



# SMRCS



## Marathon Residential and Counseling Services, Inc.

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 Monthly E-mail Newsletter  
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My name is Carol and I have worked in various social service fields my entire life. I started off working for the State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections. After I married, my husband and I ran a foster home caring for eight juvenile delinquent girls while we raised our own three children. We cared for these foster girls for fifteen years.



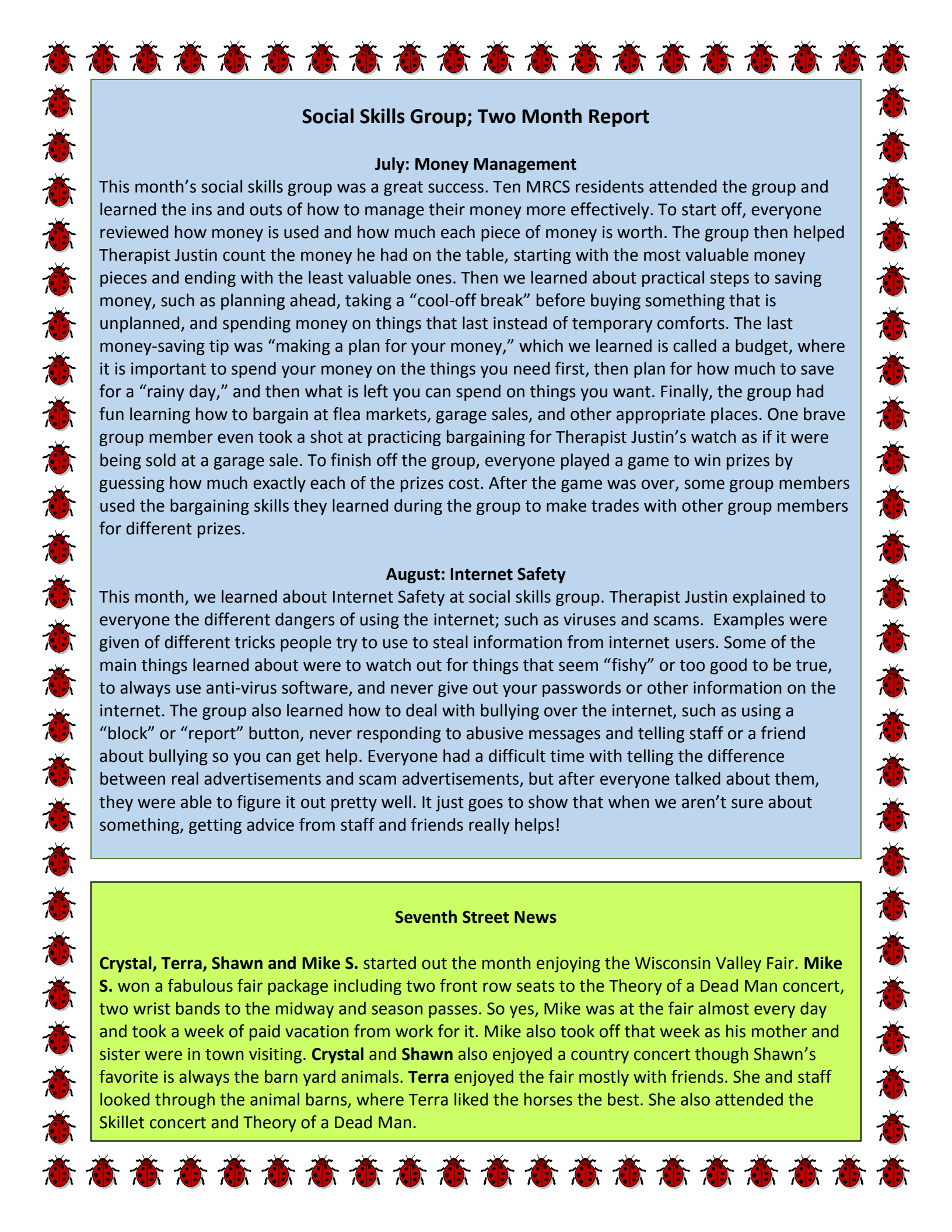
The next period of my life, much shorter, involved working as a counselor at Lincoln Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility. I worked there for five years, and then changed to a different type of work which has turned out to be my life's calling.

I work full time for Marathon Residential and Counseling Services. I worked as an Adolescent Treatment Professional in a group home which housed eight boys. Over time, MRCS expanded their services to working with adults and I now work with them. I have been working for MRCS for the past nineteen years.

For the past ten years I have also worked as a part time advocate at the Women's Community as well as holding my full time employment. At the women's shelter, almost every Sunday that I work, the residents and I prepare, eat, and clean up after a proper sit down Sunday dinner. I have, in this way, spent many hours visiting with our residents and their children. I encourage their assistance and participation. I felt that showing how a real family can operate and communicate is very important. Even though some are reluctant at first, by the end of the meal all are having a wonderful time. They share stories about their backgrounds and recipes from different ethnic groups. The children also take pride in helping me prepare desserts for the meal. It is truly a great time.

I thank God for the opportunity to work in these fields for as long as I have. The enjoyment, satisfaction and happiness this work has brought me has been truly fulfilling.





## Social Skills Group; Two Month Report

### July: Money Management

This month's social skills group was a great success. Ten MRCS residents attended the group and learned the ins and outs of how to manage their money more effectively. To start off, everyone reviewed how money is used and how much each piece of money is worth. The group then helped Therapist Justin count the money he had on the table, starting with the most valuable money pieces and ending with the least valuable ones. Then we learned about practical steps to saving money, such as planning ahead, taking a "cool-off break" before buying something that is unplanned, and spending money on things that last instead of temporary comforts. The last money-saving tip was "making a plan for your money," which we learned is called a budget, where it is important to spend your money on the things you need first, then plan for how much to save for a "rainy day," and then what is left you can spend on things you want. Finally, the group had fun learning how to bargain at flea markets, garage sales, and other appropriate places. One brave group member even took a shot at practicing bargaining for Therapist Justin's watch as if it were being sold at a garage sale. To finish off the group, everyone played a game to win prizes by guessing how much exactly each of the prizes cost. After the game was over, some group members used the bargaining skills they learned during the group to make trades with other group members for different prizes.

### August: Internet Safety

This month, we learned about Internet Safety at social skills group. Therapist Justin explained to everyone the different dangers of using the internet; such as viruses and scams. Examples were given of different tricks people try to use to steal information from internet users. Some of the main things learned about were to watch out for things that seem "fishy" or too good to be true, to always use anti-virus software, and never give out your passwords or other information on the internet. The group also learned how to deal with bullying over the internet, such as using a "block" or "report" button, never responding to abusive messages and telling staff or a friend about bullying so you can get help. Everyone had a difficult time with telling the difference between real advertisements and scam advertisements, but after everyone talked about them, they were able to figure it out pretty well. It just goes to show that when we aren't sure about something, getting advice from staff and friends really helps!

### Seventh Street News

**Crystal, Terra, Shawn and Mike S.** started out the month enjoying the Wisconsin Valley Fair. **Mike S.** won a fabulous fair package including two front row seats to the Theory of a Dead Man concert, two wrist bands to the midway and season passes. So yes, Mike was at the fair almost every day and took a week of paid vacation from work for it. Mike also took off that week as his mother and sister were in town visiting. **Crystal** and **Shawn** also enjoyed a country concert though Shawn's favorite is always the barn yard animals. **Terra** enjoyed the fair mostly with friends. She and staff looked through the animal barns, where Terra liked the horses the best. She also attended the Skillet concert and Theory of a Dead Man.

**Chou** along with **Crystal, Scott, Shawn** and **Kevin** went to State Park Speedway to watch the races. Shawn purchased a t-shirt from the Decker racing team to add to his collections. Shawn and Scott both received caps from Wausau racing legend Scott Wimmer. Everyone had fun and is anxious to return for more races.

**Kevin, Crystal** and **Scott** attended the August-Oh Fest Tractor Pull at the Wausau 525 track. All three enjoyed the light super stock tractors and especially the modified mini tractors. It rained for a short time, but otherwise, the evening was lovely and the 525 track is a beautiful setting. We were especially proud to be able to attend since this event was also a fundraiser for Flip's Fund, a memorial fund benefiting children with critical illnesses.



Shawn attended a picnic at Saint Theresa's. Shawn met and greeted his Knights of Columbus brothers. He also enjoyed some polka music and explored the rummage sale.



Mike S and Scott went fishing at Chuck's Boat landing in Mosinee and at the Schofield Dam. They were able to enjoy what little sun may be left for the summer. Mike got a few bites but was unable to set the hook. Maybe next time!

Scott enjoyed some classic music while sitting on the cool grass at Blues Fest. Scott also enjoyed looking at the vendors around the Isle of Ferns and found a guitar that was made entirely out of glass pieces. What a sight! Scott was sure hyped up about it and really wanted to give it a strum and play his own blues music at the festival.



### Supportive Home Care Spotlight

Now we all know from previous months that **Tammy** is a big animal lover, well this month Tammy showed us yet again just how big her heart is for the Marathon County Humane Society. On one of Tammy's trips out there this month, she decided to donate some dog treats. What a great thing Tammy!

## Special Olympics News

Special Olympics bowling started up this month, and a popular sport it is! **Crystal, Scott, Justin, Rachel, Sean S, Heather, and Jeff** are dusting off their bowling shoes and bowling balls as they prepare for another season. The group heads down to Dale's Weston Lanes every Sunday and even though we are only a couple practices in, it looks like it will be a great season!

**Crystal, Scott, Justin, Curtis, Zach, Sean S and Mike P** are still gearing themselves up for flag football. Although most of the practices this month were rained out, the couple they did get in; the gang worked hard on. They are looking better at practice and are getting antsy for their first tournament in a couple weeks.

With the Bocce season coming to an end, everyone got together and celebrated a great year. **Crystal, Justin, Rachel, Sean and Scott** enjoyed socializing with their teammates and getting their plans for next year's season all figured out. What a way to wrap up a great season!

## Reynolds Place News

The Wisconsin Valley Fair was a big attraction this year for the **Reynolds Place** guys. **Curtus** connected with one of his school friends and spent a day taking it all in. **Zach** went with his family for a weekend and enjoyed spending time with his family. **Todd** went with the residents of Hamilton House to the fair where he went on some rides and looked at the exhibits. He also made a big deal of the fair food he got to try.

Bowling has started for **Todd**. **Todd** really loves to bowl and he talks about all the people he sees there as well. Often it seems it is more of a social club for him than a sport. Either case, he is looking forward to competing this season and going to the tournaments. We will be sure to keep you updated as they come along.

**Todd** has found a new activity for himself that he really enjoys. He has been going to the stock car races lately. He got hooked on car racing at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July demolition derby and has tried to make the races as much as he can after that. He gets a soda, sits with his friends, and enjoys the excitement of the races. He often is telling people what took place days after the race. How exhilarating!

(The RP guys at their 'fire drill' gathering place.)



## Hamilton House News

It is almost time for autumn, the best season of the year! Everyone has been spending their time making the most out of what is left of the summer. A really popular activity has been attending concerts at the 400 Block downtown. **Jeff** loves listening to the music and singing. He's always serenading everyone here at the house and always has a smile on his face when doing it.

We also had a Packer Party at Hamilton House. **Valerie** had the idea of inviting everyone over to hang out and watch the game. **Val** and **Sean** did a fantastic job helping set up for the party. They prepared bbq'd meat balls, sausage with cheese and crackers, a veggie tray and Jell-O. Everyone enjoyed the game and of course the good food.



And we can't forget about the carnival. **Sean** won tickets and said he got to sit almost 1<sup>st</sup> row during the concerts. **Heather** played a lot of games and won a few things and bought herself some bracelets. **Val** and **Jeff** enjoyed all the good food that the fair has to offer. Who doesn't like fair food?

**Sean** is proud of himself and so are we. He started going back for classes at the end of the month. He did very well last semester with going to classes and working towards his GED at North Central Technical College. Keep up the hard work!

Family time is always a plus. **Val** got to go to Lake Michigan to go fishing with her mother. She said she had a blast and did a lot of walking. She was exhausted upon her return to Hamilton House. She worked hard at her job all week though. **Heather** had a nice cookout with her family as well. She always enjoys seeing her grandmother and father.

We said goodbye for now and good luck to a wonderful staff member, **Brandon** as he goes on to finish school. **Heather** helped bake and decorate a cake for him and everyone spent his last night doing activities, watching flag football and having pizza. Brandon was a favorite over at Hamilton House and will definitely be missed. Those who live at Hamilton House reported that "Brandon makes us feel special. He makes us feel like he really cares about us and that we are important." We all wish you luck at school Brandon and hope to see you over summer break!



## Prospect Place News

Can you say success?! Well here at **Prospect Place** everyone has been flourishing with new developments in the work & school world. **Lee** has been working at a local auto shop detailing vehicles. It's the kind of job that is right up his alley. **Justin** has had a brand new experience this month volunteering at Stable Hands. He gets to be outside enjoying the weather while getting his hands dirty and helping out the horses and donkeys. You never know, we could have the next Dr. Dolittle on our hands! The lady of the house, **Rachel**, has finished up her first work experience this month at a local hotel and now she can't wait for more. She has learned that maintaining a hotel is some pretty hard work, but she couldn't wait to dive in!

Prospect Place also has a new member that moved in at the end of July. **Austin** has been settling in and getting ready for school, he is a little nervous but he is ready to get going! He has been a great help around the house with mowing the lawn and grocery shopping. Austin shared with the house that he collects pop can tops, so if you have any to spare I'm sure he would enjoy them. His current collection adds up to over a mile!

The house has been enjoying the last of summer with a stroll down to the 400 block almost every Wednesday to check out the bands that are rockin' Wausau. They also got to rock Theory of a Dead Man, Skillet and Joe Nichols at the local fair along with watching the wonderful spectacle of the demolition derby. Everyone was excited to see the crashes and even got to see a car go up in smoke! With all of the rockin' happening, **Austin, Lee and Deidra** rolled down to the 400 block, then to the local Farmer's Market. What a walking distance! They had to cool off with an ice cream before heading back home!



### 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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