

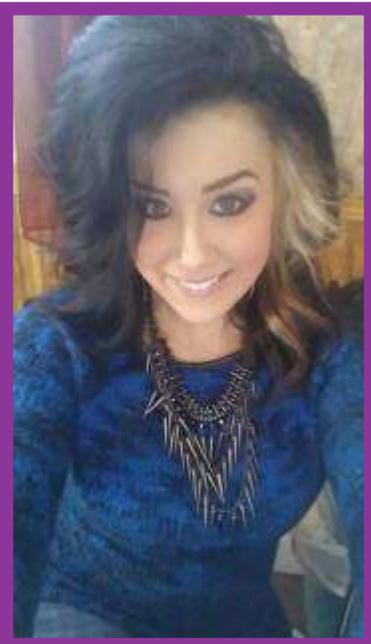
# MARATHON RESIDENTIAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES, INC.

Formerly Known As  
Marathon Youth Services, Inc.



Marathon Residential and Counseling Services, Inc.  
Monthly E-mail Newsletter  
March, 2014                      Volume 14; Issue 3

In our continuing effort to introduce our staff to our readers, this month we introduce Stacy Burr, Manager of our Hamilton House residence. We've enjoyed having Stacy be part of our staff and look forward to a long relationship...



*Hi! My name is Stacy Burr and I started working for MRCS almost a year ago in March. I am very excited to celebrate working here for a full year! Working at MRCS has definitely helped me grow as a person and gain patience and appreciation for life. Not only have I been able to teach our clients life skills but they have taught me a lot about life as well.*

*Currently I am enrolled as a student at Fox Valley Technical College through Appleton. I attend through online classes and am in my 4<sup>th</sup> semester of the Law Enforcement Program to receive my degree in Criminal Justice. I enjoy it very much and would like to use my degree to work in child protective services someday. Aside from school and work I have a pretty busy family life. I was just blessed with a new nephew a few weeks ago. It was very exciting! I also have 2 other nephews and a beautiful niece who is also my Goddaughter. I try to see all of them as much as possible in between homework, working at MRSC and a part-time job working as a bartender.*

*In my free time I really enjoy just being with my friends and family. Drawing is one of my passions and has been since I was a little girl. I also love running and working out. I was in track and field for almost 10 years; unfortunately I tore my ACL and meniscus in my senior year of high school. I love music and going to rock concerts and just staying busy. I also enjoy just being able to stay home in sweats and curl up with my 2 kittens.*

*I hope to one day have my Master's Degree and open up an organization for at risk youth. Being able to help others has always been a passion of mine. I know it will take hard work and dedication but I am always up for a challenge!*

## Prospect Place News Update

At the end of January, **Rachel moved into Prospect Place**. She has made some friends already and is getting along great with her new housemates. She's gone along to cheer people on at sports events, went to the movies and along for Karaoke. For those of you who do not know her, here is a little bit about her. Rachel likes to color, participate in arts and crafts, watch movies, and read magazines and books. She's looking forward to finding a job in the area and becoming involved with Special Olympics sports.

**Scott worked at a local car dealership** for work experience. Things seemed to have gone pretty well over there and it sounds like Scott made a good impression. He learned many great skills including attention to fine detail and working in a team environment. Scott's work experience ended for now, but he is hopeful things work out in the future. He is going to continue to look for another job. Wish Scott luck the next time you see him!



**Here at Prospect Place**, everyone has busy lives. In order to help keep things running smoothly we have organized monthly calendars that staff is working on with everyone. Even though some are already doing a wonderful job with getting to work and attending appointments regularly and on time, we hope the calendars will help improve and increase some organizational skills. A special shout out to **Lee** who especially had an outstanding month with perfect attendance at work and getting to some of his appointments independently. **We will start utilizing the calendars soon.** A special thank you to **Kaelee** for her work on them as well!

## Reynolds Place News

As the winter progresses, staff and residents alike are looking out the windows and wondering when the view is going to be unblocked by the huge piles of snow around the house. Each time it has snowed we have been amazed that we have found a place to put the last deposit of snow. Also when we look out we are appreciative to the warmth of being indoors. At **Reynolds Place** there is a thermometer outside our window at the bank across the street. It has far too often been at zero or below. With all that being said we are making the best of this weather and keeping ourselves busy. As always, video games and movies are a big hit here at the house. Every so often we will throw in some popcorn and a guest or two and we have a mini party.



We do not let winter keep us indoors all the time. Earlier in **February Winter Fest** took place at the 400 Block. The guys went there to look at the ice sculptures that were carved. It was amazing work to see. We also like to get out when we can to enjoy the YMCA. The Reynolds Place guys are like fish out of water if they do not get to the pool at least once a week.

Some other activities that have been keeping the men busy at Reynolds have been **crafts** and games. Todd was the creator of a chain worm. He made sure to make it very colorful. **Zach and Curtus** have taken up drawing on occasion during the month. So far they are working on some sketches here and there. When they finish one of their masterpieces we will be sure to add it to a future newsletter.



When it is cold outside one of the fun things the guys like to do is play cards or board games. Phase 10 and Monopoly are the favorites, but The Game of Life and Uno is a close second. It is always fun when these games get going. There is always a spirit of competition that takes place and some nice quality time together. We think some of the time spent indoors has helped build the men's relationships with each other and we always enjoy watching this blossom.

### Seventh Street Suites

A late note from January... In the later part of January; **Kevin, Shawn, Terra, Mike S. and Mike P. were able to take a trip to staff Jenn's family farm.** Jenn's parents were nice enough to give the group a tour. Everyone enjoyed seeing the animals as well as all the farm equipment. Each resident that went had a favorite memory of the day: **Kevin** enjoyed looking at all of the tractors and seeing a live buffalo up close. **Shawn** made friends with a cat and joked about sneaking it back home in the van but his favorite thing was talking with a farmer about tractors and getting to sit on a IH 1066 tractor (if you are not familiar with that tractor, Shawn may have some information for you and is willing to share his knowledge with you). **Terra** really liked the two day old calf and spent most of her time by the calf. **Mike P.** also enjoyed the tour and even jokingly scolded a cow for trying to steal his jacket after she licked and chewed on it. Mike was quick to tell the cow that it was his jacket and not hers. The trip to the farm even had Mike S. doubting eating cow tongue again after a calf sucked on his finger (House Manager Mary got a good laugh

after hearing that and was happy to hear we may not have to cook any more cow tongue). When the group returned home everyone made a thank you card for Jenn to bring to her parents. Everyone is asking to go back when it is warmer so they can see the farm equipment in action.



**Crystal celebrated her 28th birthday** at Dales Weston Lanes. She had a huge turn out! It was pretty crazy, we only had one lane to start and there were over 20 people who wanted to bowl! We had to get creative and practiced taking turns bowling. Crystal mingled with each of her party guests, which was hard to do because there were so many! Staff Jenn and Brandi made her a raspberry cheese cake, YUMMY! We're glad to see Crystal had such a great turn out for her party. Happy belated birthday Crystal!

After celebrating Crystal's birthday, many at Seventh Street celebrated **Valentine's Day**. Love was in the air this Valentine's Day. Crystal spent the evening with her boyfriend; they went out to dinner and a movie. He also gave Crystal a red rose to celebrate the holiday.



**Shawn and his girlfriend** went out to Culvers to enjoy a nice romantic dinner. Her parents also tagged along to celebrate with the two love birds.

**Terra and her boyfriend** spent the morning going to Eau Claire on a road trip. Unfortunately he had to work that night, so Terra has plans to celebrate more at a later date. We'll be waiting to hear all about it!

### Seventh Streets Highlight of the month

**Terra** has been working on being more active in the community. She and her boyfriend went and helped out at their church and shoveled a few times. Their services were greatly needed because of all the snow this year. Way to be involved in the community Terra!

### Hamilton House News

Time with family and friends is very important to everyone at Hamilton House. Many like to be able to spend time away visiting friends and family, but they always are smiling when they come back and greet staff with a smile.

**Hamilton staff** is always proud of all of the residents who live there for working so hard! Jeff always amazes us with his great attendance and working 5 days out of the week! **Sean** is still working 1 day a week and would like to start working more. **Heather** works 2 days a week and is

moving back up towards 3 days a week. And we can't forget about our social butterfly Val. She has an interview coming up and is very excited about it. **Good luck Val!**



### Goals and Dreams

The biggest goal at Hamilton House everyone would like to reach is **improving their overall health**. Staff has been working with them to learn how to read labels and which foods are better than others. Everyone at Hamilton House has also been taking part in physical activity at the YMCA. They can't wait until its summer to be able to ride bikes again!

**Sean** would really like to go to a WWE match soon. He likes being in Special Olympics, going to the YMCA and the library with his housemates and staff. He also went to a church breakfast and helped set up. We are always doing something over here at Hamilton House! Arts and crafts, cards and board games are always big at this house.

### Social Skills Group

Social Skills Group was held on February 5th and **facilitated by our Therapist, Justin Stangl, MSE PCTL**. The topic was non-verbal communication. Those who participated in the group included **Terra, Kevin, Crystal, Terrance, and Amanda from Seventh Street Suites, Rachel and Justin from Prospect Place, Jeff from Hamilton House and Todd from Reynolds Place**.

The group enjoyed playing a jeopardy game based on non-verbal communication where participants had to identify gestures, voice tones, and facial expressions and connect them with emotions. The group was divided into two teams and they were able to choose from a variety of categories based around non-verbal communication. Everyone enjoyed watching Justin Stangl act out a variety of emotions and shared some laughs. Everyone worked well together as a team.

### Special Olympic News

Special Olympics basketball was in full swing in February. First was a basketball tournament on February 1st in Stevens Point. MRCS had 9 residents who participated including, **Crystal and Lee who are on the Dream Team, Scott, Mike P. Curtus and Kevin who are on the Wolf pack team, Sean and Justin who are on the Wildcat team and Todd on the Wolverines**. Everyone did wonderful job. There were a few wins that weekend and some great sportsmanship. The teams continued to practice each week and went to Menomonie for the regional tournament. **Crystal, Mike P. and Curtus** went the night before the big games and stayed in a hotel. A few of the teams placed and the Dream team (Crystal and Lee's team) even came in first place and will be moving on. The basketball season ended for the year for some of the teams, but everyone celebrated with a pizza party.

**Crystal and Heather** also participated in Special Olympics swimming and went to weekly practices.

At the end of the month, Special Olympics soccer started too! **Curtus and Zach** have taken an interest in soccer and have joined the team. Zach has always liked soccer and was happy to get involved. Curtus has not tried soccer much, but is willing to give it a try. He was told that with his natural leadership and good sportsmanship skills, he can make a good go at any sport. We look forward to reporting on their progress.

The **Special Olympics Polar Plunge** took place on February 22nd at Sunny Vale Park. There was a lot of interest from the various programs to attend this event. **Lee and Justin dressed in Packers gear for their jump.** Justin even jumped twice! Jumpers needed to raise at least \$75 this year in order to jump, that was a nice contribution to Special Olympics and both guys took pride in supporting Special Olympics' good cause.



#### **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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