

**MARATHON YOUTH SERVICES
NEWSLETTER
March 1, 2005
Volume 5, Issue 3**



Spring! Could it be true? Somehow I always start to feel the optimism of spring as soon as the first of March arrives. Oh, I know...this is Wisconsin and we could and not doubt will still have much winter-like weather before we finally see the flowers of spring. But still, the signs are unmistakable, and my enthusiasm runs high...

This month will once again give us the excitement of the various State High School tournaments; wrestling, girls basketball and boys basketball. And then there's the Final Four of the NCAA! Perhaps the crowning moment for many will of course be St. Patrick's Day and the corned beef and cabbage and green beer. personally it's the preparation for the annual Sandhill Crane Count, sponsored by the Foundation of the International Crane Baraboo. I've been coordinating the count in Marathon County now for about 15 years. (And I'm always looking for more brave souls to get out at 5 AM to aid in the effort.) For me and many others it marks the true arrival of the new season; to see those magnificent birds return to the marshes of Wisconsin.



This month we'll be ending the month with an Open House at our new Clinical Services Office. Doug has been working toward this day for the past couple of years, gathering the necessary components to make this a reality. Having now gathered some top-flight therapists and purchased a building, we're ready for business! Please drop by and help congratulate Doug on this accomplishment. (see the announcement below)

On a final note, I'd like to congratulate the many area high school students who came together at Wausau East this past weekend to perform Les Miserables. What an outstanding performance of talent! It's always a joy to witness what fine and talented young people we have preparing to lead us into the future; whether it's on the stage, athletic fields, classrooms or our own homes. The future does indeed look bright...

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPEN HOUSE

A Grand Opening is set for our Clinical Services Office for Wednesday, March 30, 2005 from 2-6 PM. Come for a peek, snacks, good company and some relaxing time. We're located on the corner of Chicago Ave. and 7th Street in Wausau. Parking is best on Chicago Ave. Hope to see you there.

United Way of Marathon County has requested the following announcement

Life Survey To Be Distributed

The Life in Marathon County 2005 Community Survey will be mailed in late March to 3000 randomly selected households. Its purpose is to measure local resident's perceptions about the quality of life in our community.

The results of the survey will be included in the LIFE Report fifth edition, to be published in late 2005. This report serves as a source of information to monitor how our community is doing and identify areas we need to improve. Many local groups use it to help them address our community's top priorities.

If you receive this brief but important survey, please take a few minutes to complete and return it to the Community Planning Council's LIFE Steering Committee, c/o United Way of Marathon County.

Joanne Kelly
Executive Director
United Way of Marathon County

1. Doug's thoughts...

About 9 years ago, the Board of Directors of Marathon Youth Services, Inc. asked me to accept the role of Executive Director of MYS. The proposition of running a couple of group homes was an interesting challenge. However, my background was that of a therapist, but I always enjoy a challenge. The Board selected me because of my therapy background, as well as my experience in working with youth and their families in clinical, institutional and corrections settings. They asked me to introduce a strong treatment component to MYS.

The first years were straight forward and not too surprising, but then we began our economic recession, youth monies began to tighten up, then we had a national crisis and things became even tighter. The first couple years I had learned about people, being an employer and the strategies of leadership. The years that followed I learned about money, budgets and advanced finance, and also how to worry about survival. I can always find another job, but now found I was responsible for the employment of others. Also, I found I was responsible for protecting services with a demonstrated community need.

Our community invited us to become involved in adult services, another new challenge. By this time I had acquired several outstanding staff, to include Rick Ferree and Sue Midlikowski. Rick was prepared to assume the leadership of Reynolds Group Home and Sue was excited to develop the adult programs. As many of you know, what quickly followed was the development of 3 adult homes and community based adult supportive services.

Several months ago, Mike McCabe, day staff at Reynolds Group Home, saw a property on 7th Street he thought might be good for a clinical setting. All the pieces came together and we acquired the property. Also, with an invite (and a little begging) Michele Rasmussen MA agreed to return to us as a therapist...and, she brought along her husband Wade, another fine therapist to form our clinical team.

For those of you who believe in circles, we have also been joined, again, by Wilson Fowle III, PsyD. Will not only provides our clinical supervision, but provides psychological evaluations and will also be seeing clients. The circle; Will was part of the original Board that offered me this job...

As a therapist now teamed up with an excellent group that also loves to work with young people and their families, couples and individuals seeking help, we have achieved an awesome dream. We have more dreams to realize, and every day they become closer. Thanks to all those who have supported our dreams, our community, and us.

Our MYS Race Team is on its "Last Run For Youth". Statepark Speedway has only 4 special races set to run this year. We will run these last races and also run whenever e can at Marshfield Super Speedway, but without our 'home track' our youth project is on its last year. We have

appreciated our supporters, our fans and especially the chance to have some fun and involve our young people in America's most exciting sport. Anyone looking for a real nice 2x Division Championship car?

Speaking of dreams...what's next? Another group home? A girl's program? Another adult home; maybe an adult complex? Or perhaps a parent education series? Could I ask for you input, maybe your dreams? Toss me a line, about your thoughts or ideas...I'll listen.

Can't hurt to ask...anyone know of good workshops in California, Hawaii, other nice warm places?

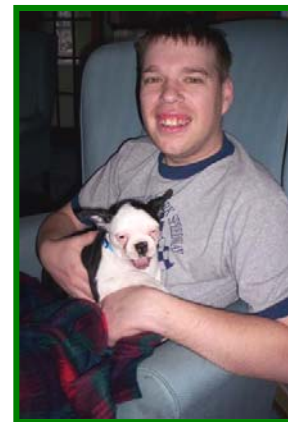
Doug, Executive/Clinical Director

- 2. Grand Place** has a new resident today! Andy moved in on March 1 to make this his new home. We all want to welcome Andy to our family. He graduated from D.C.Everest High School and currently works at Northern Valley Workshop. Andy says he enjoys watching all types of sports, shoots pool and loves to play video games. We're looking forward to another new arrival real soon to bring us to a full house.

February was another month of fun activity for the young men. Some of the guys participated in Valentine's Day celebrations; first a dance at the Rothschild Village Hall on February 11, and then a party featuring a DJ hosted by Northcentral Health Care on February 22nd. They also had a skating party at Hi-Roller on February 13.



All month long, the men at Grand Place get to enjoy the company of staff's pets. Here Shawn and John enjoy Otis and Pearl, both just pups yet. Suzanne and Marypat love to share their pets with the guys. It's just one more way to keep the family atmosphere alive and well. These guys enjoy the animals so that they like going to the Humane Society every so



often to visit. In fact, on February 26 they went there to visit the dogs and cats and help the staff clean. That was followed by a shopping trip to Goodwill Industries.

Some of the guys from each of the houses continue to attend D.C.Everest basketball games with staff. Some also participate in Special Olympics basketball regularly. In fact, Mike S. and Adam participated in a Special

Olympics basketball tournament in Stevens Point on February 5. On February 20 they played another game in Medford. They will also be involved in another tournament in Menominee on March 11 and 12. That will involve an overnight in a motel, always a fun time.

John P. continues his bowling in the league at Day's Bowl-A-Dome. And as our resident fishing expert, he participated in a fishing tournament on February 12 on North Twin Lake in Phelps. Here he is seen demonstrating his skills this past summer on the Wisconsin River.



Mark was busy this past month with REACT functions. On February 4, 5 and 6 he assisted with the REACT group at the Badger State Games. He will be attending a bowling party soon as a "thank you" for their help.

On February 18 the guys from Prospect Place and Hamilton House went bowling at Coral Lanes in Schofield. Shawn and Kevin demonstrated their singing skills by participating in karaoke after bowling. A good time was had by all... Kevin also started work this past month (actually, yesterday) at Northern Valley.

Adam rounded out his busy month by doing the Polar Plunge on February 25 in an event sponsored by the VFW of Wausau. It was an event to raise money for Special Olympics. Brrrrrrrrrrrr! Tomorrow, March 2, we will be celebrating Mike P's 23rd birthday! Happy Birthday Mike.

3. We start the month at **RGH** with a new arrival. Gary R. comes to us from Fond du Lac County and has settled in just fine. We expect that our remaining vacancy will be filled real soon.

Mike reports that the Spring Fever Bug has bitten hard at **Reynolds Group Home**, with everyone suffering a bit of Cabin Fever, anxiously looking forward to outdoor activities. Meanwhile, some of the boys have enjoyed what Mother Nature has offered recently.



Spring would be better, but until then, snow will have to do...

Darwin took a group of guys over to the YMCA to help out with the annual Valentine's Day Father/Daughter Dance this past month. That's always a hit at the Y. My own daughter still fondly remembers the several times we attended. It's always a lot of work for the YMCA staff, and any help our guys are able to provide is always appreciated.

The boys also had a rare opportunity to go to the Y with Mike and Rick on Monday February 21. With a day off from school they had a good outing and all got to demonstrate their basketball skills. (Or as Mike says, "or lack thereof")

But Calvin is keeping us focused on the coming of Spring... He took part in an after-school program learning to tie fishing jigs. Now he's looking forward to trying out his creations, and we're all rooting for him to have that opportunity real soon.

Here's that **2x Division Championship** car Doug was talking about above; in the Winner's Circle where it belongs! Interested?



4. In wrapping up this edition of the MYS Newsletter I want to again remind readers of the upcoming Open House at our Clinical Services Office. (details on page 2) We'd love to see all our friends and supporters drop by for a few minutes.

Also, I mentioned the **Annual Sandhill Crane Count** coming up in April. I'll be holding an informational meeting at D.C. Everest High School on April 4 at 7 PM. The actual count is the morning (very early morning!) of April 16. If you think you might be interested, drop me an email at jimpro@charter.net. I'm always looking for volunteers to get out on area marshland and survey the population of this magnificent bird.



**Watch "Child and Family Focus"
with Doug Adams and Dr. John Kolhoven
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 dadams@marathonyouthservices.org. We are always interested in your thoughts or comments.

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Produced by Jim Prozinski
PCS 2005