



MARATHON YOUTH SERVICES  
NEWSLETTER  
February 1, 2007  
Volume 7, Issue 2



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Wow! Where did the month go! It seems only yesterday that I sat down to write a newsletter and here I am again; February already... The month of Valentines as we all know (and better remember come February 14<sup>th</sup>). But it's so much more.

February is Black History Month, the month of many anniversaries in the Black History of the United States; February 3 is the birthday of W.E.B Dubois, February 23, 1870 the passage of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment giving Blacks the vote, February 12, 1909 the founding of the NAACP and February 1, 1960 when a group of black college students in Greensboro, North Carolina began a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter creating a civil rights milestone.

And of course, it's many other things too, from the Super Bowl and Groundhog Day to the Westminster Dog Show and National Bird Feeding Month. It's also Waitangi Day in New Zealand (Feb. 26), the day they celebrate the birth of their country.

Of great significance to us in the US, February is National School Counselors Month. Congress actually declared that effective 1/1/06; the week of February 6 thru February 10 would be National School Counseling Week. Hail to all the school counselors in our midst!!!

That brings to mind for me the important role the many school personnel that we've dealt with over the years have played in the successes of our clients. Our primary contacts have been with staff of Wausau East High School and Horace Mann Middle School, but include the assistance at times of key people at John Muir Middle School, Wausau West and DC Everest Schools. The counselors, assistant principals and countless dedicated teachers have made our job possible, both with our juvenile clients as well as the young adults who live with us and continue their educations. So, a big **'thank you'** to all those dedicated people from us at Marathon Youth Services.

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*February*



As winter marches on, even with the shortage of snow, seasonal activities abound. However, rather than sledding and skiing, more focus seems to be on basketball, hockey and the wrap-up of football season. We have some great fans, and participants, living at **Prospect Place!** Special Olympics basketball has returned with a vengeance. We have active participants in all the adult homes, and at Prospect Place its Adam and Sean.



On January 27 Sean traveled to Stevens Point to participate in a Special Olympics basketball tournament. Here he proudly poses in his Wausau Metro uniform...

Adam also traveled to Point on the same day to play in the SO tournament. However, Adam plays for the team, *Nothing But Net*, representing the DC Everest area Special Olympics. Both the guys were quite excited to be playing in the event. Perhaps next month we'll have some results to report.

Mike P is a big fan/supporter of Wausau high school teams. He has attended several basketball and hockey games this season already. Adam on the other hand is a big Everest fan. On the days that the teams play each other, there's a lot of trash talk between the two. On one of those days, the two guys agreed to pose for this picture, but not to sit together at the game, preferring to sit with their respective fan base.



John P also had a busy month. He continues his employment at Wal-Mart and enjoys his job very much. It gives him a nice opportunity to socialize as well as earn some extra money to shop and treat himself to pizza from time to time. So far this winter, our resident fishing expert has not had much time to get out in pursuit of another trophy. He hopes to soon however.

**Grand Place** would like to welcome our newest resident, Mark S.! Mark's favorite thing to do is to take care of his fish in his 30 gallon tank. He has 30 fish and has named them all. He also has four frogs named after characters on "Charmed", one of his favorite TV shows. Mark enjoys collecting a variety of things such as Coca-Cola items and Green Bay Packer items. In his free time Mark can usually be found working on his computer and listening to music.



Mike S. and John of Grand Place are both members of

Special Olympics basketball teams. They practice weekly with their teams. They enjoy the practices but are really looking forward to the upcoming tournaments. The first tournament was January 27<sup>th</sup> in Stevens Point. We'll make sure to post the results of that tournament in the next newsletter so everyone can see how they did!

January was a big birthday month for Grand Place. John, Andy and Mark all celebrated being another year older and of course, much wiser!



Grand Place has also been blessed with some new staff additions. Three new UW-Stevens Point graduates have joined us this past month...

**Yee Thao** has a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science with a minor in Communications and Economics. She is married with four little ones, and enjoys spending time with them in her free time. (WHAT free time?)

**Rose Allgaier** is also a 2006 graduate of Stevens Point with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Sociology. Rose enjoys quiet time at home with her friends and family, and also enjoys practicing Tae Kwon Doe with her nephew.

**Katie Kennedy** earned her Bachelor's Degree from Point in 2006 also. Her major was Psychology with a minor in Sociology. Katie interned as a social worker and has five years experience in the mental health field. She lives in Antigo with her husband and two cats. She reports that she enjoys snowmobiling and scrap booking in her spare time.

Welcome to our staff! Maybe next month we can have a group picture to share...

We were also joined this month by two new staff at **7th Street Suites**. **Lorraine and Ethel** both bring special talents to the staff at the apartments. We will be providing more biographical information and photos next issue.

Unfortunately, one of our residents experienced some hard luck this past month at 7th Street Suites. Crystal slipped on the ice outside and severely broke her leg! She's in a full cast and not allowed to bear any weight on it. This has necessitated some creativity on our part; putting together a room for her downstairs to avoid the steps to the apartments. The arrangement is working well, and we can report that Crystal has been a great patient. She has even now returned to school and is on the mend. Hopefully she will soon be able to get around on crutches and be able to return to her own room. I'm sure it can't be too soon for her.



Crystal has had a stream of visitors since her accident. Here Mike, Mark and Terra visit her, and she shows off her cast, signed by all... (BTW, the dates on the pictures are obviously incorrect)

Julie Richards, manager at **Hamilton House** filed the following update this month...

**Kyle** continues to work at Sam's Pizza and states that he still likes working there. He likes being able to eat their pizza often too. Kyle went to the library, Family Video and hung out with his friends in the community often.

**Sam** started work at Granite Peak Ski Hill and says it is going "awesome"! Sam works every other Saturday. Sam had a relaxing month, playing his new Game Boy Advance, playing pool and hanging out with his fellow residents and staff.

**Shawn** continued working at Northern Valley Workshop. Shawn also enjoyed going on home visits and visiting his Grandmother's house. He enjoyed shopping trips and bowling with friends.

**Tong** continues to work at Northern Valley also. He is doing really well and even has been going in for an extra couple of shifts now and then. Tong saved up his money and was able to purchase a Play Station 2 and a new pool stick.

While we currently have one vacant bed at **Reynolds Group Home**, that's not likely to last long. We are awaiting a Court decision that will likely fill that space real soon. In fact, it's been quite a busy month with a couple of new placements. Jon G. and Kyle R have joined us recently, and we're happy to have them with us.

In addition to regular school and work activities, the boys have managed to stay real busy. There's time at the Boys and Girls Club for skateboarding and music, and the YMCA for basketball, swimming and their rec room. Darwin also takes the guys to the Cedar Creek Water Park occasionally. In the weeks to come there will be opportunities for ice skating, weight lifting, bowling and another water park at Wisconsin Dells.

RGH reports some problems with their camera this past month, so...no pictures. Hopefully that problem will be remedied and we'll see more next month.

For those of you who enjoy a simple recipe, I think I have another for you this month. I know its well received at my house... I thought I'd try to squeeze it in.

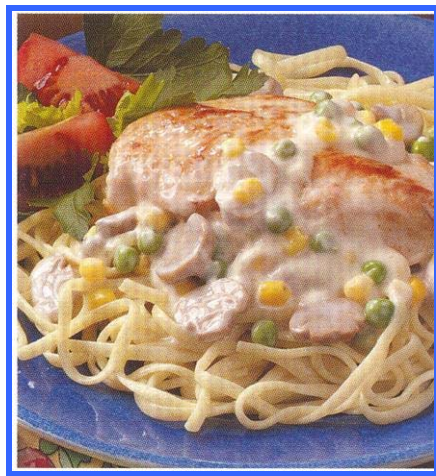
### Chicken Veggie Alfredo

4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves  
1 tablespoon vegetable oil  
1 jar Alfredo sauce (16 oz) (Ragu?)  
1 can whole kernel corn, drained  
1 cup frozen peas, thawed  
1 jar (can?) sliced mushrooms, drained  
½ cup chopped onion  
½ cup water  
½ teaspoon garlic salt  
¼ teaspoon pepper  
Hot cooked linguine

In a large skillet, brown chicken in oil. Transfer to a slow cooker. In a bowl, combine the Alfredo sauce, corn, peas, mushrooms, onion, water, garlic salt and pepper. Pour over chicken. Cover and cook on low for 6-8 hours. Serve over the linguine.

Makes about 4 servings.

I'm usually pretty liberal with the ingredients, and sometimes cut the chicken in bite sized pieces. I also tend to be generous with the veggies...



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