



# MRCS

Marathon Residential and Counseling Services, Inc.

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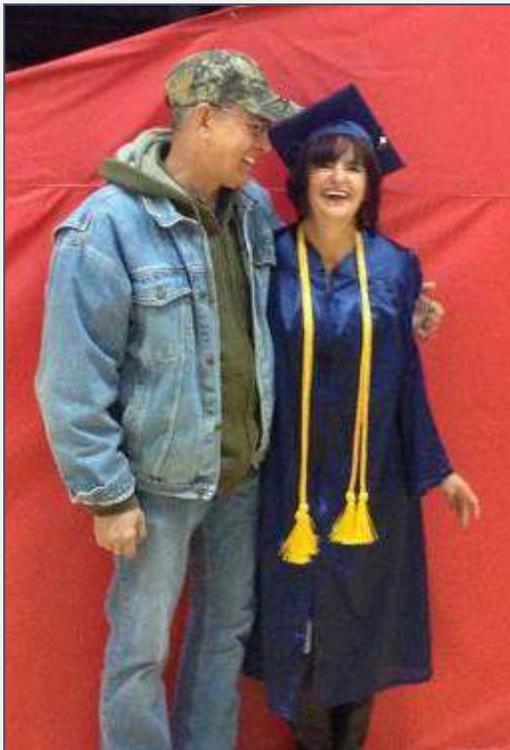
Monthly E-mail Newsletter

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Hi everyone, my name is **Lauri Olson**. I am so glad to be working here at **MRCS**. I have always wanted to work in the Human Services field, but life got in my way.

I come from a family of five kids who are all 11- 13 months apart in age. I was married shortly out of high school and had two children, my **daughter Lauren** and **son Sawyer**. Shortly after that my husband and I divorced. I worked in retail management for the next 25 years as the income was good. I met my **husband Greg** eight years ago and knew he was the right man for me. He has three grown children and six grandchildren that I love with all my heart.



We have a huge yard where we started a large vegetable garden and three flower gardens. We also have apple and pear trees. I have learned to can and I love it. I started my own business, *NipNaps*, where I make refillable pillows for cats and pet beds.

My daughter was the one who talked me into going to school. She lives in Chicago and works with Mentally Ill clients that are being released from Cook Co. Jail, and also the homeless population. So, at 52 years old I became a non-traditional student and Health Care Center volunteer, absolutely loved it.

My family and I grow more produce than we need and we donate it to a food pantry. We have three cats, one dog and a puppy coming to join the family in mid-August. Sometimes my life looks crazy, yet I couldn't love it more.

I look forward to getting to know all of you!

## Hamilton House

This month definitely was a time for celebration at **Hamilton House!** The month started with some fun at the balloon rally. **Heather, Jeff and Sean** all got to go see the excitement of the balloons being blown up and got to kick back and relax under the stars. They even went into the US Army simulator where they got to build their own weapons in order to help survive on an army simulator. Sean was the most excited to go see it and be a part of it.

The house also enjoyed soaking up some of the beautiful summer sun by going for walks.

**Heather, Jeff and Sean** all enjoyed a nice walk to see all the beautiful art work at ChalkFest. Heather even took a few pictures of some of the awesome art work! She really enjoyed all the "Frozen" pictures. **Val** also got her walk on by walking to the library and visiting other houses.



This past month also was a time for birthdays. **Val and Jeff** both enjoyed celebrating their birthdays with friends and family. Val threw an awesome party at the house with a cook out, decorations and cake. She then was pumped to move into her new bedroom for her birthday as some remodeling was done at the house. Jeff got to enjoy a nice fun filled weekend with his family. He said he was beyond happy to see everyone! Everyone was stoked to help celebrate!

It was a great month for **Sean**. He's been taking a lot on by helping out and volunteering with his church for bible camp and helping at the fair. He always excited to help support his church. Great Job Sean!

Finally, everyone got to relax and show their support to local bands at the Concerts On The Square at the 400 block. Heather, Jeff and their friends got to relax and let the music flow!

## Prospect Place

Well, here we've had the big BANG of July! **Rachel** got all dolled up for the special holiday. She

asked staff to do her hair and nails and wowza did she look festive! **Lee** got to see the fireworks on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with his grandparents; he beat the rest of the gang this year. **Justin** and his brother also went out to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup>. **Scott** was on vacation over the 4<sup>th</sup>, he got to go spend it with his family!

Water skiing is hard enough, but those Water Walkers, they are amazing! **Lee, Justin, Scott, and Rachel** have made it a habit on Sunday evenings to head out to the DC Everest Park and watch the weekly water ski show. They not only enjoy the rad tricks shown, but the boats are pretty sweet too!

Of course we cannot forget about Special Olympics. **Scott, Rachel, Justin, and Crystal** all had a Bocce Ball tournament this past month. Everyone worked hard and played their best and it really showed. **Scott and Rachel's team both made it to state!** They compete the first weekend in August. We have our fingers crossed! Good luck and way to go guys!



Take me out to the ball game; take me out to the crowd! Yes folks, that is **correct Rachel, Scott, Justin, and Lee** were all able to go watch the Brewers this month! They hit the road bright and early that morning. Why you ask, well you cannot go to a Brewers game without tailgating! Before the game they enjoyed grilling out and playing bean bags. During the

game everyone enjoyed the peanuts and cracker jacks and they rooted for the home team, but they didn't win and it was a shame. It was one, two, three strikes you're out at the old ball game!



## MRCS in Mad Town



A MRCS group took a day trip to Madison this month. The group included **Mike S and Terra from Seventh Street Suites, Todd, Zach, and Curtus from Reynolds Place, Jeff from Hamilton House, and Justin, Lee, and Rachel from Prospect Place along with Staff Rose and Karen.** The day started out with the long drive to Madison to the zoo. The group sat down for a nice picnic lunch that they packed. After fueling up with food and water and applying sunblock, the group went to the **Henry Vilas Zoo.** At the zoo, they saw monkeys, a lady lion lying out on the rocks, giraffes, a rhino, flamingos, a variety of birds and fish, an alligator, snakes, sleeping bats, and penguins. Terra enjoyed seeing the seal the most, swimming through the water and popping his face out every now and then. Zach was impressed by the large tortoises outside. Justin enjoyed the large, small, colorful, and camouflaged snakes the most. Rachel was excited to see the ostrich. Mike S was able to feed some goats and

got his hand all slobbered on! Not only did everyone get to see uncommon and exotic animals, but they also got to learn about them with the Fun Facts listed throughout the zoo. Terra educated staff and her peers on spider monkeys.

After visiting the zoo, the group enjoyed a snack of ice cream and sparkling water. It was just what the doctor ordered after a long walk in the hot temperature at the zoo. The group then made their way to the **Olbrich Botanical Gardens.** Blooming Butterflies was their exhibit. **Justin and Rachel** were able to look at a few of the butterflies on display. The group was able to take a driven tour of the gardens. The group also walked to the **Sunken Garden** and enjoyed looking at the variety of flowers, water fountain, and reflecting pool. Everyone gathered up for a group picture by the reflecting pool. A new garden was added this year, the **Serenity Garden.** Everyone decided that Justin Stangl, MSE PCTL, our MRCS therapist, should hold his sessions in this garden as it was very beautiful and relaxing. Justin and Terra wanted to take home the building in this garden as they want it as their bedrooms!



The group then headed to the **East Town Mall** for dinner. Everyone was able to find a delicious meal for dinner and a cold beverage. We departed from Madison after dinner. On the ride home, several reflected on the trip and talked about what they enjoyed the most. **Rachel** liked the gardens the most and really enjoyed looking at the flowers that looked like cotton candy. **Todd** enjoyed the gardens the most and enjoyed sitting down on a bench with the flowers around him and the reflecting pool in front of him. **Terra** enjoyed the gardens as well as discussed with staff how peaceful it was. All discussed future trips they would like to have including a classic rock concert and going to Wisconsin Dells to a waterpark.

It is not all fun and games when going on a longer trip with a large group. Everyone worked hard together as a team to make the trip enjoyable. Everyone worked together to make sure no one got lost or strayed away from the group. There was help for those with less mobility with getting in and out of vehicles, not falling behind or being left out of group discussions when learning about animals in the zoo. Everyone got along really well. The two greatest things noticed on this trip were the **camaraderie and the laughter throughout the trip.**



### Seventh Street Suites

We started out the month spending a lot of time at **Marathon Park for the Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration.** **Mike S.** went on wrist band day and got his money's worth; he rode the many rides several times and even rode his favorite, The Zipper 7 times that night. Mike shared that he got it to spin around 15 times in a row. The group also checked out the fireworks show on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and went to the demo derby on both Saturday and Sunday. **Crystal, Terra, Jeff, Heather, Val, Zach, Curtus, and Todd** attended this event on Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup> along with **Karen and Jennifer.** The derby started with young adults smashing into each other and then the adult derby started. Everyone picked out their favorite looking cars to cheer on. The fun continued the following day and even more attended the derby including **Lee and Justin.** There was a lot of smashing; it was again very exciting and it was great to see everyone yelling and cheering their favorite cars. The derby finally came to an end and participants received trophies. It was a wonderful day and everyone had a great time.

Tis the season for baseball and many are enjoying trips to **Athletic Park** to cheer on the Wausau Woodchucks. Those that have attended a game or several **included Kevin, Mike P, Crystal, and Terra**. An enjoyed activity at the Woodchucks games is trying the new items at the concession stand. The favorite, so far, is the deep fried Oreos. Everyone also got a kick out of the ketchup and mustard races and the other activities that are in-between the innings. Hopefully we will be able to take in some more games before the season ends.

Another enjoyable activity is the races **at State Park Speedway**. Those that have attended the races **included Shawn, Kevin, Mike P, and Crystal**. Everyone enjoyed cheering on their favorite race cars and making bets on which car was going to win each race.

On July 13<sup>th</sup> **Mike P and Kevin went fishing** with staff at Schofield Dam. We were there for over an hour with no bite. The guys decided to call it quits and came back home. More fishing trips are planned for August and hopefully the guys will catch a fish or two.

It's always a beautiful day for a walk, but when the sun is shining and its 77 degrees out, it's even better. **Tammy and Terra** decided to stretch their legs and walk **Blue Gill Park**. On their adventurous stroll they were delighted to see two Mallard hen ducks, a Blue Heron, frogs, turtles, and lots of Canadian Geese. What a wonderful sight it was and not to mention a great walk they got in.

**Terra, Val, Tammy, Jeff, Heather and Mike S** all went to the 400 block and watched the dog competition they had there. They all enjoyed seeing dogs jump into the water and seeing how far they could go. Sure watching dogs jump far is fun, but **the litter of puppies** that made an appearance was the best part; everyone agreed on this, hands down. The group enjoyed holding and playing with the litter of puppies. It was so hard to peel them away and make sure no one snuck one home in their purse or coat. ;)



Once again this month **Shawn, Kevin and Mike P** were lucky enough to take a trip **with Jennifer to her family's farm**. They had all been asking to make another trip since the last time in winter. Mike had a great time looking at all the animals and was even able to milk a cow. Mike was very excited about this and didn't want to leave. Shawn again liked looking at the farm equipment especially the newly purchased items. Shawn also assisted with feeding calves. Kevin wanted to be put to work when we arrived so he was given the task of sweeping the mangers in so the cows could reach their feed. While doing this, Kevin made several comments about the amount that cows eat and how hard of a job it was. Kevin was glad that he only had to do it once when he was informed that chore gets done anywhere from 4-6 times a day on the farm. Overall, everyone had a great time, thanked their hosts for the tour and talked about going back again to see the tractors in action, but all agreed that they were glad that they don't have to do that hard of work at their owns jobs.



### Special Olympics

**Crystal**, along with teammates attended the **District Bocce tournament in Appleton** on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Crystal and her team played well but came up short and lost both games. Crystal did receive a ribbon for fourth place.

### Supportive Home Care

When it comes to being an animal lover, **Tammy** is one of our biggest! Tammy spent some time at the **Humane Society** and enjoyed looking at the cats and dogs. Her favorite two doggies were Harvey and LooLoo. They were two little Chihuahua's that had a special place at the Humane Society, away from all the bigger dogs. Also this month, Tammy picked up pine cones at the park so she could make bird food with them by placing honey and peanut butter on the cones.

### Reynolds Place

There is so much to do in July that it is hard to keep up. There is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Wisconsin Fairs, fireworks, the Balloon Rally, ChalkFest, stock car races, car shows, Concerts On The Square, baseball games, and the list goes on. It is certainly great to have all of these activities available to go to in the Wausau area. **The guys at Reynolds Place** did their best to get in as much as they could and enjoyed doing it.

**Todd** has certainly been the most social this last month. He not only did most of the activities mentioned above, but took in a few more for good measure. His biggest interest this last month was the stock car races. He went whenever he got a chance. He says that he enjoys watching the cars, but he also talks about the people he goes with as well. Todd really does like to connect with people as much as he can.

**Curtus** has been enjoying the downtown area a lot this last month. He has gone to a couple of the concerts on the square as well as just to go hang out in the nice weather. He has had a couple of opportunities to spend some time with friends from high school. Curtus and one of these friends got together and planned a trip to Great America in mid-July. It was a high school graduation celebration for himself. Curtus was very excited about going on this trip and it did not disappoint at all. He is a thrill seeker that loves the wild rides. He has gotten the theme park bug this year. He spent a lot of time on the rides at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration and is hoping to get a trip in to Wisconsin Dells this summer yet.

**Zach** has been busy with work this last month. According to his supervisors, he is doing an excellent job there and they really appreciate the quality of work that he is doing. They are so impressed that he is now expanding in his responsibilities. He is now also working at a local agencies' warehouse and is looking to expand even more and work at a local stable to do some grounds keeping work. Way to go Zach!

Curtus and Zach are practicing up for the **Flag Football season**. It is looking like they will be getting some games in this August. We will be sure to update you on how they are doing.



#### Vacancy Announcements

Please call Sue (715-551-8568) or Pam (715-432-2818) to discuss your placement and supportive home care needs. Additional information regarding our programs is available on our website or by brochure upon request.  
[www.mrcs.us](http://www.mrcs.us)

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