary has joined the freshman baseball team and Dennis joined the Lacrosse team.

The activity level is as high as ever... With 8 adolescent boys you can imagine how many irons we have in the fire! In addition to everything else, Matt took a job at Hardees and Andrew has begun working at Subway this past week. This means that 7 out of 8 have jobs now in addition to all the household expectations we have for them. For Thao, Andrew, Ken and Luke, that includes starting the Independent Living Program with Children's Service Society.

This past week off from school has proven a productive time for some of the guys also. Ken was able to take a week long trip to Connecticut to see his Mom. Some of the other guys also enjoyed extra time with their families.

Luke experienced an overnight camping trip at Kettle Moraine State Park with two staff members, Sarah and Pheng, hiking and talking...bringing focus to the main issues in his life. All agreed it was a productive time for Luke.

We have been hosting several tours referred to RGH by the Peer Court of Marathon County. This program allows teenagers a glimpse into group home life. Many are referred because they are having difficulties and a perspective of the group home shows them things to come if they continue to make poor choices.

Chris has been getting everyone psyched up for spring cleanup around the house and grounds at RGH. With cutting back on some of the overgrown bushes and planting of some new perennials and ground covers and adding decorative mulch, we're looking forward to putting on a bright new face to the neighborhood.

Pictures will follow...

As the month comes to an end, we continue to have a full house! We anticipate a couple of vacancies at the end of the current semester. Now would be a good time to discuss your future placement needs with Chris. Give us a call at 715-842-1154.

2. During March MYS acquired two more part-time staff to work with the guys at Reynolds Group Home. **Pheng Vang** and **Randy Ruleau** are two young men anxious to begin careers in the field of law enforcement, but with a keen interest in bettering the lives of young people.

Pheng has studied criminal justice and law enforcement at Century and Minneapolis Colleges, and is hoping to complete a law enforcement degree at Northcentral Technical College in the future. Pheng has served as a student advocate at SPASH High School in Stevens Point, and is a volunteer translator and assistant for first time homebuyers with CAP Services and Wood Trust Bank.

Born and raised in Menominee, Michigan, **Randy** graduated from high school in 1999. He has since married and recently completed the police academy at NTC as well as an associate degree from UWMC here in Wausau. Randy and his wife have settled into the Wausau area and he is exploring options in law enforcement and related fields.

We all want to welcome Pheng and Randy to our treatment team!

3. April has arrived! And as any baseball fans knows, that means Opening Day at Miller Park is at hand. The Brewers will host the Pittsburgh Pirates this year for the season kick-off on Monday, April 3rd. With that also comes the news that we have sewed up *18 reserved seats for the April 22nd game* against the Cincinnati Red Legs. The world famous fans at our **Adult Homes** will be treated to an early season road trip, surely not to be the last of the season.

April 3rd is also another important day for several residents. Mark, Sam and Mike S will be heading to the Allstate Arena in Chicago for **WWE presents RAW!** These guys are huge wrestling fans and always enjoy these spectacles. We should have some new pictures to share when they return. To the right is Mike's smiling face from their last trip to see the big boys put on their show.

Mike S. continues to be very active. He has been



putting lots of miles on his bike riding all over town. In addition, he has made several trips to Mosinee to visit an old high school friend. Quite an ambitious guy! Mike is also already anticipating the coming summer's Wisconsin Valley Fair. He's been downloading and listening to the music of the Fair's scheduled performers. He has lots of other plans for summer as well, and is very happy that summer is getting closer.

Mike and Terra also recently completed their basketball season in Menominee. It's been a very enjoyable, hectic and productive season, and they're already looking forward to next year. Meanwhile, Terra and Crystal have already begun practice for the Track and Field season. Both are quite excited to be participating in Track.



Ending their spring break from school this past week, both the ladies enjoyed their week socializing with other MYS residents, spending time with staff, relaxing and sleeping in. After spring break Crystal will wrap up her job training at the Wausau Daycare and will soon begin job training at McDonald's. She is energized about the change and is excited to be working at McDonald's. Terra will continue to work at County Market and has done so throughout spring break. She hopes to continue there through the coming summer.

The adult residents of MYS often socialize together in a variety of activities. They are known to picnic together, taken in movies as a group, dances, parties and some even attend church together. Lately a popular spot for them has been the "game room" at Hamilton House. Foos Ball and pool are a strong attraction that often brings the residents of the various homes together there. Mike P comes over from Prospect Place often to shoot pool with Tong and Kyle. In fact, Tong is quite the pool champion and quite often whoops the other residents and staff. Hamilton House acquired a new resident this past month also. Actually, it was Shawn H moving in from Grand Place. He's made a great adjustment to the change and is getting along great with his new house mates. He takes pride in enlightening them with his knowledge of cars and John Deere tractors and equipment.



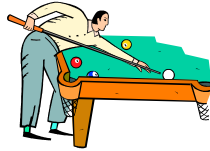
We actually got the **staff at Hamilton House** to sit still for a picture this month too! (That Deven seems to show up everywhere...)



Standing from left: Scott Lamken, Amy Salzman, Chris Samuels (HH manager), Maria Chang and Stacey Dreiling Seated: Leah Gordon and Deven Adams

Before winter came to an official end this past month, the resident fishing expert of Prospect Place, John P, managed to squeeze in some ice fishing again. John has a hard time deciding which he prefers; fishing or bowling. At any rate, he's quite good at both and has continued his league bowling activities as well.

The other guys at Prospect Place had a busy March also. Adam and Sean finishing up the basketball season, YMCA volunteer activities, shooting pool at Weston Lanes and Hamilton House.



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Produced by Jim Prozinski
PCS 2006

A Community Wellness Seminar sponsored by Marathon Family Counseling
Center 1161 North 7th Street, Wausau, Wisconsin, 715/848-0011
(A division of Marathon Youth Services)

INTERNET SAFETY AND OUR CHILDREN

Coping with the World Wide Web

**Place: G.D. Jones Elementary School,
(1018 S. 12th Ave. Wausau, Wisconsin)**

Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2006

Time: 6:30 to 8:00 PM. (Registration from 6:00 to 6:30 PM.)

Main Speaker: Kris Midthun (Dept. of Justice- Wis. Region)

Kris Midthun will introduce and discuss the topic of Internet access and safeguarding our children from Internet predators. Ms. Midthun's works with special agents in investigating Internet crime and is available to train Internet trainers.

- ***Seminar is free and open to the public.***
- ***Parents, Educators, Preschool workers, Law Enforcement, Church Leaders, and Mental Health Professionals are welcome.***
- ***Seminar will conclude with an open forum for discussion of participant questions.***

Pre- registration is encouraged. Please contact Marathon Family Counseling Center at 848-0011. Seating limited to 250 attendee