

MARATHON  
YOUTH SERVICES  
NEWSLETTER  
November, 2011  
Volume 11, Issue 11



Contents

- Adult Program Updates
- RGH News
- Social Skills Group



**Vacancy Posting**

(Updated 11/1/11)

- **RGH** has one vacancy and one anticipated vacancy at this time.
- Our **Adult Programs** currently has one AFH vacancy 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).

*While the Brewers didn't make the big show this year, they gave us a very entertaining season; and we've got next year to look forward too. (I'm beginning to sound like a Cubs fan...yikes!)*

*With fall in full swing the guys at RGH have sure been busy with their community service: raking leaves! Some of this month's pictures give vivid testimony to the ambitiousness of the task; but they all met the challenge. It won't be long (unfortunately) until the next round of snow removal will begin; but we're ready for it.*

*November also always presents the opportunity for fun with the beginning of a new season of Special Olympics activities, and of course, Halloween! Lots of great pictures were produced this month to attest to the many outings and parties; too many for the newsletter alone. There will be more on the website real soon. Next stop; Thanksgiving...*

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## RGH Newsletter – October 2011

The Autumn season is full upon us and the guys have been busy getting the leaves raked up. They took part in the **Make-A-Difference Day** the weekend of 10/22. They took care of three major properties. They really worked hard. It does not stop there however. We have a list of many people who still need help with their yards and we are going to be working on them until the snow flies.

We have had a departure of sorts this last month. **Nate turned 18 on 10/14**. As a result, he left us from RGH. He has not gone far though because he has stayed with MYS and is now with the **adult services** of the program. All reports are he is doing well. We wish him all the best on his new adventure.

We have had some **new arrivals** this month. **Brett** has joined us. He has a big interest in video games and anime cartoons. He has started school soon after getting here and is settling in with the program. We are glad to get the opportunity to know him.



Another arrival is **Brandon**. He comes from more of the southern part of the state. He is someone that is quiet, but is getting along with everyone just the same. We hope his stay with us will be an opportunity to grow.

**Jonathon** is our latest arrival. He is going to be a very short term placement since he will be turning 18 next month. We are helping him get prepared to live on his own in that short time. There is a lot to do in a short time, but Jonathon seems to be up for the challenge. We wish him well.

**Tom** finished up with football with his school team a couple of weeks ago. His team lost in the first round of the playoffs. He really would have liked to move on, but he is very happy that he got the opportunity to play. We are all proud of what he accomplished.

**Jaron** finished football as well. He was on the JV team and they wrapped up mid-month. The coaches are very proud of his work this year. I can predict he will be a force to reckon with on the Varsity squad in the coming year.

**Deon** is excelling in school this year. He was worried because he had a rough start, but he has gotten his routine down good and is soaring with his grades. It is something that is real important to him and it shows.

**Danny** is exploring the world of cooking more and more since he moved to the third floor program. He really enjoys it and he is learning more and more. Some of the other guys are doing the same and we kind of have a small culinary school going on here during the weekends. It is good to see how all the guys work together to make a single meal. We will have to see if anyone is willing to give up some of their secret recipes for coming newsletters.

**We currently have one vacancy and one coming very soon.** If you have any out of home placement needs please give the Program Coordinator, Mike McCabe a call. He is also available for information on the program and is willing to give a tour of our house. He can be reached at 715-551-6396.

### Social Skills Group

Social skills group was facilitated by **MYS Therapist, Leslie Clark, MSE**. The topic of discussion focused mostly on "**Conflict Resolution**". The group discussed various things they have conflict with within their lives and each of the residents was able to share with the group things that make them upset within those conflicts. The group also discussed ways they can deal with conflicts in a healthy manner by developing a list of things they can do when they are upset. Residents were presented with a conflict situation and determined what they would do in that situation and how to handle the conflict in a healthy way. All the residents were very supportive of one another in the discussion and were respectful towards one another as well. The group plans to meet next month to discuss **emotion regulation**.

### October Events in our Adult Foster Homes and Supportive Apartments

**Prospect Place** looks like a scene from a picture perfect Halloween town! The men have worked together to create a home filled with Halloween decorations. The windows have been painted with fun Halloween sayings and pictures. There are "Caution" signs hanging everywhere to warn anyone who may dare to enter a room! The front lawn contains fake head stones and is lined with festive corn stalks. One night, staff and the men made ghosts with white bags, coat hangers, and markers. They look spooky! In addition, when the sun goes down, the front and back porch are lit up with bright orange and purple lights. All of the guys did an awesome job at getting into the Halloween spirit. They also did some amazing preparation for the Halloween party Prospect Place is holding at the end of the month.



To add on to the Halloween theme, **Adam, Mike, Lee and staff Jill took a fun trip to Halloween Express.**

All of the men enjoyed looking at the many different costumes. They were also very entertained by the displays of goblins, witches, ghosts and coffins. Lee tried on a costume and loved it! This year Lee will be dressing as Shaggy from Scooby Doo.

The **Prospect men** have been working on their fitness a bit and taking advantage of the cool fall weather while doing so. On one occasion, **Adam, Greg and Justin went with staff** on a walk around the neighborhood. Justin kept everyone entertained by singing to himself. The men were glad to get out of the house and enjoy fresh air.

On another evening, **Adam, Lee, Justin, Mike and staff** took another refreshing fall walk to Family Video and back. The power walkers of the group were Mike and Lee. All men had a great time and agreed on going for more walks! **Seventh Street** has also been walking. Staff Mary went for a walk with **Crystal, Robert, and Greg**. They walked up **Hamilton Street to 12th Street, over to Thom Field and back**. Greg ran the big hill by Thom field. We picked flowers in the field by Thom Field and then delivered them to staff working. **Staff Lorraine, Crystal and Terra** went for a long walk and afterwards they went to the YMCA for a swim, and relaxed in the hot tub.



**Lee, Robert, Adam, Sean, Justin and Matt** attended a bowling tournament at Dale's Weston Lanes one Saturday in October. Robert and Lee bowled first. Robert clicked with his teammates and the volunteers right off the bat. He bowled three great games, which definitely showed as **Robert took home a 2nd Place ribbon!** Robert displayed his happiness by dancing near the bowling lanes with his teammates. Lee also did a fantastic job. Lee scored high and even got a turkey! **Lee came home with a 1st Place ribbon!** Both men were very happy with their results and were congratulated by many. Lee and Robert will both be moving on to the next tournament held in Eau Claire, WI the first weekend in November. Sean, Justin and Matt's team were in the next time allotment. The men played very well together and worked hard as a team. They received 4th Place out of eight teams! Adam and his team also worked very well together as a team unit and took home 4th Place, as well! The day turned out to be a great success and we look forward to cheering on the athletes who have made it on to the next round.

**A surprise going away party was held for Adam at Prospect Place** the night before Adam moved out. **Crystal, Matt, Mike P. and Shawn** attended from Seventh Street. **Greg and Robert** joined from Hamilton House. And of course, Adam's housemates, **Mike S., Justin and Lee** were there as well. Staff **Karie** picked up pizza from Little Caesars and soda pop for everyone. Staff **Jill** made a chocolate cake for all to enjoy. Adam was definitely surprised and had a great time mingling with everyone. Adam was able to say his goodbyes and "see you later's" by the end of the evening. Many pictures were taken and many memories were made for Adam to remember his last night at Prospect Place. Following the party, Adam, Lee, Mike, Justin and staff Jill went to Weston Lanes where the men bowled two games. The guys had a great time cheering each other on and high fiving one another. **Adam said he was going to miss everyone but would be sure to keep in touch!**



**Lee and Robert** went on a road trip to Marshfield while **Sean** attended his boy scouts meeting. Lee and Robert had fun going to Burger King and then walked around Wal-Mart to find Robert a book. The trip was a fun way to get out of the house and explore Marshfield!



**Greg** has been adjusting nicely to **living at Hamilton House** and getting to know other MYS residents. Greg is keeping busy by hanging out at other houses, fishing, going to church, and watching movies. Greg is looking forward to gaining employment and is on the hunt for a job.

**Staff took Shawn** on his one on one outing to Brickner's. Shawn spent time looking at cars and talking to sales rep's there. Shawn also bought a Hot Wheels car at Car Express. We went to Game Stop where Shawn got his game that was waiting for him. We hit McDonald's to get his lunch and he ate there. Then it was on to Johnny C Cards on Grand Avenue to check out video games.

**Crystal, Virginia, and staff** spent the afternoon at the **Harvest Fest on Oak Island**. The women spent time looking at the different crafts and activities that were taking place. The women also got to pet and visit with a donkey, a pony, a calf and several other small animals. Both Crystal and Virginia were able to pick out a good size pumpkin, which they enjoyed cleaning and carving the same afternoon. They roasted their pumpkin seeds while cleaning up from the carving process. They were happy with the way the pumpkin seeds turned out and shared them with Terra.

**Crystal, Beau, Matt, Mike P., and MS** all assisted with raking. All our lawn bags were filled and the yard is looking much better! All that participated were very eager to help. Matt was especially determined and wanted to clear all the leaves tonight. Most of the areas are raked but more leaves will be on the way down. We cannot wait to rake again!



**Nate moved into his new apartment at Seventh Street Suites and he also celebrated his 18th birthday** with cake and ice cream. Nate's apartment was decorated with balloons and he was presented with a card. A resident took Nate out to Subway for supper. The next day, **staff Al from Prospect Place came by with Mike S., Lee, Justin, and Greg from Hamilton House**. We also had staff Moua, staff Lorraine, Crystal, Sean, Kevin, Matt and the birthday boy Nate. We sang happy birthday to Nate. We had the chocolate cake with peanut frosting, ice cream bars, peanut butter sandwiches, juice and pudding. We all wished Nate a great birthday.

**Crystal, Nate, Shawn, Virginia and staff** went to **Heartbeats of the Heart at Marathon Park**. We saw the horses play soccer but it was very windy so we watched two goals being scored and went indoors. Inside we watched the Roping Demonstration. Crystal, Virginia, Nate, Shawn, Beau and staff tried their hand at roping the bales of hay with a calf head. We all were close but never got the calf head. Staff let everyone know that if the calf was running they would have run into the rope. We took time to visit the petting zoo and watch the horse rides. Around noon we found a picnic table to eat our packed lunch. After Marathon Park we went to the VFW to check out their craft show.

**Mike S. had a fantastic idea to make Skeletons out of gallon milk containers**. He saw the decorations on the East side of town and wanted to make them. Mike then searched the internet for the craft idea and planned a craft night to make them. **Staff Lorraine, Crystal, Nate and Beau from Seventh Street, and then Justin, Mike S., and staff Al from Prospect Place**. Everyone did a fantastic job and had a lot of fun making them.



**Movie Time!! Staff Lorraine, Terra, Crystal, and Shane went to the Cedar Creek Cinema to see the new movie Footloose. They all enjoyed the music and the movie. Staff, Crystal, and Virginia saw the movie of Dolphin Tale! Virginia and Crystal had many laughs during the movie. Afterwards everyone agreed it was a great movie. Virginia thanked staff and Crystal for the afternoon, as she really loved the movie.**



**Crystal, Nate, Shawn, Shane, Dale, Virginia, Mike S., Lee, Justin, Mike P., and staff Lorraine went to a Halloween Party at the Rothschild Village Hall. Everyone danced, ate, and had a great time. Costumes included two cowboys, one vampire, two zombies and an angel fairy. Afterwards Dale, Shawn, Robert, Crystal, Mike P., Mike S., and Justin went to Karaoke at Mountain Lanes. Dale, Tong, Justin and Mike P. played some pool. Crystal, Shawn, Mike S., Justin, and Robert sang some songs. Everyone had a great time.**

**Halloween Party at Prospect Place!!!! Robert, Justin,**

**Lee, Mike S., Sean, Matt, Mike P., Nate, Crystal, Terra, and extended care Ashley and Dale came in**



**very spooky and creative costumes to celebrate the All Hollow's Eve. Everyone was glad to see former resident Adam. The group participated in creative games such as Guess the Goo, Pin the Tail on the Broom, Counting the Candy, Mummy Wrapping and pumpkin bowling, which was a knockout strike! The group even feasted on Vampire blood with maggots, giant's earwax and goblin boogers! Yummy! The group also participated in the **best costume contest, which Adam won.** Great job, Adam! But before dawn approached, the residents went home to wait until they could haunt Prospect Place next year...**

For more information on all our programs, please visit our website at:

[www.marathonyouthservices.org](http://www.marathonyouthservices.org)

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