

**MARATHON
YOUTH SERVICES
NEWSLETTER
May, 2011
Volume 11, Issue 5**



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May 2011

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Vacancy Posting

(Updated 5/1/11)

- **RGH** has one anticipated vacancy 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).

Not much of a spring so far...but on the few good days we've had so far I've managed to get in a little biking! And so have some of the residents. The less than perfect weather has not kept our residents from getting out and enjoying the outdoors every chance they get. This has been a banner month for activity as you will see in the following pages; fishing, basketball, prom, fancy meals and plans for the gardening season ahead.

We've also had the pleasure of some new acquaintances this month as well; new residents in both programs and some new supportive care friends as well. In addition, Hamilton House is again bustling with residents and activity. We're thrilled to be again putting this great home to full use again.

MYS is always anxious to respond to any new needs the community presents with, and lately we've had many opportunities. Thanks to all for that chance!

RGH Newsletter – May 2011

There have been a couple birthday celebrations this month at RGH. **Zack** turned 16 on April 8th and **Bee** turned 15 on April 20th. That is a lot of cake to take care of in one month, but all the guys and staff lived up to the challenge. Happy birthday guys!

We had some real hero drama this month at RGH. On a particular evening a cat was seen by our residents by the house. It was stuck up in a tree and was crying out. With some coaxing and a little climbing the cat was brought out of the tree. Once the cat was retrieved it appeared to be very cold and hungry so it received a bit of trauma care by the guys. The guys wanted to keep the cat for a house pet; however it was decided to bring it to the Humane Society. I have heard reports that not only the residents fell in love with the troubled feline, but RGH staff Tasha did as well. There are rumors going about that she may go to the Humane

Society and give the cat a home once the initial eight day wait is done. We will have to get an update for the next newsletter.



tales from the fiction and non-fiction sections.

Easter was a big deal at the house. Some of the staff took particular pleasure in hiding some goodies for the guys. Some of the guys did not feel it was necessary, but got into the activity just the same. At last report there are two plastic eggs with some treasure still around the house yet. The day was topped off with a big Easter dinner. RGH staff Carol prepared the meal ahead of time and RGH staff **Darwin** was the chef for the day. Judging by the leftovers (there were very few) the meal was a big hit.



Staff and residents made our yearly trip over to the Eau Claire Dells to see the spring thaw and they were not disappointed. The water was running very high this year. The growl of the water can be heard for quite a distance. Some of our residents have seen the Dells in its normal state so seeing the difference is often an amazing sight.

With the ice gone, fishing is becoming an activity of choice. The guys are working on getting their skills perfected for when the opener comes soon. Hopefully this year we will be able to pass along some good fish



Cody has taken on a new sport this year. He is participating in lacrosse for the first time. He is real excited about the game and came back from his first game really hyped about playing. The team record is not too good at this point, but it has not deterred Cody's excitement for the game. He has not had a home game yet so we can see him play, but we are hoping to attend one soon.



We have two new residents this month. **Kayden** has joined us from up north bit. He is a real tall young man that uses his gift of height for basketball. He is hopeful to maybe being able to participate in the Gus Maker this year. **James** is our other addition to RGH. He will be with us for this summer as he will be turning 18 in August. He is an amazing self-taught guitar player. He has already entertained many of us at RGH. Welcome to RGH guys



We currently do not have any vacancies at RGH, but are anticipating some discharges in the coming months. If you have any out-of-home placement needs coming in the future please feel free to contact RGH Program Coordinator Mike McCabe at 715-551-6396.

Hamilton House News!

An exciting transformation has started to occur at **Hamilton House**. The downstairs apartment became available for one client. The upstairs apartment has been transformed to suit three clients. Both the upstairs and the downstairs apartments will have access to each other, if wanted, by a common living room. The process is not quite completed yet, but maintenance man, **Ken** and our lovely staff, **Karie**, have been working hard on fixing cracks and holes and are painting like crazy.



John has moved from the upstairs apartment to the downstairs apartment. He is happy with the move as he has a lot more room and a dishwasher! John has been helping Karie with the painting by pointing out the spots she missed. There's always a laugh to be heard when John and Ken give Karie a hard time on painting!

Two individuals have moved to the Hamilton House upstairs apartment. **Sean** moved over from Prospect Place. Sean is hoping for more independence in the apartment setting and the opportunity to acquire more independent living skills. With the move, Sean also got a new job. His job at Noodles and Company ended and he begun working at the Buyers Guide once again. Sean started a new paper in April.

The other individual that moved to Hamilton House is **Robert**. Robert is new to MYS and has moved from a neighboring county to be closer to family. We are slowly getting to know Robert here and are enjoying his company. Robert enjoys coloring pictures, especially nature pictures, going for walks, watching movies and helping out around the house. He frequently makes breakfast and/or lunch with staff and is always willing to help out with dishes and cleaning up.



April Showers Brings MYS Adult Program Garden Club (and other program activities)

The weather has been challenging. A Garden Club started between the MYS houses on Tuesday, April 19, 2011. In attendance were **Crystal** from Seventh Street, **Sean** from Hamilton House and **Mike S.** from Prospect Place. Mike S., appointed President of Prospect Place, Sean President of Hamilton House and Crystal Treasurer. The discussion centered around last year's successes and garden misses; having gardens at both Prospect Place and Hamilton House, starting seedlings, plant layout and working together to improve yield. Planting for the new season was set for Saturday and Sunday before Memorial Day. Both houses will receive a garden proposal to clarify desired plants.

Not to leave Seventh Street out of the dirt, discussion of container gardening as well as participating with the other gardens, presented as options. We are looking forward to the growing season. The group is hoping that the houses can provide a grill out for lunch on workdays.

Next Gardening Events:

Saturday, April 30, 2011 @ 10 AM Prospect Place – Garden Tilling
Sunday, May 1, 2011 @ 10 AM Hamilton House – Garden Tilling
Saturday, May 28, 2011 @ 10 AM Hamilton House – Garden Planting
Sunday, May 29, 2011 @ 10 AM Prospect Place – Garden Planting

Employment

Just a small shout out and word of encouragement, for the employed residents. Way to go for everyone! Though this is not often recognized, we are proud of all our residents who get to work when scheduled. Congratulations are in order for **Terra** as she picked up a second job.

Easter Celebration

The Easter Bunny visited Seventh Street Suites and Prospect Place. Residents spent part of the morning searching for their Easter Baskets. **Easter dinner** was held at Seventh Street Suites this year. A turkey dinner was on the menu, to include homemade stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, fresh veggies and dip. Oreo cake along with a homemade apple pie was for dessert. After dinner, staff and residents enjoyed several games such as Bingo, Egg Relay, Egg Toss and Uno. Our extended care resident **Ashley** was able to join the group for Easter dinner and activities. **Terra, Crystal, Lee, Mike S., Justin, and Sean** also joined the festivities.



Goodbyes and Hellos

Restructuring continues within the **Adult Program** to find the best fits for our residents. An exciting transformation has started to occur at **Hamilton House**. The downstairs apartment became available for one client. The upstairs apartment transformed for two clients. Both the upstairs and the downstairs apartments will have access to each other, if wanted, by a common living room. The process is not quite completed yet, but maintenance man **Ken** and our lovely staff **Karie** have been working hard on fixing areas and are painting like crazy.

Prospect Place says goodbye to **Sean S.** who is making the in company **move to Hamilton House**. Sean was quite anxious to get settled in to his new house. Sean has called to chat with residents and staff since the move. Sean has the opportunity to meet and get to know the new MYS resident placed at Hamilton House. The other individual that moved to **Hamilton House** is **Robert**. **Robert is new to MYS** and has moved from a neighboring county to be closer to family. We are slowly getting to know Robert here and are enjoying his company. Robert enjoys coloring pictures, especially nature pictures, watching movies and helping out around the house.

Prospect Place and MYS would like to **welcome Leeroy to Prospect Place**. Leeroy has a great smile and likes to wear his hair gelled up in a Mohawk. Leeroy will fit right in with Prospect Place residents. Like Prospect's residents Leeroy enjoys playing video games, Nintendo Wii, basketball, football, watching television, going for walks, fishing, camping and gardening. He has already pitched basketball at the hoop, gone for walks around the neighborhood, played Nintendo Wii, likes to watch Sponge Bob, enjoys coloring and tried his hand at cooking/baking with staff.



At the beginning of the month, Seventh Street had to say goodbye to our respite care client **Dale** who had joined MYS for 10 days when his AFH was closed. There was not much of an adjustment period for Dale as he quickly made friends with other MYS clients and fit in perfectly to the MYS's supportive apartments. We are excited and waiting to see Dale back in the beginning of May.

VIP Prom 2011

One of our favorite spring time events were held again this April, **The VIP Prom**. The theme this year was a Red Carpet Event. The Prom was April 16 at Dale's Weston Lanes. As always a beautiful, exciting and amazing event for all to attend including; **Adam and Justin from Prospect Place, Sean S. from Hamilton House, Terra , Crystal, Shawn and first timer Mike P from Seventh Street**. A few of the clients were joined by their dates.

This year was especially extravagant because **Mike P's., mom generously provided a limo to transport our MYS residents and their dates to and from prom**. Mike's mom also arranged for a special meal at the City Grill for our Prom group. After the group was picked up by the limo it was off to the City Grill where the group had their own room to dine in. Clients were able to choose from items on a menu made just for them with "Marathon Youth Services" at the top of the menu. Choices included pizza, quesadilla, steak, jambalaya and salads. Everyone enjoyed his or her dinner and each choice looked excellent! After dinner the group loaded back into the limo and was off to the prom.

At Prom there was music provided by a local DJ service and a grand march for all to participate in. Decorations were gorgeous but not as stunning as all those beautiful gowns the girls wore, and the handsome young men. The night ended with a limo ride home where the driver turned on ceiling lights and black strobe lights. The residents reported to have a wonderful night and stated how special everything was.

MYS residents signed a thank you card and chipped in for a **spring-potted flower personally delivered to Mike's mom as a thank you** for the limo and arranging a special meal at the City Grill.





Special Olympic News

Soccer and Track and Field seasons have started for Wausau Metro. This is the first year for soccer and we wish them the best! MYS participants include **Crystal** on Track and Field and **Justin, Mike S., Sean, Terra** on the soccer team.

Staff Moua, Terra, Bradley, Sean and Justin went to a soccer game down in Stevens Point on April 17. There we met Sean as he took the bus with his teammates. First, the bus and our group went to McDonald's for lunch. We then went to Washington Elementary School where the weather was cloudy, windy and cold. The team started out with warm ups of passing, running and then stretching. The first game was a loss of 6 to 1. **Terra** made the only goal that was assisted by **Justin**. The second game was a loss of three to one. **Sean** had a chance to be a goalie in both games and made three great saves! Justin played hard and tried getting to the ball many times. **Staff and Bradley** enjoyed the watching and cheering on the game from the sidelines.

Besides all the practices and games there are a few other **Special Olympic** events coming up including a **Brat Fry at Sam Clubs** in Rib Mountain on Friday April 29, Saturday April 30 and Sunday May 1 from 10:30am -6:00pm (may close early on Sunday). Stop in for some great food and help sponsor Wausau Metro Adult Special Olympic. You may even see some of our very own athletes working hard.

Once again Wausau Metro Special Olympic is heading down to Milwaukee for a **Brewer game** of Sunday July 31.

Adam with Everest Area Special Olympic is still on the State swimming road. Adam has one more meet to determine state qualification.



Other Activities

With April showers and the snow that came and left, a MYS group were able to get out for a few walks in the park. **Staff Moua, Kevin, Shawn, Shane, and Crystal** went walking at Marathon Park. We also met Crystal's friend there. All residents enjoyed each other's company and talked about good weather and having grill outs this summer. We walked for a good 30 minutes around the park. On 13 April, Shawn and Kevin went for another walk with staff Moua. They checked out Oak Island and Marathon Park.

With good days of more sun, some of the residents including **Shawn, Mike, Crystal, and Kevin** played a couple of games of horse with staff. They all had fun and enjoyed each other's company and the challenge of making the hoops.

The men at Prospect Place did find a good day to go on a **bike ride**. However, the weather has been less than sunny for most of the month.

There were a few movie outings this month including seeing Hop and Rio. We also saw a Scooby Doo movie at the library for one of their free viewings. Clients involved in **the movie outing included, Shane, Mike P. Kevin, Bradley, Crystal Virginia and Dale**. After one of the moving outings, the group stopped at a craft show at the VFW.

Mike S., Justin, Mike P., Crystal and staff Karen went to the watch the 'Green Machine' at the Wausau West High School Field House. The 'Green Machine' was basketball game involving the Wausau Police Department versus Green Bay Packers team players. Everyone was excited about the game. Justin was able to get autographs from Green Bay Packers team players. Everyone had a great time and was happy that the Packers Legends won. Adam was also at the event with his family and friends.



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www.marathonyouthservices.org

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