



Make A Difference MINISTRIES

M.A.D. House...M.A.D. in the Middle...M.A.D. Grads
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June 2015

A UNIQUE MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

During the school year when M.A.D. House meetings are in full swing, food plays a large part in the things that we do. Food does a couple of things...

- 1) It breaks down walls and creates a venue where kids talk
- 2) It gives us an opportunity to meet a basic need and bond

If you are looking for a creative way to be involved in this ministry, how about providing a meal, or part of a meal? We are looking for church groups, families, you and your friend, home groups...etc.



We alternate back and forth with M.A.D. House Productions and Staff/Core Bible Study. On the Staff/Core nights we feed 60-65 and on the M.A.D. House Production (large group) nights we feed the staff, many who come straight from work. Those nights would be food for 25-30 (we never turn a teen away who has not had dinner!).

Could you or your group provide a meal once per year? Once per semester? More? For some teens their favorite part of being in Core is eating and sharing together. If you can only provide part of a meal that is still welcome. We need all the help we can get with this. If you're interested, call Carole at (231)750-4307 or email her at CJN560@aol.com to get on the calendar. Our tummies thank you!



Michelle Grennell

STAFF SPOT LIGHT

I've always said that the adults who volunteer their time at M.A.D. House to help the students are the lifeblood of the ministry. And Michelle Grennell epitomizes that lifeblood. The picture to the left lets you see what Michelle looks like but the picture below shows what she's really like as she engages the teenagers with her usual high energy and joins them in a game. Here is what Michelle has to say about her involvement in M.A.D. House:

"I heard about Mad House as "this group of loud and crazy teens" from another Mad House staff member. Sounds like something you would dive head first into right? This staff member(also a close friend of mine) always had "amazing" stories that would come after the "crazy" part.....stories of triumph, compassion, love, encouragement. I've been working with Mad House for a year now and have seen these students grow into some great people and accomplished some great things.

I got the pleasure of watching a few of them graduate from high school this year and it brought tears to my eyes. I attended the graduation for my own family but my Mad House family tugged at my heart just as much and produced just as many tears and loud obnoxious yells.

From the first time I stepped foot into Mad House, I was hooked. I knew I could not live without helping these teens. I thought I knew a lot of things that day. But looking back, I was very wrong. It turns out I can't live without them helping me. They encourage me. They show me how to be compassionate. They show me how to love the unlovable. They show me how to triumph over obstacles in life. And this whole time I thought I was teaching them.. I was wrong."



Staff/Core Retreat(Feb. 2015)

BEYOND THE WALLS OF M.A.D. HOUSE

by: Carole Nordstrom

"Seems like the only thing I tried to do was to keep her from such horrendous places and I failed," he wrote. One of our teens was recently sent to juvenile detention. She is pregnant and alone and her boyfriend feels he failed her.

This girl has been part of M.A.D. House for a few years now, in and out of detention, when she was not living on the streets in Grand Rapids. Our time with her has been bitter sweet. We see her flip flop between trusting God and making terrible life choices.

Something we don't always think about is how this ministry can be used to touch lives of people who have never walked thru the doors of a M.A.D. House meeting. I'm talking about family and friends who are influenced by this ministry because of a teen's involvement.

This boyfriend is one example of being used to sow a seed of interest in a God who cares. This young man claims to be an atheist. He questioned me when I assured him that we are praying for his girlfriend in juvenile detention.

"In your religion", he asked, "aren't those who seek forgiveness allowed such a privilege? She turned to this path for a chance at something to ground herself with and it seems God has failed her". He wishes he could be the one in chains rather than her, saying that he deserves it much more.

This opened the door for me to explain forgiveness and consequences. And then the door was open to sharing how this loving, forgiving God can also remove his chains. It was a moment outside of M.A.D. House that God can use for His glory.

We often find God-given moments to encourage parents or to witness to a relative outside the walls of M.A.D. House. Ministry doesn't end with the teens. We love moments on the phone explaining how to be a born again believer to a mom who wonders what goes on at a M.A.D. House meeting. It thrills us to get a chance to have a debate with the sibling of a Core student out in the parking lot. We take any opportunity set before us to share the Good News with a boyfriend or a girlfriend as we comment on Facebook posts.

Your prayers cover all these moments outside the walls of M.A.D. House. Your gifts of support help us to keep going, able to take advantage of all of the opportunities that come our way. Thank-you for praying, giving, volunteering.



June 1, 2015 we kicked off our 2nd year of ministry. We kicked it off as we did last year with a golf tournament. Thanks so much to the committee, the sponsors, golfers, volunteers, those who shared their story and the golf course for a Great Event

It helped us enter our 2nd year with some money in the bank. Thanks!

UNITY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2015

Another Unity Music Festival is on the way. We've been with this festival since the beginning. We started thru our time with Youth For Christ. This year, along with running the merchandise tent, we (M.A.D. Ministries) are also a ministry partner with Unity this year. That means that you will be able to come and say "HI" to us at the "Ministry Partners walkway" along side the Main Stage area. Carole and Dave and many AWESOME M.A.D. House leaders and students will also be working in the merchandise tent. We are very excited to be a ministry partner as M.A.D. Ministries.

You can check out www.unitymusicfestival.com and get the information that you need.

AUGUST 5-8

AUGUST 5TH IS THE FREE NIGHT GEARED TOWARDS THE YOUTH

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Prayer and Praise:

PRAISE

501(C)(3) STATUS APPROVED

Praise....On 3 fronts. In past newsletters we've asked for prayer for Mary Jo Kingshott, who is now cancer free. Dave Taylor for 2 aorta surgeries. Dave is doing well and back to work part time. And for Carole for her spine tumor. The tumor was not cancer & Carole is doing very well. Thanks for your prayers for all three situations

Prayer....Please pray for the students over the summer as they make choices, especially those who have made decisions for Christ. They will be challenged by satan all summer long. Pray also for safety as staff and students get together thru the summer for activities.

Praise....We are grateful to God and thankful for the graciousness of a couple of local churches as we will be changing the location of M.A.D. House for this coming school year. We are grateful for 20 years at CrossWinds which no longer exists. Stay tuned for exciting news on our new location

How can we pray for you?

Let us know. Email Carole at CJN560@aol.com

