

**MARATHON
YOUTH SERVICES
NEWSLETTER
June, 2011
Volume 11, Issue 6**



Contents

- **RGH News**
- **Adult Program Updates**
- **Welcome Leslie!**



Vacancy Posting

(Updated 6/1/11)

- **RGH** has one vacancy and two anticipated vacancies 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).

Finally it looks and feels like summer! With temperatures up this week in a more seasonal range, it's possible to enjoy the outdoors in true summertime fashion. Although, the cool weather of this past month hasn't dampened the enthusiasm of any of our residents as you'll see in this month's reports. Lots of fun outdoor activities! Now as we cruise into the month of June we look forward to all the favorites of summer; fishing, walking, biking, camping, swimming, and of course the summer concerts, festivals and carnivals Wausau has come to be known for. We're all looking forward to the completion of the 400 Block/City Square re-landscaping project and a new round of summer concerts.

Let's also not forget that yesterday was Memorial Day; a day to thank a Veteran for all they've done for us...

If at any time you would like to be removed from this mail list, please click REPLY and simply enter UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Your address will be immediately removed from the list

RGH Newsletter – June 2011

We had a couple of happenings this month that have become fairly routine here, but often not known about. **Muachong and Nate** had their wisdom teeth extracted this last month. Many teenagers when they start to get towards their 18th birthday have their wisdom teeth removed. Almost all of the residents when they come to RGH end up having the procedure done. One of the first things that take place when they come into placement is getting a dental visit. Often during those initial visits it is found out that the guys wisdom teeth are causing problems or are in a position that they will cause problems soon. We are fortunate enough to work with the Marshfield Clinic Oral and Maxillo Facial Surgery Center in Wausau and in Weston. We have taken all of our guys there and they do a great job. This facility is used because all the wisdom teeth extraction is done through sedation. The whole procedure takes an hour or two and they come back to RGH. Our staff have become great caretakers in this area because they are so familiar with the aftercare. The recovery and after care from having this done can go on for a couple of weeks. Although it is probably not the favorite procedure the guys go through they do appreciate getting it done especially when their wisdom teeth are causing them problems. They are also always appreciative on how the staff make sure they are taken care of. It does not hurt that staff make them pudding and jello for dinner.

Cody will be leaving the program at the end of the school year. He will be going back to live with his mom. He is looking forward to getting back with his family and moving on. He did have some excitement this last month. His lacrosse team won a game. This was the first one of the season and he was happy with the team's accomplishment. The JV team finished their schedule the week before Memorial Day. Cody is now concentrating on studying for his finals and going home. We wish him the best.

Nate is doing well. He is looking at joining a work program this summer as well as doing the Service Learning Project for school. He is going to be real busy once school ends, but he is looking forward to doing the work and being busy. Getting paid is a big plus to him as well. He is a bit worried that it will cut into some of his fishing time, but he said he will adjust. Earlier this month Nate participated in a semi-formal dance. It was put together by all the area special education programs. He got all dressed up and looked great. He had a great time at the dance. This was a new experience for him so we are real happy for him.



Bee is doing well in his program at RGH and as a result got some good news at his staffing this month. He was told that if he continues to progress he will be able to go home in July. He is real excited by that. He really enjoys spending time with his family and takes every opportunity to do so. We look forward to helping him accomplish his program here.

James has settled in with the program and is doing well. He is working on getting his GED so that when he turns 18 in August he will be done with school and moving on to his home community. He is working hard to get things in place so that he can live on his own and see some of his family. His big dream right now is getting a car when he is 18.

With the weather finally giving us some dry spells Darwin took the guys on the **first trip of Adopt-a-Highway** this month. RGH is responsible for three miles of road on both sides. There was a lot of walking that day and this being the first trip since last fall so there was a lot to pick up. The guys kept going and the job got done. This will be a monthly job for the guys this summer and hopefully a lot less trash will be present as they do it more.





As stated in previous newsletters the guys are getting into fishing once again. I mentioned that I would get some verification on some of the fish stories that come about. Staff **Tasha Birkett** was fishing with the guys a few weeks ago and got a big one. It was certainly a keeper. **Cody** also caught a fish that was of some significance, however he was camera shy. It was a whopper as well. During Memorial Day weekend one of the guys hooked a big one, but unfortunately he did not have a good grip on the pole. As a result, there is a fish in the area that has its own pole. So if you are by a local lake and there is a sandwich sitting near shore be careful. It might be bait. I will keep the stories coming as they come in.



Staff **Tasha** is into softball/baseball and took the guys to a DC Everest game a few weeks ago. She knows the coach well and made arrangements that after the game the guys could do some practice with the batting cages. It was a great experience for our guys and we really appreciate the efforts of Tasha and the generosity of the coach.

We currently have one vacancy at RGH. We are anticipating two more discharges in the coming month or so. If you have any out of home placement needs please feel free to contact Mike McCabe at 715-551-6396.

May Events in our Adult Programs Community

This past month saw a special **welcome to Matt** at Seventh Street Suites and **changes at Hamilton House**. On April 28th, Matt moved into 1609 ½ on his 18th Birthday. He was able to go out with an old friend for dinner at the Wausau Mine Company and bowling at Mountain Lanes. After returning to his apartment, he was introduced to other MYS residents who joined him for a birthday cake. Matt has been adjusting well and has joined a few of the MYS outing throughout the month. Matt has graduated from Wausau West and will be participating in the graduation ceremony on May 31st.

Matt also brings his maintenance skills with him. He was able to get the lawn mower at Seventh Street Suites up and running. He knew how to check the spark plug to see if it was dirty and also showed staff where the filter was in the lawn mower which needed a good cleaning with soap and water. Way to go Matt!!

Special Olympics Coverage...

Soccer Players make it to State Tournament!



On May 7th, **Justin, Mike S., Sean, and Terra** participated in the regional soccer tournament in Green Bay. The Wausau Metro Special Olympic team won their first game 5-1 with Terra making many goals! Their second game was also a win, 6-0 with everyone making goals. After winning their two games, the athletes confirmed are heading to the state championship. All had a great day and they worked very hard together, showing GREAT team sportsmanship!!! The teamwork exhibited was impressive and Coach Josh invited all the athletes to his parent's farm afterwards.

Everyone had a great time seeing animals including kittens, horses, and a pregnant donkey. **Sean and**

Terra loved visiting with the kittens, while **Mike** enjoyed checking out the greenhouse. The ride back to Wausau was full of celebration and making plans for the state tournament in Stevens Point! GO TEAM GO!!

Bocce Ball Divides the House

Justin, Robert, Crystal, Matt and Lee are all participating in Bocce ball with Wausau Metro Special Olympics. They have never played the sport before and are enjoying learning a new skill. The first Bocce ball practice was held at Blue Gill Park and everyone had a great time. After some practice, our athletes will be Bocce pros!

Adam and Mike are sharing allegiances with Everest Special Olympics for the Bocce season. Mike was unavailable for practice with Wausau Metro but did not want to give up the game for the year. After a little research, there are no guidelines for Mike to need to stay on one team or another.



Track and Field

Crystal had her first Track and Field tournament which was held in Merrill this year. Crystal came in third place in the Javelin Throw and came in fifth place in the 100 meter walk. Crystal will be moving on to State!!

Spring has Sprung!

Not just the inside of Hamilton is changing but the outside is, too! As the flowers begin to bloom and the grass turns green, Hamilton is preparing to start a garden. **Robert** has taken interest in being a part of this as he loves the outdoors and working outside.

Residents at Prospect Place have started tending to their garden and Strawberries have been planted on the South side of the home. **Mike S., Justin and Lee** are making sure the strawberries are watered on a regular basis so they do not get thirsty! Mike has planted pumpkin plants and a pepper plant that he purchased. They are excited and are working together wonderfully to make the garden perfect!

Yard work also comes along with spring and Mike, Justin and Lee have all been a great help. Mike and Lee have eagerly mowed the lawn and trimmed bushes. Old flowerbeds are undergoing new edging and we are reusing some of the old.



Walks around town will begin to be a regular thing **at Prospect** Place since the weather is nice and crisp! They have been on few walks in May, but have been outdoors for other activities such as playing basketball! A bus ride on the city bus was also a must-do for everyone at Prospect. The men really enjoyed riding the city bus together. They would like to utilize the bus more for outings. It was a great learning experience for all!!

The grill has been heating up at **Seventh Street Suites**, that's right with this beautiful weather Seventh Street Suites residents are already enjoying tasty meals made on the grill. And can't wait till the Memorial Day grill out!

Entertainment

Matt, Shane and Kevin went to Cedar Creek on May 12th to see a movie. Matt and Kevin went to see Thor in 3D, and Shane saw Something Borrowed. Matt said he liked the movie and was planning on what movie he wanted to see next this summer. Shane said his movie was good, and really enjoyed it. The guys had a fun time at the movies and are looking forward to seeing another movie in the future. Shane was also able to see Legally Blonde performance at the Grand Theater with his family.



50s Sock Hop

Justin, Lee, Adam, Robert, Crystal, Shawn, Bradley, Sean and Virginia all joined in for the 50s Sock Hop. They all had an amazing time dancing and socializing with friends. They all enjoyed the classic cars that were there also. Each of the residents was taken for a ride in one of the classic cars which made their night. All of them got lucky with the raffle held that night. Some of the prizes included: Justin won a nice warm blanket. Virginia won a cute beanie baby. Lee won a nice sweatshirt. Adam won a gift certificate for Erbert

and Gerberts. On the way home they all were super excited and were saying how they can't wait for the next one again.



Birthdays—Sean, Robert and Terra

Hamilton House was booming with birthdays this past month! **Sean celebrated his birthday on May 15th** with cake with a MYS group. **On May 14th Moya took Matt, Justin Kevin, Sean and Lee to Vertigo for Sean's birthday party.** The group was able to celebrate Sean birthday by play video games and eat lunch together. The group had a chance to listen to Sean sing a song in the media room. Sean was hesitant to sing at first as everyone was watching him but was able to sing his heart out anyways. Everybody enjoyed the time at Vertigo and planning to go again. A special Thanks to the owner Paul for being so accommodating.

Robert also celebrated his birthday this month with cake and ice cream. Aside from his birthday, Robert has been keeping busy this month with library visits, bowling, and showing off his dancing skills by attending the Sock Hop. Of course Robert continues to be a great help with household chores both inside and out, as well as grocery shopping.

Terra's birthday is May 28th and will be celebrated at MYS with ice cream cake, more details and pictures to come in the next newsletter

Our new Therapist, Leslie Clark introduces herself...

Hello, my name is Leslie Clark and I am the new therapist at Marathon Youth Services. I am from Appleton and just recently moved to Wisconsin Rapids temporarily until I can find a place in Wausau. I am very excited and look forward to meeting with all the residents and working with them through a therapeutic environment.



A little about me, I have a Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh in Human Services and Sociology. I also earned my Master's Degree there with a Community Counseling emphasis. I am a Professional Counselor – in training, a member of the American Counseling Association, and the Wisconsin Counseling Association. Why is that important you might wonder? Well it means that I am dedicated to being a counselor and doing what I can to stay current in counseling techniques that may help the residents.

My professional experience surrounds working with individuals who have severe persistent mental illnesses, chemical dependency, women's issues in chemical dependency, and crisis counseling. I have been in counseling environments in the community, higher education, and hospital settings. Most recently my counseling efforts have been focused on adolescent counseling and all that encompasses that.

On a personal note, I believe that life is all about getting out of life what you put into it. I strongly feel that it is important to balance my life between professional and personal. I make sure to stay active with my family and friends. I enjoy a variety of activities such as working out, traveling, and swimming. I

love to read novels, go to movies, listen to live music, and go shopping. Most of all I believe that it is important to enjoy life and live it to the fullest.

www.marathonyouthservices.org

If at any time you would like to be removed from this mail list, please click REPLY and simply enter UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Your address will be immediately removed from the list