



THE BEACON

The Official Newsletter of Prentice House INC.

www.prenticehouse.org

2012 edition

Reflecting on 20 Years



It's certainly hard to believe that 20 years have gone by since Prentice House 1 received our first license to operate from the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services. Those 20 years have certainly presented challenges, changes, and memories. When we opened Prentice House 1 with five residents, I never imagined we would eventually have 3 programs, 24 residents and 23 staff members.

Through all of the changes, a couple of things have remained constant. Our commitment to building relationships with our residents and families that result in real and lasting change is still the foundation of everything we do. It is the first lesson that every staff member receives, and it is the reason that so many of our residents remain connected to our program years after their discharge. Also, the continued support of the counties, placing agencies, and families we work with allows us to continue developing these relationships and positively impacting the lives of the residents we work with.

In this issue of the Beacon, you will read about former resident Corey Stauner, and his return to Prentice House as a Summer Intern. Corey's story is truly incredible, and I am extremely proud of the young man he has become. It is an honor to have worked with Corey and all of the residents who have gone through our program. It has been an incredible 20 years, and I am looking forward to the relationships, challenges, and memories that are to come. Thank you to all who have supported us over the years as well as our dedicated staff that have made stories like Corey's possible. Best wishes in 2012!

Mike Turgeon MS LPC LSW
President/Founder - Prentice House Inc.

Residents Excel in the Challenge Academy

The Wisconsin Challenge Academy has become a valuable resource for many Prentice House residents over the past several years. The Academy is run by the National Guard at Fort McCoy and offers young men who are 17 years of age with no felonies on their criminal record and credit deficient the opportunity to earn a high school diploma. Along with academic benefits, the Academy provides a structured environment that promotes character development through strict behavioral expectations, physical fitness, and service to the community.

Challenge Academy Cadets are required to have a mentor who supports them through the program as well as assist them during their Post Residential Phase when they are returning to the community. Staff members at Prentice House can assist current or past residents and families with the application process as well as serve as mentors for residents who chose to attend the Academy after their placement with us. Several of our former residents have not only attended the Academy, but also excelled while there. This excellence has resulted in honors such as Most Improved Cadet, Senior Cadet, and member of the Drill Team. Prentice House is very proud of our former residents who have completed the Challenge Academy and all of their accomplishments. For more information on the Wisconsin Challenge Academy, visit www.challengeacademy.org or for application and mentoring assistance, contact Jeff Evans at 715-682-1160 x2.



CANS Certification

To assist placing agencies with the new requirements regarding CANS implementation for all children in out of home care, Prentice House Inc. has trained staff in all three programs to deliver and administer the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Tool. If you need assistance in completing the CANS tool please contact Jim Lynn (Prentice House 1), Jonas Heinzerling (Prentice House 2), or Rick Tutor (Prentice House 3). They will be happy to help you.

Tours & Presentations

If you would like to tour the facilities at Prentice House or if you would like a presentation of our program and services at your location, please contact Executive Director, Jeff Evans at 715-682-1160. It would be our pleasure to accommodate your requests. We look forward to reconnecting with old friends as well as meeting new faces every year.

Family Action Plans

As residents progress through the intensive programming and treatment Prentice House provides, they are faced with the reality of leaving a highly structured and supervised environment to realize the goals of their Permanency Plan. To assist our residents and their families with this exciting but often difficult transition, Prentice House Inc. will be providing Family Action Plans for all of its residents. Beginning January 1st, 2012 all new residents and their families will have the opportunity to meet with a licensed therapist from Superior Counseling. Superior Counseling also provides therapeutic oversight and supervision for all Prentice House Programs.

The Action Plan will begin with a meeting between the family and therapist within 30 days of placement. After the initial meeting, the therapist will assess the Permanency Plan and develop a course of action for the family to follow. The Action Plan will be reviewed by the therapist every 90 days along with follow up meetings with the family to re-assess the plan and to make changes as necessary. A meeting between the family and therapist will occur at the time of discharge to make any last minute confirmations or changes before the resident is officially discharged. The Therapist will then monitor the resident's weekly After Care Reports, and follow up with the family as needed through the duration of the After Care.

Prentice House Inc. continues striving to provide positive outcomes for its residents as well as developing new strategies to meet the needs of their families and placing agencies. We are excited to assist our residents and families through this most crucial time in their placement, as well as adding Family Action Plans to the list of services we provide.

New Program Coordinator Hired

Prentice House recently promoted Tom Bolka to the position of Program Coordinator. Tom is a graduate of Northland College and has worked for Prentice House since 2004 in various capacities. His most recent position was as Assistant Director at Prentice House 1. Tom's many duties include supervision of our On Site School, ensuring compliance with state licensing requirements, and coordination of services and programming between our three group homes. Tom's leadership and experience will be a valuable asset in helping Prentice House adapt to changes as well as developing new strategies to best serve our residents, families, and placing agencies in the future. Congratulations Tom!



Prentice Health Promotes Healthy Lifestyles

While at Prentice House, residents live in a structured environment with busy schedules that include educational services, therapeutic services, community service projects, and extracurricular activities. Recreational activities are also an important aspect of each residents programming. Our location in northern Wisconsin gives staff and residents numerous outdoor recreational venues. Whether fishing on Lake Superior, hiking the North Country Trail, or snowshoeing through the Chequamegon National Forest, the opportunities are endless. Many of the staff at Prentice House bring their own passion for outdoor recreation to their job, and they pass along their knowledge and lessons to the residents they work with. These experiences provide sustainable and healthy lifestyle alternatives to residents that can be applied through their adult lives.

Former Resident Gives Back

The summer of 2011 presented Prentice House Inc. with an incredible opportunity and honor. Former resident, Corey Stauner, applied for one of two summer internships that were offered. Prentice House began its internship program in 2009 for college students at least 20 yrs. of age who are enrolled in a human service field of study. Corey's application for the internship was unexpected although it was not surprising. As a resident at Prentice House, Corey displayed strong character, leadership, work ethic, and enthusiasm. He excelled in school as well, both academically and athletically. To say he displayed potential would be an understatement.



After being successfully discharged from Prentice House, Corey went on to fulfill his potential in big ways. His accomplishments in high school were many. Most notable were qualifying for the WIAA state Tennis Tournament as well as earning the prestigious title of Valedictorian for his graduating class. Corey went on to enroll at the University of Wisconsin LaCrosse where he is currently a Junior Pre-Law student, double majoring in Political Science and Sociology with a Criminal Justice Minor. Needless to say, Corey's resume filled the requirements for an internship position, and he was gladly offered the job. It was evident from the beginning that Corey was going to do well. He came to work every day with the same energy and enthusiasm that he had displayed when he was younger. These qualities, along with his abilities to connect and form relationships with the residents were a valuable resource. Throughout the summer, Corey worked directly with residents during their daily structured activities, programming, and community service events. He was a positive role model for them as well as a living example that success can be achieved through hard work, perseverance, and determination. There is no doubt that Corey had a lasting impact on our residents, and it was a pleasure to have him as part of our team.

Now that he is back in school, Corey continues to excel in the classroom while pursuing his degree. He hopes to work for Prentice House again during the summer of 2012, and one of his goals is to possibly become a full time staff member after he graduates. Like many former residents, Corey's connection with the program and staff at Prentice House has extended into his adult life. His story continues to be an inspiration to all of our residents, and we are proud of the man he has become.

Thank You

Thank you to all of our residents, families, placing agencies, community partners, and staff for the continued support of our programs. Your efforts help to make our group homes and positive impacts on the lives of young men and their families possible. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns about Prentice House Inc. and our programs, please contact us at: 715-682-1160 or admin@prenticehouse.org. For more information about Prentice House Inc. visit: www.prenticehouse.org. Thank you for another great year, and best wishes to all in 2012!

Prentice House Inc.
Administrative Office
P.O. Box 891
Ashland, WI 54806
Executive Director - Jeff Evans
715-682-1160 • Fax: 715-682-6101
e-mail: jeffevans@prenticehouse.org

Prentice House 1
P.O. Box 891
Ashland, WI 54806
Director - Jim Lynn
715-682-2768
Fax: 715-682-6101
e-mail: ph1@prenticehouse.org

Prentice House 2
P.O. Box 611
Ashland, WI 54806
Director - Jonas Heinzerling
715-682-2868
Fax: 715-682-6101
e-mail: ph2@prenticehouse.org

Prentice House 3
P.O. Box 109
Ashland, WI 54806
Director - Rick Tutor
715-685-0877
Fax: 715-682-6101
e-mail: ph3@prenticehouse.org