



Totem Times Quarterly newsletter

SKILL-ORIENTED ADOLESCENT REHABILITATION - SOAR

IN THIS ISSUE

Apple Tree Orchard

by Joe Fiebiger

Boys Totem Town was offered the opportunity to partner with Dr. August Hoffman of Metro State in collaboration with Lesli Blair and Heather Weyker on a proposed apple tree project. This project was made possible through a grant from the Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council (MAELC). The trees will be planted within the first or second week of May, 2017 (depending on weather conditions). Each participant will be provided with a garden kit that will provide up to twenty participants with a variety of tools and equipment needed to complete a fruit tree planting and vegetable garden project. Each kit provides tools for each participant plus two fruit bearing apple trees. The initial tree planting designated for May 2017 will begin with 40 trees. The total grant award is \$6,500. It is our hope that the

project will not only teach the youth the basic principles of sustainability, ecology, and environmental awareness, but may also serve as future employment in the fields of food, community, sustainability, and urban agricultural.



SOAR – Family Fun Day

Boys Totem Town residents work with staff to create one of the games used at the on campus Family Fun Day.



Aggression Replacement Training

Please join us at Boys Totem Town on November 4 at 12:30 pm for the ART graduation. All are welcome!

From the Residents

My Understanding

by: Michael

I never said I loved you
 Because I didn't think you felt the same
 All the time I spent away from you is
 starting to hurt
 And I know you feel my pain
 Feel as my life is being slowly slipped
 down the drain
 Now I understand where I come from
 and it often pours when it rains
 I am in slavery right now with no chains
 Stay praying or my ways to change
 And still haven't seen better days
 Back then they didn't do nothing but
 beat us
 2016 Revolution they just deprived us of
 our Freedom
 We got to understand that we are all
 intelligent and Heaven sent
 With the far misunderstanding of us all
 being equal.
 But it seems we all fall victim to a
 corrupt government
 Even in the light we still shine
 How can we achieve greatness if we
 accept the white man polluting our
 mind?
 We are judged by the color of our
 people.



My name is Xavion. I like to draw because I like to impress people and when I get older I want to have work to look back on.



My name is Martavious. I am a self-taught artist. I draw when I get bored and once I start I can't stop drawing because I like it. The artist I like the most is Dope Chief (www.dopechief.com) from Hamilton Ontario. I was able to look at his original and draw it free hand.



My name is Robert. My Ambition drives me to things I wouldn't be motivated to do without it.

Volunteers in Corrections



Ramsey County Community Corrections is looking for volunteer drivers. The need for drivers is at various sites.

If you are interested please contact us at: volunteer@co.ramsey.mn.us or 651-266-4090.



Face Painting Station

A Boys Totem Town resident has his face painted by Nurse Practitioner Pamela Winter.



Boys Totem Town staff, residents, family members, and community members enjoy a BBQ together at the first Boys Totem Town Family Fun Day.

Family Fun Day at Boys Totem Town

On August 26, Boys Totem Town hosted its first Family Fun Day. Families, community partners, and neighbors were invited to Boys Totem Town to enjoy a barbeque and outdoor games.

Residents at Boys Totem Town worked diligently to build the games with staff.

All participants had a nice time. Families got to spend time with their sons and community partners learned about the various programs at Boys Totem Town.



Family Members

A young sibling enjoys playing games at the Family Fun Day. These games were created and built by staff and residents at Boys Totem Town.



Boys Totem Town Superintendent Keith Lattimore and Assistant Superintendent Kim Stubblefield enjoy time meeting and talking with community members and family members of residents at Boys Totem Town.



Assistant Probation Officer Washington directs races with his megaphone.



The David White and Company Band plays for guests at the Family Fun Day.

Employee of the Month Recipients

by Joe Fiebiger

Each month staff are asked to submit peer nominations for Employee of the Month (EOM). All nominations (and we get a lot!) are reviewed by the management team. As a perk for being nominated and named as the Employee of the Month, parking spot #6 (closest to the garage) is reserved for the recipient.

September 2016

September's Employee of the Month winner is Probation Officer Abdul Noor! Some of the feedback from his peers stated that "Abdul has the ability to remain calm in any crisis," "he doesn't focus on their negative behavior, but rather their potential," "Abdul takes the time to build relationships with the resident he works with," "he takes a stance at times with his peers that may not be the most popular, but it's the right thing to do." Please join us in congratulating Abdul on his employee of the month award. Abdul's Employee of the Month will begin October 1st and run through the end of the month!

July 2016

July's Employee of the Month winner is Probation Officer Linnea Brown! Linnea has spent a great deal of time and energy assisting with committee work from chairing to being a scribe to sub-committee participation. Additionally she worked on merging Prison Rape Elimination Act into Rite Track and other Rite Track changes. Linnea's efforts were well recognized by her peers and clearly did not go unnoticed. Please join us in congratulating Linnea on her Employee of the Month award.





Dorm of the Month

Dorm of the Month has returned to Boys Totem Town. Each month staff vote to recognize the dorm that is demonstrating positive team work and improvement in the following areas:

- Best dressed – uniforms properly worn
- Best behaved – follow rules consistently and respond to redirection
- Clean dorm – complete work jobs and maintain a clean bunk area
- Most upper levels – consistently work on treatment goals
- Most appreciations – Go above and beyond basic expectations

The dorm that is recognized as Dorm of the Month earns a trophy to display. They also get to participate in a group activity such as a pizza party or BBQ.



The SOARing Eagles

The basketball season is back in session. The Eagles have started with some conditioning practices facilitated by Head Coach Assistant Probation Officer Raphael Washington. The team will participate in the 4th Annual Stop the Violence Tournament in early December.

Residents that participate in basketball need to demonstrate pro-social behaviors in the dorm, attend school daily, and participate in the classroom. They must show effort in their individual treatment work as well as participate in their cognitive programming.



Ramsey County/Hennepin County Residential Youth Treatment Center

The next community meeting to discuss the Ramsey County/Hennepin County Residential Youth Treatment Facility will take place on November 1, 2016 from 6 pm to 8 pm. The meeting will be held at the Battle Creek Recreation Center located at 75 Winthrop St. South, St. Paul.

For more information please visit: www.ramseycounty.us/juvenileprogram

Hennepin County and Ramsey County are discussing the possibility of combining their respective residential youth treatment programs, Hennepin County Home School (CHS) and Ramsey County Boys Totem Town (BTT). Working together could allow both counties to better help youth and families by increasing treatment options, keeping youth closer to home, and sharing resources.

This session will provide community members with an overview of the project and include time to ask questions, voice concerns, and speak with county administration. Youth and families are encouraged to attend.