

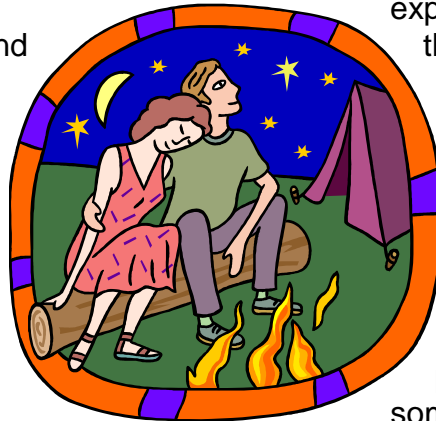
**MARATHON YOUTH SERVICES
NEWSLETTER
June 1, 2005
Volume 5, Issue 6**



What started out to be a rather soggy and cool holiday weekend turned out to be quite pleasant after all here in central Wisconsin. Down the hill from my house we could hear the drone of holiday traffic as people tried to get the most out of yet another Memorial Day Weekend, the traditional start of the summer vacation season. I can't help but feel a little pity for those eternal optimists who actually thought they'd have good weather and braved a camping outing; in a tent? And then, of course, there's those fishermen...

I used to be that foolish in my youth, braving the elements and wood ticks for that wonderful rustic 'wilderness camping'. And and black flies...what a to the excitement! was the flash flood that resulting in a mad dash remainder of your mosquitoes and your

This year my giving form to a rather lumber that is now a house. A behavior that equally bizarre for a 'holiday'.



experience called the deer flies, mosquitoes rush! There was no end Unless, of course, it came at 2:00 a.m. for the car to spend the restful sleep with 12 wet socks. weekend was spent expensive pile of cedar pergola on the front of my some would no doubt find

But of course, none of these holiday pleasantries would be possible without the sacrifices that gave rise to the holiday in the first place. With all of our dedication to our rather hedonistic pleasures, let us not forget that we should begin, and end, Memorial Weekend by remembering those who have gone before us. And by all means, say Thank You to a vet...

As usual, my thank you's go to Larry, Dale, Dean and the many that I never knew.

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1. Doug's thoughts

It's all in a name....

For those of you keeping up with us, we've grown...quite a bit. And, we have been working very hard trying to figure out what to call ourselves. We liked the way "great" sounds, but many thought we should seek a practical route. As committees meet, artists create and board members ponder, here's where things stand:

Marathon Youth Services, Inc. is our legal name, as well as our name of historical standing. Our adult program will begin using Marathon Family Services as a division title that is more descriptive of that program. Our new mental health clinic is now using the name Marathon Family Clinical Services. Again, a descriptive name for this division of our service. We have developed a special "tag line" of "Moving Life Forward" to go with all of our names which is, I believe, an awesome three word line capturing what we do.

I appreciate those of you who have offered input into this process and the patience of everyone as we continue to develop our best identity.

I might share, and most would agree, that it's not what you call yourself but what you do and how well you do it that is best captured in people's minds. That is always our priority...and we'll figure this name thing out as we continue to do what we do best; serve the youth, young adults and mental health needs of our community.

Doug Adams

2. While developing our clinical services program we were presented with several challenges. One such challenge was to acquire a suitable location and prepare it for clinic occupancy. When we did locate that building, we also acquired two upstairs apartments in need of attention and renovation. One needed to be prepared for a **community outreach** client.

The apartment had been 'trashed' by a previous tenant prior to our purchase of the building. We replaced tile, carpet, re-textured the ceiling, painted every wall and ceiling, re-hung doors, installed a new toilet and cleaned...and cleaned. Sue, our adult program coordinator, several adult residents, an RGH resident and even Doug's wife Barbara pitched in to ensure we would finish on time. We were ready for our new tenant Chris by April 1st. Chris is doing very well living independently in his new place, with staff coming in to assist him several hours per day.

We are continuing to consider options for the basement of our new building. Perhaps a job training area or expansion for our clinical staff.

3. It's hard to imagine that almost a year has gone by since we lost one of our great young staff to a tragic automobile accident. It was July 19, 2004 that **Danielle Santiago** was taken from her parents, her young son and her husband, and of course, everyone else who loved and respected her.

In honor of Danielle, a partner in our mission of helping kids, Marathon Youth Services, Inc. is **developing a scholarship fund**. This fund will be used to assist in the development and further education of clientele of MYS.

Although MYS has a longstanding history of not asking for money for operational costs, we are proud to ask for help and contributions for this special fund. All monies in this fund will regularly be disbursed to appropriate candidates to further their education. Any assistance you can provide us in this effort will be greatly appreciated. Please direct your contributions to the *Danielle Santiago Scholarship Fund*.

Our memories of Danielle are still quite painful, but we wish to carry her name forward in a way she would approve of...to help others be their greatest.

MYS is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Any contributions are tax deductible.

4. This month saw Frank's departure from **Reynolds Group Home** on May 23rd for boot camp with the U.S. Marine Corps.! We're all very proud of Frank and wish him the best. I hope to be able to report on his progress, and maybe offer a photo of him in uniform when he finishes basic training.

The vacancy created by Frank's departure was quickly filled, bringing our census at RGH back to seven. Rick or Doug would be happy to discuss the remaining bed space at your convenience. Give them a call.

May of course had the guys paying attention to their Moms like the rest of us. Carol again came through for the boys and helped them put together



some potted plants as Mother's Day gifts. Here's a sample of their work. Thanks again Carol.

This last month the boys once again helped out with the annual Post Office food drive on May 14th. They also took part in Drug Awareness Day put on by Premier

Recovery at North Central Health Care.

Also on the agenda for the boys this month was a tour at the Wausau Central Fire Station. They got the chance to see some of the rescue equipment up close and personal, like the oxygen mask in the ambulance.



With the end of the school year rapidly approaching, much attention is focused on planning for a fun, educational and exciting summer. While there will be both jobs and summer school, there will also be time for camping, fishing and fun times with families.

5. May was such a busy month for **the men of the adult houses** that there's too much to report here. I'll be putting some photos on the web site to more thoroughly cover all the fun and educational activities the guys had this month.

One of the big planned events this month was a trip to the WWE RAW wrestling exhibition at the Resch Center in Green Bay on May 23rd. Kevin, Mark, Kyle, Mike S., Mike P. and Andy all made the trip. They were joined by staff members Becky and Karie.

The main event was BATISTA in his handicap match, BATISTA vs. Triple H and Ric Flair. In addition to enjoying the flash and excitement of a big time, professional wrestling event, the guys brought back souvenirs of their fun night.



While the group was in Green Bay they all went to the **Olive Garden** for supper. This might just have been as good as the wrestling match! The food and fun were great...



The guys from Grand Place made a fun trip to a John Deere dealership this month and had their pictures taken on some really cool tractors. There was a bit of a contest as to who could sit on the biggest tractor. Guys will be guys you know...

Mike S. and Mike P. also had the opportunity to tour the Ronald McDonald House in Marshfield with Becky this month. Mike S. turned in about 100,000 pop tops at that time and was presented with a T-shirt that reads "I'm a top tab saver for the Ronald McDonald House" as well as a tote bag for his efforts.



Shawn



John



Watch "Child and Family Focus" with Doug Adams and his guests. every Tuesday at 7:00 AM and 10:30 PM, and Wednesday at 5:30 PM. Local Public Access Television Channel 3

If you have any questions or program requests, feel free to contact Doug at 715842-3240 or dadams15@charter.net. We are always interested in your thoughts or comments.

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Produced by Jim Prozinski

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