



# THE BEACON

The Official Newsletter of Prentice House INC.

[www.prenticehouse.org](http://www.prenticehouse.org)

2013 edition

## Introduction



As Prentice House Inc. transitions into 2013, we are focused on implementing many changes within our operations while continuing to provide quality services based on our foundation built over the past 20 years. In order to meet continuously changing demands in out of home care as well as evolving regulations, our organization has made many internal changes to ensure the long term viability

and sustainability of Prentice House Inc. From our Board of Directors to re-development of our Mission, Vision, and Values, we have embraced the opportunities presented and look forward to many more years of providing services and impacting the lives of the residents and families we serve. More than ever, I am incredibly proud of our staff for their patience, resilience, and perseverance over the past year. Their passion for changing lives and commitment to our program continues to amaze and inspire me.

In this issue of The Beacon, you will read about our continued service development and community partnerships as well as inspirational stories of staff and residents. Once again, thank you all for your continued support of our program and making these stories possible. I look forward to continuing our partnerships and building new relationships over the next year and the stories that will be made. Best wishes to all of you in 2013!

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

## Family Action Plans

In 2012, Prentice House Inc. began implementing Family Action Plans in an effort to assist our residents and their families in the reunification process throughout placement and transition home. New residents and their families have been integrated into our Family Action Plans over the past year, and we are pleased to announce that we are now providing this service to all residents.

Family Action Plans are developed and supervised by Mike Turgeon, MS LPC LSW after the resident's family completes a survey upon his admission into our program. The surveys are assessed, and the families are invited to attend a meeting with Mike and/or licensed Mediator Jonas Heinzerling. Meetings can be held at Prentice House Inc., the family's home, or at a neutral location. The initial meeting involves a mediation process that allows the resident and his family to provide input and ideas into their plan while developing solutions and strategies that will assist them in successful reunification. Through the guidance of a therapist and mediator, the Family Action process empowers families to be an integral part of their son's placement and transition home. During the resident's placement, the Family Action Plan becomes a focus area of their Treatment Plan and is reviewed every ninety days with the mediator and therapist tracking progress and engaging the family accordingly. Before discharge, the family is invited to attend a meeting to make any adjustments necessary before the resident returns home and begins After Care services. During After Care Services, the mediator and therapist continue to support the family and provide guidance until the transition is determined complete by the family and placing agency.

The much anticipated addition of Family Action Plans to the services already provided at Prentice House Inc. increases the opportunities for our residents and families to experience lasting change and a positive outcome to their placement experience. If you have further questions regarding Family Action Plans, please contact Mike Turgeon at 715-682-1160 x4, or [mturgeon@prenticehouse.org](mailto:mturgeon@prenticehouse.org).

## 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 our administrative office 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.

## Residents in Karate

Prentice House Inc. has a long history of providing wide ranging extra-curricular and recreational opportunities as part of the treatment and programming options for our residents. By discovering the benefits of a



healthy lifestyle and participating in activities that promote wellness, residents are able to develop strategies that will help them overcome the challenges they face during their placement and transition back into the community. As part of their

community outreach programs, Chequamegon Health and Fitness in Ashland has created a Karate class specifically for Prentice House residents. Through Martial Arts instruction, Sensei Justin Lane helps residents enhance their strength, balance, and coordination as well as focus, self discipline, attitudes, and values. While achieving ranks as high as Yellow Belt, resident progress and success has also been evident in their programming and treatment. To instill responsibility and investment in the classes, residents who choose to participate in Karate pay for the costs of instruction and uniforms through performing various duties around the fitness center. Thank you to the Chequamegon Health and Fitness Center for your continued support of Prentice House Inc. and our residents.

## Customs and Cultures

To provide further outreach, resources, and opportunities for our residents, Prentice House Inc. has added Customs and Cultures to the five educationally based groups (Issues, Corrective Thinking, Anger Management, AODA, and I.L.S.) already provided to residents on a weekly basis. Contrary to the weekly groups, Customs and Cultures occurs monthly at the Prentice House Inc. Administration building and includes residents from all three programs. The group is facilitated by staff member Greg Cloud who provides residents the opportunity to learn about the history and traditions of their various ethnic, family, and community backgrounds. Through this process, residents learn to connect with their heritage and openly discuss and resolve issues that are specific to their personal situations and needs. Currently, the group is exploring and discussing the Native American culture and is engaging in topics such as Tribes of North America, Story Telling, Beading, and Foods.



## Staff of the Year

Program Coordinator Tom Bolka was his selected by his peers as the 2012 Prentice House Inc. Staff of the Year. Tom was honored by his fellow staff members for exemplary commitment and dedication to the residents, staff, and mission of Prentice House Inc. Tom is a graduate of Northland College in Ashland and has worked for Prentice House Inc. since 2004. His duties include supervision of the on-site school, coordination of all programming, and licensing compliance. Congratulations Tom, and thank you for all of your efforts!



## Skate for the Youth

Over the years, we have been fortunate to develop many relationships with various organizations in our community that have increased opportunities for our residents. During the 2012 - 2013 season, the Northland College Hockey Team is sponsoring a fundraiser titled "Skate for the Youth."



The fundraiser, directed by teammates Sean Devlin and Trevor Leonard, involves the sale of "Skate for the Youth" t-shirts on campus and at home events. All proceeds generated from the t-shirt sales will be used to fund a multi-use outdoor basketball court/ice rink at the Prentice House On-Site School. The continued involvement of the Ashland Community continues to play a vital role in the support of Prentice House Inc. Thank you to the Northland College Hockey Team for all of your efforts. Go Lumberjacks!

## Thank You

Prentice House Inc. would like to thank all of the residents, families, placing agencies, service providers, staff, board members, and community partners for making the stories shared in the Beacon possible. Your efforts and continued support are greatly appreciated. Through the collaborative relationships and partnerships we have built over the years, our commitment to the young men and families we serve will continue. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments about Prentice House Inc., please contact us at 715-682-1160 or [admin@prenticehouse.org](mailto:admin@prenticehouse.org). For information about the services we provide, visit: [www.prenticehouse.org](http://www.prenticehouse.org). Best wishes in 2013!

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