

**MARATHON
YOUTH SERVICES
NEWSLETTER
September, 2011
Volume 11, Issue 9**



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Vacancy Posting

(Updated 9/1/11)

- **RGH** has one vacancy and two anticipated vacancies at this time.
- Our **Adult Programs** currently have two Supported Apartment settings at **7th Street Suites** and an 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).**

As September begins we have visions of leaves turning color and cooler temperatures. Somehow the weatherman hasn't gotten the memo yet as today we are forecast to have a high of 90 degrees! No doubt this will be the last of that for a while. But the coming of fall is always an exciting time of year in Central Wisconsin. School has again started and football season is in the air everywhere. We even have a couple of our guys taking part, making the high school season again more interesting for us to follow.

And then there's the Brewers! Finally it looks like they'll make the post season and have a real shot at getting into the World Series. I know I'm not the only fan around here that's excited about that. And the Packers! There's even talk of them repeating.... Well, we can hope.

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News of the Adult Services Programs

Top news at the beginning of the month was going to the Wisconsin Valley Fair at Marathon Park!!!! Many attended and many will always go back. Opening day, **Mike and Terra went to see the Beach Boys!** Mike



won two tickets to see them perform in the front row seating area. Then on Wednesday **staff, Mike, Terra, and extended care clients Ashley and Tammy spent a beautiful afternoon there.** Each client turned in a ticket to receive a wristband for the day and definitely made use of that. Terra and Mike were ride buddies, while Tammy and Ashley went on the rides solo and together. We were all able to take pleasure in a free concert indoors while Tammy and Ashley sipped on root beer floats and Mike and Terra took advantage of the free samples!

Tammy, Ashley and staff walked through the beef and goat barn and had a quick peek at the judging of the horses. All of the residents said they had a great time and could not have asked for a better day! On

Thursday, staff, Mike S., Matt, Terra, Lee, Crystal, Adam, and Shawn went. Shawn and Crystal had a great time checking out all the various exhibits and looking at the animals on display. **Terra and Adam** watched professional dancers showing off in the exhibition hall.

Mike S., Matt, and Lee had a blast riding all the amusement rides they could handle and screaming their faces off! Terra, Matt, Lee, Crystal, and Mike S. all enjoyed looking at the animals and displays. Mike S. showed everyone free food samples available and was very resourceful. Terra and Crystal had fun socializing with friends they saw at the fair.



On Sunday, **staff and Robert** went to go on some rides as Sunday was the closing day. They also went back later that afternoon with a few others to enjoy the rides. Favorite rides noted were the freak out, Pharaoh's Fury, Sizzler, the Ferris wheel, the Himalaya, the large slide, and the Gravatron 3000.

Another Extended Care event included a visit to the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum to view the Axe and Blacksmith Exhibit. Tammy and Virginia joined Staff Lorraine for a walk through the exhibit.

August 20th was movie day. Staff Lorraine took Virginia, Kevin, Mike S. and Lee went to see Smurfs at Cedar Creek. Everyone thought the movie was "Smurfy" and laughed a lot.

On August 20th residents enjoyed an Adult Program Grill Out at Memorial Park. Residents and Extended Care clients and guest had an opportunity to fish, watch boats, throw the football, converse and assist with grilling. Staff Karie was meat grill master whereas Staff Jill was corn grill master. Moua headed up the fishing group. Our guest from RGH and Justin played catch with a football. Crystal walked around with her boyfriend and Dale.



Deviled eggs and Chocolate cake were brought in by our guests to share with the group.

Residents who were fishing were Mike S., Dale, Virginia, Matt, and Kevin. Mike S. went to try fishing near the dock area. Virginia had a couple bites and finally caught a blue gill! Two rangers came and checked on license and what the group caught. They wished us luck fishing.



Matt from Seventh Street Suites will be making a move to a different apartment. So he spent a lot of time checking out garage sales and second hand stores to find the best deal on all the needed essentials to furnish an apartment. Matt found some great buys such as a microwave, dresser, plates, and cups. Matt also is working on building his résumé and started a 10 week work evaluation this month. He is super excited about earning money. **Congratulations and Good Luck Matt!**

Staff Moua took Mike S. and Lee fishing at the Schofield Dam and then Lake of Wausau. There were some bites. The men caught some pan fish. The following day, Mike S., Lee, Matt, and Kevin went fishing with Moua again. There was no luck for some residents, but Matt, Lee and Kevin caught a couple pan fish. All men were excited when fishing and can't wait for more opportunity to fish again. **There have been weekly fishing excursions** at Prospect Place, as all of the men enjoy fishing. Adam participated once with fishing with his housemates.



Matt joined his team in Eau Claire for the Special Olympic State Tournament for Bocce Ball. Matt stayed two nights with Special Olympic and enjoyed activities including a tropical themed outdoor Ceremony featuring D.J. D-Train. **Adam** also stayed overnight with the Wausau team as well. **Justin, Mike, and Lee attended** the state Bocce ball Tournament in Eau Claire. **Lee** did not make it to State, but went a long for the support.



Adam and Mike competed in two games. Their first game they won 11-8 with great teamwork and shooting. They won a close second game of 10-9 with great determination and hard work. After the team's hard work and perseverance during the tournament, the team won first place in their division! They received gold medals. Great work team and congratulations! Justin and Matt also competed in two games. The first game, Justin and Matt's team won 9-7 with everyone contributing and helping to win the match.

However, the team's second game did not go as well. Justin and Matt's team tried to rally however came up short as time expired. Justin and Matt's team came away with second place medals! Lee and staff watched and cheered the teams. During their down time, Lee, Justin and Matt completed a healthy athlete assessment regarding feet, and would receive free shoes as well! Both teams did really well and ended their Bocce ball year on a high note.



Bocce ball athletes celebrated with a bang and tons of food! **Staff, Crystal, Matt, and Justin attended the Bocce ball party in Rothschild.** Crystal, Matt, and Justin all participated in games such as gunnysack races and water balloon tosses. All the clients socialized and had a great time catching up with their fellow athletes. Matt and Justin assisted the coaches in setting up the grill for brats and hot dogs. The clients all ate plenty of food as there was a wide variety and the food was delicious. Crystal made pasta salad and Justin prepared brownies and both dishes were fantastic! All in attendance received a prize and a few pieces of candy. What a way to end a season!

With the end of the Bocce Ball season, there is the start of bowling. All our clients are working on fine tuning their skills and becoming master bowlers. The athletes are very excited to head to tournaments and see who can get the most strikes! Tag football is a new sport for this year. We will have more updates regarding tag football once we are certain who would be participating.



Crystal, along with two of our extended care clients; Virginia and Tammy, enjoyed another sunny afternoon at the 400 block in Wausau. The ladies enjoyed walking around looking at the different vendors. The ladies also stayed and watched a fine group of eight young men from Chicago perform Acrobatic exercises. The ladies really enjoyed themselves.

Sean S. attended a Special Olympic flag football camp in Oshkosh. During the camp Sean was put through multiple football drills from catching to running. Sean said that during a scrimmage game he ran for a touchdown. In addition, he states that he made a diving catch that was cool. Sean hopes that there will be enough athletes and teams so that there will be some flag football games in the future.



The garden at Prospect Place is flourishing this month! Mike has been anxious to show staff the corn and sunflowers that are sprouting about. The men and staff have taken time out of their days to weed the garden and make it into the masterpiece it has become today.

Lee has been on a few exciting adventures this month. One of the main events of fair week was the Demolition Derby and Lee was able to attend this event with his grandpa. Lee had an awesome time and looks forward to going again next year. Lee explained how his favorite event at the derby was watching one car chase after the other. The car that stuck out in his mind was #14, with its sharp turns and smooth riding. Lee also attended the Steam

Tractor and Engine Show in Edgar. There Lee walked around with his grandpa and looked at guitars, toy cars, gas powered cars, remote control cars and more. Lee said the weather was great but he and his grandpa needed to sit in the shade to cool off a few times. Lee was especially excited about the tractor with the General Lee horn! It put a smile right on his face as the General Lee, is Lee's car of choice!!

Adam and Justin both showed their crafty sides this month. Adam came up with the fun idea of tie dying. Adam, Justin and staff spent a gorgeous Saturday afternoon in the yard tie dying shirts and pillowcases. The men had a great time and said they definitely would like to plan another tie-dying day! The finished products turned out awesome!

On Monday, August 29th, **Mike S., Robert and House Manager Rose went to Picnic Island for a picnic and fishing trip.** The guys were getting a few bites but not catching any fish at first. Mike then caught a 5 inch bass. He requested assistance with getting the fish off the hook from staff. Robert then caught a 3 inch fish which he threw back into the water. The men were told we needed to wrap up our fishing trip for the day, so Mike cast his line one more time and immediately got a bite! Mike had a very difficult time reeling in the fish, even with Robert's assistance. The men eventually brought the fish in. **It was a 22 inch, 8 pound carp! Mike brought the carp home to make for dinner.** Mike and staff Chou cooked the carp for dinner at Prospect Place. They used the following recipe and the men enjoyed it.



Chop up the onion, green onion, add basil, crushed pepper, salt, and lemon juice. Pour the mixture over the fish and also stuff the fish with the mixture. Bake for about 30 minutes, broil for ten minutes. Chop up tomato and onion; add lemon juice into the mixture, pour it over the fish then let it sit for ten minutes before serving.

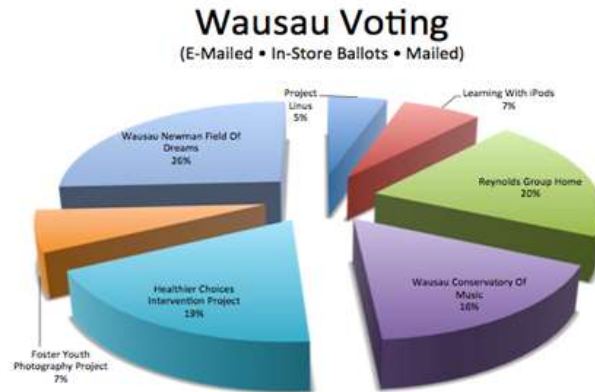
Mid Wi Beverage Community Grant Voting Results

As you can see from graph, Reynolds Group Home came in second in the voting results. Congratulations to Newman as they were the winner of the Mid Wi Beverage Community Grant Project, a worthy cause!

Despite our "loss", we are all be proud that we came in second and more importantly that we helped raise awareness of our program and services in the community. Only good can come through this exposure and this experience!

Thank you all for your hard work, commitment and votes!

Jennifer Peaslee
Administrative Assistant



RGH News Update, September 2011

We have had a couple of birthdays this last month. **James turned eighteen on August 26th.** This was the last day of his placement here at RGH as well. Before leaving he did have some cake and ice cream with the guys. Even though he has moved on he is still coming in from time to time to let us know how things are going. We are all hoping that he will be able to get into Job Corps soon. The process does take a bit, but we are hoping it will happen soon.

Jaron turned sixteen on August 30th. He is pretty happy with gaining one more year. He is feeling that so much more is opening for him. He is talking about better job opportunities, starting high school this year, and looking forward to getting his driver's license. He is pretty excited about all of this. He also had a good football game on August 25th. He sacked the quarterback for a pivotal play that helped his team win the game. **We are all pretty proud of him on and off of the football field.**

Some other news is that **Nate is looking to be transitioning from RGH soon.** We are hoping that in September he will be able to start moving into an apartment. He is working hard to prepare for this on a daily basis. Some days he is excited, some nervous, but we all feel that with the proper guidance he will be just fine.

Tom is continuing with his football for his school. They are having a hard time winning a game, but Tom is putting a big effort in. He is traveling with the team a lot because their first few games have been away. It is a new experience for him and we wish him and his team well. Tom has also been working hard with some volunteering lately. This is a requirement for his school. He is a hard worker and he is doing well. He says that he appreciates that he can do some of the jobs he has been doing.

Tommie has moved on from RGH on August 29th. He has moved into a foster home. It is a good location for him because he will be closer to his mom. We wish him the best in his new place.

Danny and Deon had their mom visit us in August. She is from Milwaukee so she stayed in town and visited her sons at RGH. All went well and it was a good opportunity to get know her as well. She also cooked for the boys while she stayed. It was a good experience for everyone at RGH to see a family building those important bonds. We look forward to another visit in September.

We currently have one opening at RGH. There are also some opportunities coming this fall as well. If you have any current or future out-of-home placement needs please feel free to call the RGH Program Coordinator, Mike McCabe at 715-551-6396.

August 18 Social Skills Group

We focused on the different types of boundaries; physical, spiritual, emotional, sexual, and intellectual. Within these categories the group listed a lot of examples of how to respect those specific boundaries.



I was able to take the house managers suggestions and did role plays with the group home staff members that were there to help me. I greatly appreciated their help! We role-played a lot of examples on everyday occurrences that happen in the homes. There were a lot of laughs but the residents were able to understand what boundaries are and how to respect others and their space.

Some of the residents also took part in the role-playing to help the other group members see how boundaries can be violated. Every group member took something different away from the group.

Next month our group will focus on Nutrition, always a timely topic.

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

www.marathonyouthservices.org

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More Fair Time

