

**MARATHON YOUTH
SERVICES
NEWSLETTER
September, 2013
Volume 13, Issue 9**



Hello, my name is Justin Stangl. I just started working as a counseling intern at Marathon Youth Services in late August. I am currently a student at UW Oshkosh, from which I will graduate with a Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling in December. Dr. Connie O'Heron, who has worked with MYS as the supervising psychologist since 2007, will be overseeing my work as a therapist throughout the duration of my time with MYS, but she will be working extra closely with me during these first few months until I shed my student status.

I started moving toward the counseling profession before I even knew it. My parents opened up our home to foster children when I was 13 years old, giving me early and meaningful interactions with people who were much different than me. That eventually led me to become involved in volunteering with Special Olympics and a summer camp called Rainbow's End. Those experiences had immensely shaped who I was becoming, but I didn't understand that until I entered college. My first semester was spent pursuing a career in engineering, but it felt empty to me, so I began searching for a new career. One step after another led me to graduating from UWSP with majors in psychology and sociology, on to enrolling in graduate school to become a mental health counselor. Considering my background and the direction my life has taken, Marathon Youth Services is a great fit for me as I launch into my counseling career.

As for my personal life, my wife and I have recently celebrated our one-year anniversary. She is in the process of starting her own photography business, and in my free time I enjoy doing photography with her, whether it is for weddings, engagements, or high-school senior photos. What I enjoy most about it is being able to continuously experiment with different ideas and learn new things. In my personal free time I enjoy listening to all kinds of intricate music, especially heavy music, playing the guitar, and playing video games. Soon I hope to make enough free time to start a band and perform rock music again, which is something I enjoyed greatly when I was younger.

My wife and I are looking forward to being able to move back to the Wausau area in December, where we can both be closer to our immediate families and to MYS. We also hope to start our own family soon. Sometime far in the future we aspire to start our own non-profit organization that seeks to alleviate homelessness and poverty using creative long-term solutions.



Trips to the fair

The excitement for the month was the **Wausau Valley Fair**. Many of our clients were very excited for the fair and could not wait to see what rides, animals and attractions waited for them inside the fair grounds. **Mike S, Mike P and Shawn from 7th Street, Justin, Lee, and Robert from Prospect, Jeff and Val from Hamilton House, and Zach and Todd and two other residents from Reynolds** went to the fair the first day it was in town and found all of their favorite rides and attractions that they have been waiting for all year.

Shawn's and Todd's favorite part was the antique farm museum in which people could walk around and look at a bunch of old farm equipment. Shawn also enjoyed looking at the fancy new farm equipment they had out for display and sharing all of the information that he knew about each piece. Mike S had a great time walking around and looking at the different displays throughout the grounds. He also enjoyed receiving a free Army t-shirt after doing 20 push-ups! Man are you one fit guy! Mike P had a great time also walking around and looking at the different attractions. All of the clients got their work out in for the day!



The eating contests were a big hit at the fair with our clients. Many participated and had a great time doing them! **Mike S and Crystal entered into the watermelon eating contest** in which they had to eat $\frac{1}{4}$ of a watermelon without using their hands. **Mike S got 3rd place** in the watermelon eating contest and **Crystal got 4th place!** Both of them received ribbons for their awesome watermelon eating skills. Great job guys! While walking out of the grounds Mike S ran into a friend that happens to be a DJ on the radio and Mike S got the chance to talk about his 3rd place victory on the radio, we have a famous client! Everyone seemed to have a fun time and cannot wait for the fair to come into town next summer!



The big musical act of the fair this year was **Hunter Hayes!** Terra, Mike S, Robert, Crystal, and another resident attended the big event. We all went early to save "good seats," knowing we wouldn't have any if we went later. The crowd had the place packed! The gang sang and boogied in their seats to their favorite songs.



Mike S even got a video tape of how big the crowd was. It surely was the big concert of the fair and our clients were lucky enough to enjoy it with great seats!

Another big event at the fair was the **wristband night**. The clients got together and went and rode as many rides as they could. There were some rolling of the stomachs, but none of them would have given up the fun they had.

By the end of the fair most of our clients were all "faired"

out, but they had to go on the last day, Sunday, to try and be the fastest pie eater! **Crystal, Mike S, and Robert participated in the pie eating contest.** You couldn't use your hands, so the clients smashed their 1/4 piece of pie into their face and ate away, mostly getting the pie up their noses. Unfortunately there were so many people competing in the pie contest none of our clients placed, but they were all winners because they got a free piece of pie!



On Sunday they also had an apple peeling contest. **Mike S** was the only one willing to try and get the longest apple peel. He tried his hardest, but when he heard someone had a 33 inch apple peel he smiled, looked at the crowd, and took a big bite into his apple! Although Mike didn't win, he was a good sport and the smile never left his face. Good try on your competitions everyone, better start



practicing for next year!!

7th Street and Extended Care summer fun

On the beautiful summer days we had, **Kevin, Shawn, Mike S, Mike P, Terrance, and Bridget** all got out to different parts of the river with different staff. A few days some were lucky enough to find the "hot spot" of the day. Like everyone, there were times when the fish didn't like to bite and we went home without any catches or very few fish caught. The summer is still not over yet and the group at SSS is not giving up their fishing careers anytime soon! Our hopes are to find the perfect sweet spot before the summer ends.



Ashley, Bridget, and staff Brandi spent one of our sunny August days at the Weston Aquatic Center. It was warm out in the air, but when the wind hit all the ladies got goose bumps. Even with the goose bumps they didn't give up, there were slides to shoot down, a diving board to cannonball off, and ice cream to be eaten. The ladies went down all three slides, made huge splashes off the diving board, and enjoyed a delicious ice cream treat before leaving. What troopers these ladies were, they didn't let the cold wind get the best of their fun girl's day!

Another fun and exciting summer activity that 7th Street has taken part in was the races on Thursday night at State Park Speed Way. Shawn and Kevin made it to a couple Thursday night race in August. Mike P. also went on one Thursday.

Special Highlights from SSS

As always, I am very proud of all the clients here at SSS and all their accomplishments as they continue working, volunteering and learning new skills each day though there have been a few extraordinary mile stones. The first, as we all know that **Mike S.** is a very hard worker and has been working over a year at full time status. This summer he earned a week of paid vacation and took well deserved vacation during the week of the fair. **Great job Mike,** keep up the hard work!

Another outstanding accomplishment was **Terrance enrolled** in a college course at NTC and successful completed the course mid-August. He took Oral and Interpersonal Communications. Terrance was very surprised how much work was involved in the course but stuck with it. He prepared and presented two speeches; one informative speech and one persuasive speech. He was complimented on engaging his audience by his instructor. Way to go, Terrance!

Crystal also enrolled in an educational program at the Marathon County Library and has been very devoted to her studies. Keep it up, Crystal!

Special Olympics

We had three clients participate in the **State Bocce Tournament** in Waukesha. **Crystal's** team came in second along with another MYS client and **Justin's and Scott's** team came in First. Congrats on getting in the top guys! The end of the season was celebrated with a bocce ball party. Everyone enjoyed getting together with fellow athletes and coaches to visit and discuss the past season with others. The guys brought a dish to pass and enjoyed the season. Way to go, guys!

We also have a group participating in Flag Football this year: Crystal, Mike P., Kevin, Scott, Justin and another client at Hamilton House. The group has been attending weekly practices and learning different plays. It has been a good work out for all. They have been running 7 different drills. The first football tournament was August 24th in Manitowoc. Crystal's team lost but put up a valiant effort and gave their all. Kevin's team won their first game and lost their second. It was another great effort. Way to go everyone.



Hamilton House Highlights

A big hit this month was **Jeff** and **Val** enjoyed going to a fish fry with **Todd** from Reynolds and staff. It was a time to go out and just relax. They enjoyed it so much they want to make it an every Friday event

Going to the movie theater is always a hit with our residents here at Hamilton, and if they can't make it to the cinema, we make our own movie theater right in the living room! The next best thing to a movie night is a game night. This month, Hamilton hosted a game and craft night and invited Prospect Place and Reynolds' Place to join in on the fun. Lee, Justin, Robert and Scott from Prospect visited with the other residents from Hamilton and Reynolds. They drew and colored pictures as well as play games on the Wii.

Everyone enjoyed visiting with others and playing games and could not wait to go back again. And you can't forget the swimming in this heat! We make regular visits to the YMCA to shoot pool and go swimming, the residents also enjoy going over to the Grand Lodge for the water park. Their favorite ride is the "Toilet Bowl!"



Highlights from Prospect Place

This month staff Al took **Justin, Lee and Robert** to the **Historical Center** to look at the exhibits. The guys enjoyed looking at various exhibits which included the Civil War, History of Wausau and history of logging. The guys were shocked to learn how things looked a hundred years ago. Robert showed the others how logs were rolled, Lee was surprised how Wausau looked way back when and Justin enjoyed looking at documents and pictures about soldiers who served from Wisconsin during the war. This was a great learning experience for the guys. What a great learning experience!

The guys at Prospect definitely took advantage of the great weather, by participating in numerous walks in the community as well as hikes around nearby parks and the Eau Claire Dells. Everyone has enjoyed the fresh air and getting out stretching their legs while checking out the beautiful scenery. The guys also got out to go fishing as well as playing bean bag toss and horseshoes. The guys also enjoyed getting out and going the Kayak Championships here in Wausau. **Justin, Lee and Robert** were intrigued at the number of people participating and watched as rafters paddled their way through the competition.



Staff Jeff took **Justin, Lee, Robert and Scott** to the Mosinee log jam. The guys watched re-enactments, river races, and log sawing and horseshoe tournaments. The group also looked at art exhibits, wood carvings and demonstrations. Justin and Scott also participated in sawing their own piece of wood off of a log for a souvenir. The guys had a great time and could not wait to go back.



Also, this month **Lee** attended his cousin's wedding here in Wausau. Lee showed off his fancy dress clothes and went with his grandparents to the ceremony and reception. While there, Lee visited with family and friends and danced with family. He even caught the garter! Lee wished his cousin and her husband well and definitely enjoyed the party and could not wait to show off the garter.



Reynolds Place Highlights

There has been a lot of activity this last month with the men at **Reynolds Place**. The guys enjoyed watching videos and playing video games and take advantage of the library whenever they get a chance to get something. It also is a place to stay cool during the hot days. Often the guys like to work off some energy and will go down to the local school and play some basketball. They have taken on a few staff from time to time as well. At this point we will say things are at a draw. They are also doing some pick-up games with others in the community playing ball there as well.

The concert series at the **400 Block and on Rib Mountain** has been a favorite as well. It gives the guys the opportunity to interact with the community and they like the feeling of “hanging out” as well as the music.

Camp is still going on for a couple of the men. They have been involved with volunteering in the community, visiting interesting places such as a working farm, and participating in activities like disc golf, movies, and swimming. They get a lot in during their day.

Bowling is starting to become a popular activity recently. One of the men bowled his highest game he ever had at 146. He could not be happier.

Staff Kiley is working with the guys on their domestic skills. She has been guiding the men in keeping their personal spaces as well as the house clean. She has a particular skill in getting the guys motivated. Some of this may be some of the baking she has been helping the guys do as well. It has all been working out deliciously.

Todd took a trip to the petting zoo up in Minocqua this last month with the people from Adult Day Services. He enjoyed spending time with his friends, seeing the animals, and eating lunch out. Todd has also been enjoying helping out at the Salvation Army. He likes to meet the people there and really likes helping them out.

Zach just got a job recently with one of the local warehouses. He is very excited about this because he has been trying for some time to get a job. We wish him the best on his new adventure.

Vacancy Announcements

At the current time we have no vacancies. Please call Sue (715-551-8568) or Pam (715-432-2818) to discuss your placement needs and supportive home care.

Additional information regarding our programs is available on our website or by brochure upon request.
www.marathonyouthservices.org

If at any time you would like to be removed from this mail list, please click **REPLY** and simply enter **UNSUBSCRIBE**. Your address will be immediately removed from the list.