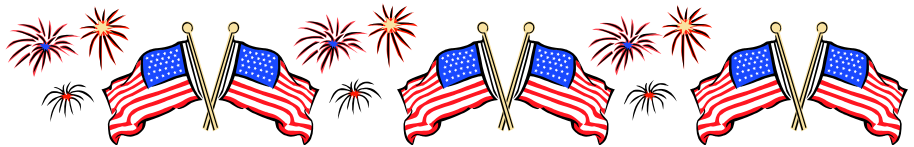


**MARATHON YOUTH
SERVICES
NEWSLETTER
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Here we are, finally, in the middle of summer! What a wonderful time of the year. The weather has been absolutely awesome, and the Brewers are still in first place at the All-Star Break. Now there's something we couldn't say in past years. But then this has been a banner summer for us at MYS for many reasons. We continue to enjoy the support of the community through their use of our programs, running at or near full capacity in all our facilities. We like to think that's a reflection of the trust people put in our ability to deliver quality services to their clientele. Earning and keeping that trust will always be a priority to us.

June also brought us some much anticipated good fortune. Several large philanthropic organizations in the community have seen fit to grant us substantial support to do some much needed remodeling and repairs at Reynolds Group Home. It is truly gratifying and humbling to know that these folks find our programs worthwhile and important to the community, to the extent that they are willing to invest their resources in our success. We will do our best to live up to their confidence in us.

We also want to recognize the efforts of Chris Gunderson and Mike McCabe of RGH for the work they did in putting together these grant requests, and representing the program and staff of our entire organization. Thanks for a job well done guys!

Of course, we can't forget the most important reason for July...the 4th! This is after all our country's birthday. While the guys always look forward to the fun of the carnivals and fireworks, we first recognize the importance of the day in the history of our great nation. In honor of the day and all it stands for I looked for one great quote...there are many. I hope you enjoy the one I finally decided on...

You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism. ~Erma Bombeck



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Grant Award!

June was a very good month for Marathon Youth Services and Reynolds Group Home in particular. We have long needed a new heating system at RGH, as well as some plumbing and electrical updates; all very expensive items exceeding our normal budgeting procedures. Now, through the generosity of several Wausau area foundations we are able to proceed with these repairs, bringing the building up to a standard that will reflect the high quality of the service we provide. It's difficult to adequately thank the people and organizations responsible for this generosity, but we certainly want to give recognition to their contributions. We will thank them, and the community, by demonstrating through our work that we are worthy of this kindness.

- ❖ **The Judd Alexander Foundation** has awarded MYS a grant of more than **\$22,000.00** to cover the costs of replacing the aged heating system at Reynolds Group Home. This should not only make the group home more comfortable in the winter, but assist us in maintaining a more manageable monthly heating budget.
- ❖ **The Dudley Foundation** has generously contributed a grant of **\$5,000.00** toward the renovation of our second floor bathroom for the guys. This is a desperately needed improvement that will aid the daily efficiency of our programming.
- ❖ An additional **\$6,540.00** support for this bathroom project was also provided through the **Caroline S. Mark Legacy Fund of the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin**, assuring the project's completion on schedule.
- ❖ Also, the **B.A. and Esther Greenheck Foundation** gave us a grant in the amount of **\$6,540.00** to be used for asbestos removal as well as electrical and plumbing upgrades. With their help we will eliminate some of the perennial problems we've been experiencing with these utilities over the past couple of years and make RGH a safer place.

At Marathon Youth Services we continue to be proud that we are part of a community that includes such generous and forward thinking organizations as these. As our remodeling projects proceed, we will keep our supporters and friends abreast of the progress.

The big news this month at **Reynolds Group Home** was of course the generous grants we received. They will make it possible for us to complete some much needed and anticipated remodeling. But summer is upon us and so are the expected activities it brings. In fact, as this is being written, Darwin has taken the guys on a trip to Mount Olympus Water Park. The guys have requested off from their respective jobs and were anticipating a great time. I'm sure we'll have some pictures of the fun to share.

We currently have 8 residents at RGH with 2 more involved in our aftercare/monitoring program. In fact, one of the guys currently in placement will likely be discharged to the monitoring program early in July, making another placement available. Give us a call about your placement needs...

Another of the boys has recently obtained employment and began working at Rogan's Shoes on June 21st. Good job Will. Good luck in your new job! Cody is following close behind in the employment pursuits and had a recent interview at Eastbay. No doubt he'll be employed soon also.

Meantime, Rob has been getting extra hours at his Arby's' job and is growing his savings account to prepare to go on his own in a few months. Rob has also made level "S" which is the highest level at RGH. This is tough to make and Rob worked very hard for this achievement.

Chris Gunderson along with residents Jon and Rob recently re-landscaped the front of the main office on 7th Street. Nice Job! The guys also found time to continue their volunteer work at Kennedy Park Rehab facility, as well as keeping up their stretch of Highway 52 East for the Adopt-A-Highway Program. Good job guys... We appreciate your efforts!





Mike has had another busy and interesting month. Here he shows off his new-found interest in bugs! He also submitted the following report...

Wrestling

In the world of wrestling there is a draft lottery happening. Who will get drafted to my favorite show Monday Night Raw? I have been waiting since April of 2006 for RAW to come back to Wisconsin. I was happy when I found out that it is coming back in September '07. We are planning a road trip to the Bradley Center in Milwaukee to see it.

Basketball

The Gus Macker Basketball Tournament was in town. I hope you guys got out to watch it. I talked with Mr. Adam Domino and he told me it was fun helping out at the Gus Macker. He also said he would do it again. He enjoys helping out with events like that in the Wausau Area.

Other Events

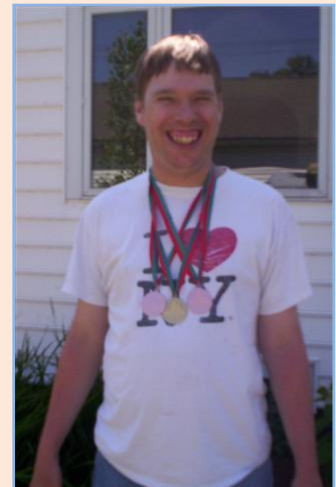
Well, on June 16, 2007 Mark Stephans had the chance to go to his sister's wedding. We will update you with some pictures as they become available.

The Wausau Area Jaycees Fourth of July Celebration

July 5th, Mark and I are going to conquer the ride known the Super Loops. It is an upside down roller coaster and if Pam is not nice to me in the days leading up to the 5th, she might get forced to go on it with me. Just a little hint for everyone – I've already been on the Super Lops when we went to Marshfield to support Mr. Sean Stoeger's Boy Scout Troop.

The warm weather has truly brought an abundance of activities for the men of **Grand Place** to participate in. They have been spending time at the pool, visiting local zoos, parks and carnivals.

John continues to be an avid sports fan and has watched many of the Brewers' games. He likes to occasionally watch the game at home but mostly prefers to join friends at other MYS homes and cheer the team on with a bowl of popcorn! He attended State for Special Olympics Track and Field this month and did a great job. He got 2 bronze medals and one gold medal. He really represented for MYS residents! He continues his work at Northern Valley and IROW. He was able to spend some time with family in June and got out on the pontoon with his Dad for Father's Day.



Mark has continued to recover from a recent surgery, but is looking forward to different fairs and festivals since he is new to the Wausau Area. He plans on teaming up with his fellow housemate Mike to once again conquer the Zipper and whatever else the fair has to offer. He puts a lot of time into the task of taking care of his "kids", otherwise known as fish, and has welcomed many new additions to his aquarium. Mark spend some quality time with his family when his sister tied the knot this month. He was part of the wedding party.

Mike as usual is one of the busiest men at Grand Place with all of his planning and promoting of activities for the MYS residents. He is always on the lookout for interesting community events to attend. He also tries hard to win tickets on the radio and in raffles to promote group activities for his friends and staff of MYS. He plans to visit Noah's Ark in Wisconsin Dells twice this summer. He also plans to attend several fairs and is really excited about going to see WWE when it comes to Milwaukee in a few months. Mike continues his work at Papillion's and continues to find many ways to never sit still for longer than the time he is sleeping. Mike has been care of a few monarch caterpillars found during nature walks. One has already formed a chrysalis. Everyone at Grand Place is anxiously waiting for the butterflies to hatch.

Andy was fortunate enough to get tickets to the Travis Tritt concerto held at the Grand Theater. Andy said that even though he spent his money on \$6.00 sodas and felt like he was deaf afterwards from the loud music, he really enjoyed himself. He continues to mow lawns and has picked up some extra hours at work to earn extra money for the summer to spend on the things he enjoys.



Hamilton House celebrated a birthday this past month. **Tong turned 23 years old on June 15th!** We invited residents of the other houses to join us in this celebration. Terra, Shane, Crystal, Ethel and Kathy all came over from Seventh Street; Sean S. came over from Prospect Place; John F. and Emily came over from Grand Place and Kyle, Shawn H. and Anne all attended from Hamilton House. The guests dined on four pizzas and a delicious ice cream cake from Dairy Queen with a red Ferrari on it with the words “Happy Birthday Tong” emblazoned across the top. The residents from Seventh Street also made Tong a birthday card. Everyone had plenty to eat and lots of laughs. Big thanks to everyone who attended Tong’s Birthday Party.

At all of our homes, Reynolds Group Home as well as the adult homes, we stress involving the residents in **planning and preparing meals**. Finding simple, quick and yet nutritious recipes for our residents, and staff, to master can be a challenge. We’d like to appeal to you, our readers, to share recipes that might be among your favorites. We’d like to put together a collection of favorites to incorporate into our independent living skills training and would love to include yours. Please share your favorites with us by sending them to Jim at admin@marathonyouthservices.org. We’ll publish one each month, and hope to put them all together in a recipe book. Help us out!

Ethel, one of our staff thought you might enjoy a simple recipe she uses frequently. If you have others you’d like to share with our staff and residents, please forward them!

Simple Pasta Salad

Cook up a package of vegetable rotini pasta
Drain and rinse
Add a package of thawed/drained spinach
Add about a cup of Italian dressing
Add tomato wedges, diced cucumber, diced onion and croutons to taste.
Enjoy!



And....

4th of July Holiday Punch

6 c Orange juice
20 oz Frozen strawberries in syrup
2 c Cranberry juice cocktail
3 c Ginger ale

Blend together the orange juice, strawberries, and cranberry juice cocktail.

Add ginger ale immediately before serving drinks.

Makes 18 servings.



You probably don’t need a recipe to grill some burgers and brats to go with these two...