

MARATHON YOUTH SERVICES NEWSLETTER
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Wow! Time goes fast enough as it is, but this short month thing is ridiculous... The only good thing about it is that we're just that much closer to spring and some 'happier' weather. Baseball's spring training season is in full swing already; and 'hope springs eternal' as they say... I and the other Brewer fans at MYS are looking with optimism toward a new season and a fresh start...



Reynolds Place continues in the transition to Adult Family Home status, receiving its third resident this past week. All is going well with the change in programming for that home. Progress on the kitchen/bathroom remodel is moving forward and should be completed soon. Meantime, the third floor kitchen and the other two bathrooms are meeting resident and staff needs very adequately. By next month we should begin receiving regular updates on residents and activities for reporting in the newsletter.

February was of course that month when the bravest of the brave confront the elements to participate in the annual Polar Plunge, one of Special Olympics biggest fundraisers. Again this year we had two residents who faced the



challenge to participate. Justin and Lee of Prospect Place were the willing participants this year. Thanks and congratulations guys!

As we move into March it appears that we'll enjoy a little break in the weather (sunshine today at least). By the end of the month baseball season will be upon us and spring in full swing. Hurrah!!

This month we'd like to **introduce Janis Southworth, our new therapist in residence at Marathon Youth Services.** Janis joined our staff on February 4 and will be providing counseling services to our clients. Janis will also be providing counseling services to juvenile clients and their families referred to us by Mirror Image Services. She is also available for other counseling services to the community at large on an individual referral basis.



Currently living in Medford, WI, Janis is the mother of two children; one in high school and one in college. Janis earned a degree from UW LaCrosse in Art Education in 1985. Returning to school in 2007 she completed a Master of Arts in Art Therapy and Professional Counseling degree from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in Terre Haute, Indiana and University of WI Concordia.

Janis has two years of extensive intern and work experience working with children and adolescents at a therapeutic day treatment program and an outpatient facility.

We are all excited and happy to have Janis join our staff at MYS and look forward to working together as a team to meet the continuing needs of our clients, and the community at large.



News From 7th Street Suites and Apartments

Finding things to do in the winter gets pretty tough, but when you have talented residents like ours all you need to do is find where there is Karaoke. **Crystal, Kevin V, Mike S, Terra, Shawn, and Virginia** went and did just that. **Crystal and Mike S** were singing machines out at Mickey's, it seemed like we couldn't get them off the microphones! **Terra, Shawn, and Virginia** also sang a couple songs. **Kevin V** didn't sing, but he did enjoy the sweet music his fellow peers were belting out. Our residents even decided to share the spot light with each other and we had some duet action going on. **Mike S** enjoyed this Karaoke event so much he is already planning the next one. Keep those voices warmed up everyone; I can see another Karaoke night soon!

Crystal, another resident, Mike P (SSS), Sean (HH), Lee, and Justin (PP) played their hardest at the Special Olympics basketball tournament on Feb. 9th in Stevens Point. We only had one win out of the day, but victory is not everything. Our players learned the value of hard work. They were all great sportsmen's and played with all their heart. You can't win them all, but our players sure put up a fight trying! **Virginia (Extended Care)** also came along to cheer on the players. She was loud and proud in the crowd! Way to play with all your might guys! Your teams are lucky to have such motivated players. Keep up the awesome work!



Our SSS residents are sticking with the YMCA this winter. They say winter is a hard season to lose weight, but that doesn't discourage our residents from hitting the gym! Keep up the motivation everyone, you're doing awesome!

Crystal celebrated her birthday in February. She had a party at her apartment where some friends from work, other MYS clients, and her mother. Crystal had a homemade birthday cake. She got several cards and gifts to include a gift certificate. Prior to her birthday party at her apartment, she went out for lunch with her guardian. Later in the week, she attended a dinner at 2510 with her friend to celebrate Crystal's birthday.

Mike S won two tickets to a band in downtown Wausau at the Fillmor and two tickets to Wine Cheese and all the Jazz fundraiser.

On February 23rd, many Special Olympics supporters and athletes participated in the annual Special Olympic Polar Plunge. None of SSS residents participated but Crystal, **Mike S., Kevin V., Virginia and Tammy** all attended to cheer on the cause. After the plunge, **Mike S., Virginia, Tammy and Staff Lorraine** went tubing at Sylvan Hill.

News From Prospect Place Adult Family Home

This month, **Prospect Place welcomes a new resident! Scott** moved in earlier this month and is fitting right in with the other guys at Prospect. Scott is getting used to the area and has enjoyed his time here at Prospect. Welcome, Scott!

Lee and Justin continued to participate in Special Olympics basketball. They played in a tournament in Stevens Point where they moved onto Sectionals in Menomonie. Both of the guys did great at the tournament in Menomonie and showed great effort and determination in their first game, however lost in the Championship game. But everyone here is **proud of Lee and Justin** on their second place finish. Great job guys! The guys can't wait until their next season, Soccer!

Justin and Lee were daring souls this month, by jumping in the cold, icy waters of Manmade Lake in Sunnyvale Park for the Special Olympics Polar Plunge. Not waiting to miss this moment of awesomeness, **Scott, Robert and staff Ryan** went to watch the guys. Justin and Lee wore jerseys and took the plunge into the icy depths. Justin and Lee did an awesome job of raising money for the occasion and really enjoyed freezing their "tails off." Great job, Justin and Lee!



Love was also in the air this month with Valentine's Day. Robert, Scott, Justin and Lee made cards and valentines for the special people in their lives. Robert even made enough for all the MYS staff and took pride in delivering them to each house. What a lovely time of year!

Scott and Robert continue to stay active during the day by going to the fitness center at the ADRC with staff Al. The guys stay fit by working on the treadmills, weight machine and elliptical. Great work guys!



Update From Hamilton House Adult Family Home

Jeff has been working hard at his job and when he comes back he has been doing a lot of work on the shoveling needing to be done at the house. He appears to enjoy working on keeping the walks cleared of snow and ice. When he is not cleaning up the walk ways he has been working at cleaning up the pins at a local bowling alley. He has shown a lot of interest and skill in the game. His main ambition at this point is to be able to beat staff's score.

Terrance continues to work at a local restaurant. He is really enjoying his job and getting a regular paycheck. He is doing well with saving his money because he wants to go to NTC this next fall. He has taken his entrance tests and did very well on them. He hopes to go into drafting or eventually architecture. He dreams of designing homes.

Sean has been active with Special Olympics as usual. Basketball has wound down. He recently attended a couple of tournaments. The team did not make it far, but he said he enjoyed himself. He is looking forward to the next sport coming up. This would be soccer. He said he enjoys the pace of the game and the workout it gives him. We hope to report on his successes in the coming months.



We have had a visitor this last month to the Hamilton House. Outside on one of the trees near the house a **pileated woodpecker** has been doing its work. It is a very large woodpecker and making some large holes in the tree. It is good that it is not a frequent visitor or the tree would not make it.

Vacancy Announcements

At the current time we continue to have a couple of vacancies. We can consider referrals for Adult Family Care and are always available to discuss supervised apartment settings. Please call Sue (715-551-8568) or Pam (715-432-2818) to discuss your placement needs. Additional information regarding our programs is available on our website or by brochure upon request.

www.marathonyouthservices.org

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