

**MARATHON
YOUTH SERVICES
NEWSLETTER
April, 2011
Volume 11, Issue 4**



Contents

- **Adult Program News**
- **Social Skills Group**
- **Congratulations Adam!**
- **Welcome Jennifer**
- **RGH News**
- **Congratulations Lee!**



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Vacancy Posting

(Updated 4/1/11)

- **RGH** has one current and one anticipated vacancy at this time.
- Our **Adult Programs** currently have two Supported Apartment settings at **7th Street Suites** available.

Please contact Pam (715-432-2818) or Sue (715-551-8568) to discuss our adult vacancies. For RGH vacancies call Mike (715-551-6396).

Given the snow storm of last week the flowers on the left probably seem a little premature. They're not...it's the weather that's mixed up! But I'm still optimistic that we have spring coming in the next few weeks. The residents at our programs are certainly ready like the rest of us. They've started with the outdoor basketball already.

Spring of course brings the optimism of new growth. The flowers, trees, grass (and weeds) remind us of the circle of life all over again. It's good for the spirit!

Our programs have grown a bit this month also. Sue has a new Administrative Assistant, we've got a couple new residents and supportive care clients and we've added a couple new faces to our staff. Times are good!

Now if the Brewers can get through Spring Training without any more injuries...

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March Events at Prospect Place and Seventh Street Suites:

We have Spring Fever!!! The basketball hoops have been put up and the basketballs have been inflated at Seventh Street Suites. **Mike P. and Shawn** have taken advantage of the warmer weather in March, and spent time shooting hoops together. There were trips to the YMCA this month for swimming. However, we are looking forward to Wausau's Public pool, Kaiser, opening this summer!

We have been very blessed at MYS these past few months with **several new clients joining our MYS family** for extended care and respite care. At the end of March, **Virginia joined our Extended Care program**. Virginia went with Crystal and staff to Dale's Weston Lanes and bowled three games. She got a high score of 130 points! After an afternoon of bowling, clients and staff went shopping at Wal-Mart and the new store in Rib Mountain called Dollar Mountain. Our **respite care guest, Bradley** visited Seventh Street Suites this month and joined in the fun at **the New London parade**. On another weekend, **Tong welcomed Dale into his apartment**, where they enjoyed playing card and video games.

On **March 2nd, Mike P. celebrated his birthday at his apartment with his dad, staff members Michelle, Karie and Ashleigh, along with residents Mike S., Sean, Shawn, and Adam**. Everyone sang Happy Birthday to Mike and enjoyed marshmallow cake and ice cream, also enjoying a dinner.

Our **Extended Care Client, Ashley, celebrated a birthday on March 16th**. She hosted a swimming party at the Wittenberg Aquatic Center. Residents who **joined Ashley were Mike S., Mike P., Crystal and Kevin**. Some enjoyed going down the water slide, using the hot tub, and played water basketball. After open swim, residents headed to the party room to eat and continue to celebrate. They entertained themselves with games such as I Spy and making up songs. Everyone reported to have had a good time.

On March 5th, **Mike S., Crystal, Kevin, Justin went with Staff Scott to sing karaoke at Mountain Lanes**. Mike and staff sang at least three songs together. Crystal sang some Cher songs and a few others. There's no surprise that Justin sang multiple Johnny Cash songs. Mike sang some solo songs of Neil Diamond, Sonny and Cher and other artists. Kevin did not sing but enjoyed watching and also shot some pool with the other residents between songs.

On March 19th, **Mike P, Crystal, Terra, Shawn, Bradley, Justin and Adam headed down to New London** (temporarily renamed New Dublin for the day) to attend the **annual St. Patrick's Day parade**. Residents were able to catch some candy, beads, necklaces and a few other freebies. We enjoyed floats, bands, music, clowns, animals and even bagpipes! Residents appeared to enjoy themselves commenting that we need to continue to make this a yearly event to attend. Afterwards, we went out for lunch together at Subway.



Basketball, Basketball, Basketball! **Sean, Mike, Terra, Crystal, Justin and Adam** have been very busy during the past couple months with **Special Olympics basketball**. At the tournament in Chippewa Falls, **Terra, Mike and Sean's team the Wolf Pack** lost their first game and won their second game. They received a third place ribbon. **Justin's team the Wildcats** won their first game, but lost their second game. Crystal's team the Packers won their first game and lost their second game. **Adam's team the Everest Express** won their first game but lost their last game. All teams that won their first game in the tournament but lost their second game received a second place ribbon and were put into a hat to see if they will move onto the next Regional tournament in Steven's Point later in the month. **Adam and Crystal's teams** were selected to move onto the regional tournament, which took place on March 20th in Stevens Point. Crystal's team lost the first game at 18-34 then unfortunately lost a close second game with a score of 36-39. Adam's team also lost both games with the scores 25-31 and 23-40. Both Crystal and Adam played their hardest. Residents Sean, Mike P., Bradley and Kevin went along to cheer them on.



Adam has also been cheering on the D.C. Everest girls' basketball team. He attended a late season game that went into triple overtime. Adam did so much cheering that he just about lost his voice for a few days afterwards.

Crystal, Terra, Mike S., Justin and Sean attended the Special Olympics pizza party for the basketball season at Our Saviors church. Terra independently prepared chocolate chip cookies for the party. The next sports for our clients include soccer and track and field.

Karen Szytura joined the MYS team as a fulltime Residential Worker near the end of March. Welcome Karen!!

Ashleigh's Social Skills Group

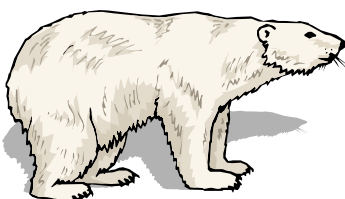
For **March's Social Skills Group** we focused on Sportsmanship. Group members view two clips of outstanding Sportsmanship Stories and shared their reactions. Group members saw that Sports are not just about "Winning" but about how you play the game and how you "Win" at life by being a good person and treating others well. Group members then split up into three teams where they constructed a "good sport" and a "bad sport" through identifying characteristics of each. Each team then reported back to the large group. All members offered valuable experiences and thoughts to the group.



A lunch of Chicken Quesadillas and Salsa & Chips was prepared by Prospect Place and enjoyed by everyone. MYS residents that attended Social Skills Group: Kevin, Mike P, Tong, Shawn, Justin, Adam, Mike S, and Dale.

Once again **Adam** was a main participant in **the Annual Polar Plunge**, a fundraiser for the Wisconsin Special Olympics. Adam made the plunge again this year with **Channel 7 sportscaster Chad Franzen** and a few other participants. Following the event Adam was presented a check for the WI Special Olympics by staff at the **Intercity State Bank** in the amount of **\$600.00!**

Congratulations Adam! A job well done.



ANNOUNCEMENT!

Jennifer Peaslee is the new **administrative assistant for Marathon Youth Services**. Jennifer's hours are 8-12 Monday-Friday.

Jennifer has a bachelor's of science degree in Psychology, with a Human Services emphasis from UWSP. She has a strong background in floral arranging and in management and is currently a small business owner, along with her husband of four years.

She has two beautiful girls, Emma, 7 and Olivia 2 years. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, gardening and spending time with her friends and family. Jennifer is very excited for this new opportunity with Marathon Youth Services and looks forward to getting to know everyone!

Welcome to the team Jennifer. We all look forward to getting to know you better.

RGH Newsletter – April 2011

March is always a hard month here at RGH because it is one of those times of the year for transitions. Right now it is the transition between winter and spring. Things are starting to thaw and the ground turns to mud. It is hard to get out and do a lot. Thankfully though we have some great staff at RGH that do not let this stop them from getting the guys out and about.



With the temperature getting warm out and it being Spring Break everyone thought it was a good time to have a picnic. **Everyone loaded up and went to a local park and had a cookout.** Cookouts are not really complete without some kind of activity so football was the activity of choice. No one else was really into the idea of a polar plunge at that time. The evening went great and all had fun.



Another great thing about this time of year is that it is maple syrup time. **RGH Staff Pete took the guys out to his family land where they have some trees tapped and the sap is running well.** Pete took them through the entire operation. The guys were really into it. Some of them felt it the next day though complaining of sore muscles after carrying the buckets out of the woods. The guys liked it so much that they are asking for a return trip.

With the recent snow, some of the guys have been taking advantage of the huge snow mound in front of the house. They are making their own sledding area as well as a fort or two. War has broken out between opposing forts from time to time, but we are glad to report that there are no casualties (none of them are that good of aim anyways). The sled run has proven very valuable for an afternoon release after school.



On some days, the weather was too bad to get outside so some indoor sports were arranged. We have a Wii console at RGH and we put it to good use. The guys have been using Wii Fit lately and it is great to see the guys trying to accomplish the balance and sport challenges presented. On one day, Staff Darwin and some of the guys got into doing some Tae Bo with the Wii. This is a pretty intense workout program that mixes exercise with martial art moves. This will definitely be something to do again on a rainy day.



We are also looking to expand some of the volunteering we do in the community. The guys recently visited the Marathon County Humane Society. There is a chance for us to be helping them out during some weekends and during the summer. In the meantime the guys took advantage of being able to visit some of the animals there.



One of the RGH staff had a great milestone this last month. RGH staff Lee Vang was sworn in as an American citizen. He has been working on this for some time and it came to be on March 2, 2011. Congratulations Lee.

For more information on all our programs, please visit our website at:
www.marathonyouthservices.org

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