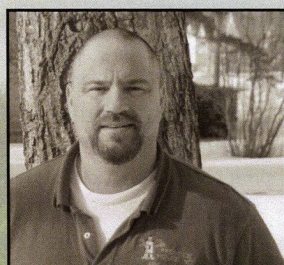


THE BEACON

The Official Newsletter of Prentice House INC.

www.prenticehouse.org

Welcome



Welcome to the 2011 edition of "The Beacon". After the overwhelming response we had from our first edition, we are planning to make it an annual project. I am extremely proud of the accomplishments from our residents over the past year, and the continued

support of our program is truly amazing. I would like to thank all of our dedicated staff for their effort and perseverance as well as all of you who continue to use our services. Thank you for a memorable 2010 and best wishes in 2011!

Mike Turgeon
Founder/President

Pay It Forward

In May of 2010, Prentice House Inc. introduced Equine therapy into the array of services that it offers the 24 residents in its group homes. In partnership with Callae Hyde, manager of Sioux River Stables in Washburn, WI, select Prentice House residents began a program aptly named "Pay It Forward". "Pay It Forward" was created by Callae, and her inspiration was to reach out to teenagers who do not respond to traditional methods of therapy and treatment.

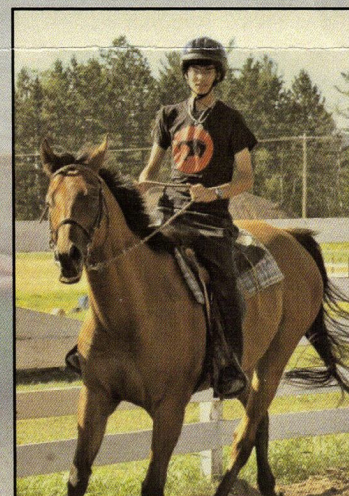
While participating in "Pay It Forward", Prentice House residents rehabilitate a "rescue" horse with behavioral and sometimes physical problems. The twelve week program that will run three times per year is designed to instill self confidence, respect, responsibility, social skills, communication, trust, problem solving skills, self expression, and positive decision making. These program goals were a natural fit for Prentice House residents as they reflect the core values of the group

homes that have been in operation since 1992. The equine program has residents participate in sessions that include Grooming, Stall & Pasture maintenance, Feeding & Nutrition, Obstacle Course Work, Equipment Care & Clean Up, as well as, Equine Personality Assessment, Record Keeping, Marketing & Advertising, and Good Home Selection just to name a few.

After the "rescue" horse has been rehabilitated, it is advertised for adoption. Prentice House residents are actively involved in marketing the horse as well as selection of the new adoptive home. All proceeds from the sale of the horse are placed into a scholarship fund that helps to finance the next session of "Pay It Forward" for Prentice House residents.

Two sessions of "Pay it Forward" have been completed with great success. The horses, Fenner and Good Thunder, were successfully adopted by new families. Prentice House residents who completed these sessions displayed huge improvements in confidence, responsibility, accountability, and leadership. Participating residents also made positive progress in all aspects of their treatment and programming. This has led to advancement towards Treatment Plan goals and realization of Permanency Plan goals.

Prentice House Inc. is extremely excited about this new service for our residents as well as the chance to provide a rehabilitated animal with an opportunity for a quality life. The program has also received incredible support from the community, receiving financial assistance through the Tina Burns Scholarship as well as volunteer veterinary assistance from Richard Bowman, DVM. It is our hope that the partnership formed with "Pay It Forward" will serve as a great example of utilizing our community resources to maximize opportunities for kids.



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.

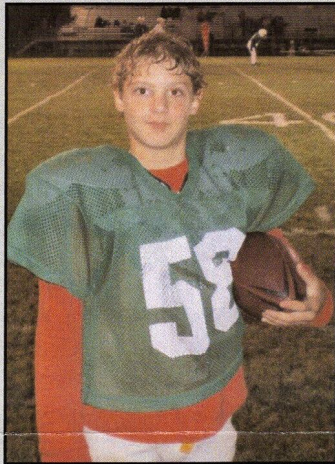
Tutoring Program

Academic performance has always been emphasized at Prentice House, and educational values are a major component of every resident's program. Residents needing additional academic assistance as well as those seeking to make the most of their academic potential have an exciting new opportunity. At the start of the 2010-2011 school year, Prentice House Inc. and the Northland College Education Department began a tutoring program utilizing Northland College students majoring in Education. For one evening every week, residents and staff have access to individualized tutoring at the Prentice House on-site school. The program was developed by Education Department Chair Dr. Annette Nelson, who saw it as a creative way to provide needed services to residents as well as giving her students valuable teaching experiences that will prepare them for their careers in the classroom.

Three Northland students who are scheduled to graduate this year were selected by Dr. Nelson to participate in the program. To ensure quality and effectiveness, ratios of 2 residents per 1 tutor are maintained, and resident participation is voluntary. Before focusing on academics, the tutors spend time with the residents building relationships to gain an understanding of their individual needs and goals. The program was highly utilized through the first half of the school year resulting in improved classroom performance, motivation, and attitude toward academics. The program will continue to run through the rest of the school year with intentions of the partnership continuing in the future.

Extracurricular Participation

Prentice House encourages and promotes extracurricular participation by all of its residents as a healthy lifestyle alternative. The skills and lessons learned while participating on teams, clubs, and other organized activities are invaluable to our residents when they return to their communities. Not only do these activities provide positive physical, social, and emotional benefits, but they also give our residents a sense of purpose and pride. Whether it's Football, Drama, or DECCA, many residents have excelled over the years while gaining experiences and memories that they will take with them long after their placement. Prentice House residents have access to all of the extracurricular opportunities provided in our community, and they receive full support from our staff and administration. We are proud of their accomplishments from 2010 and look forward to many more in 2011!



House Renovations

The end of 2010 found all three of our houses undergoing major construction updates and remodeling. Eight teenage boys under one roof will take its toll over time, and the houses were due for a face lift.

Prentice House 1 received new carpeting on the lower level, and the upstairs bedrooms were painted. Prentice House 2 had new flooring installed in the main living area. Prentice house 3 had extensive painting done throughout the building, and the kitchen received many new updates as well.

All of these renovations have greatly improved the overall conditions of the houses, as well as providing a warm and friendly environment for our residents, staff, and visitors.

Spirit of Volunteering

2010 was another year of great volunteering opportunities for Prentice House Residents. Prentice House plays an integral role in the tight knit communities of Northern Wisconsin. Our staff and residents provide hundreds of hours of service every year which help facilitate community events and projects as well as assisting those less fortunate. Many residents are able to fulfill their community service obligations as well as feel the sense of pride and accomplishment achieved from a job well done while helping others. Prentice House residents have earned a reputation as respectable and reliable workers in the community and many organizations depend on the services these young men provide. Events that Prentice House participated in over the past year include: Book Across The Bay, Fat Tire Festival, Whistle Stop Marathon, and Bay Days to mention a few. Volunteer projects include yard work for Faith In Action and the elderly, the Kiwanis Pancake Feed, and the annual Christmas Wreath Project by the Ashland Beautification Council. These opportunities and many more are great examples of Prentice House residents giving back to the community as well as learning practical work and social skills that they will take with them when they leave.

Questions & Comments

If you have questions or comments about Prentice House Inc., we want to hear from you! Please contact Executive Director, Jeff Evans at 715-682-1160 or prenticehousejeff@centurytel.net. Jeff would be happy to answer any questions you may have as well as listen to any feedback about our services and programming. We strive to improve every year, and your thoughts are extremely important to us.

Thank You

The residents, staff, and administration at Prentice House Inc. would like to sincerely thank all of our supporters in the community and throughout the state. Placing Agencies, community providers, the Ashland School District, as well as various businesses and organizations are an integral part of what we do. Since 1992, you have allowed us to build a program that impacts lives, fosters change, and leaves positive legacies with the children and families we serve. Although we have grown and changed over the years, our mission is to provide the best services possible while maintaining the core values that have existed since we were founded. Your continued support and commitment to our residents and our organization have resulted in brighter futures for many families over the years, and we greatly appreciate all of you. We look forward to working with you in the upcoming year. Have a great 2011!

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