



# Make A Difference MINISTRIES

M.A.D. House...M.A.D. in the Middle...M.A.D. Grads  
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## THE PEOPLE THAT MAKE M.A.D. HOUSE WORK

By: Heather Ruffin, Mike Verhoeven and Dave Nordstrom

(Unpictured are the hundreds who pray for and financially support this ministry)



Most of the 2015-16 M.A.D. House Leaders

I have had the privilege of working with some of the most amazing people who surround and support M.A.D. House. Every year I think it can't get any better.....but it does! We have amazing prayer warriors, board, M.A.D. House leaders, supporters, food providers, tech help..... on and on and on it goes. These are some of the people that I look up to and respect most in the world. Heather, one of the M.A.D. House leaders posted, *"Last night was the annual Mad House volunteer appreciation dinner. A night where it is easy to be overwhelmed by the sheer vastness of the devotion the staff and board have for God and the way they have poured themselves out into this ministry. What a blessing it is to be surrounded by such Godly people that also pour into me, and have for years. Last night Barb(Carole's sister and one of the food providers). reminded me that she cared for my children decades ago when I was in the Teen Parents program. Humbled, just humbled! I am a baby surrounded by warriors. I don't have the words to express my thanks to these people for all they have done in my life. Their faithfulness as they stood by me as I fought faith for so many years.... The faithfulness for so many kids...when you are in Heaven you will be surrounded by a posse*

*of thousands of former pains in the butt who now serve God because these people never gave up. I pray that I want to live like Jesus."*

Heather was in the program as a teen and works side by side with some of the same leaders that worked with her as a teen. Her youngest of three daughters graduated last year and Heather not only volunteers her time as a leader at M.A.D. House but also serves on the M.A.D. Ministries Board of Directors(pictured above). Thanks Heather for an awesome tribute to these awesome folks.



The AWESOME M.A.D. Ministries Board of Directors



### Food providers for M.A.D. House Events.

Mike is a former M.A.D. House student. Now in his 30's he has been helping with M.A.D. for several years. Here is what Mike has to say about the M.A.D. House staff..... some of whom were staff when Mike was a teen and still staff M.A.D. House:



Black Belts Mike(in the foreground) and Tom teaching some self defense at M.A.D. House.

*"It's not just the smiles they pass along like they are contagious or the hugs they give when you need cheering up. When I was a student attending M.A.D. House staff helped me fix my car. It was M.A.D. House staff that told me I could still look good wearing proper clothes and taught me how colors and styles work together. It was M.A.D. House staff that paid for me to go on a retreat or go on the spring break trip which brought tears to my eyes when I saw the ocean for the first time. It was M.A.D. House staff that paid for me to go to my High School Prom and helped me with the tux I wore. It was the M.A.D. House staff that kept me moving thru my High School years. To me they are more than staff, they are like what a family ought to be. They don't strive to be famous or rich. I am very blessed and grateful that these men and women devote their time to making lives better. One day at a time."*

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# THE VALUE OF INDIVIDUAL TIME WITH TEENS

by: Dave Nordstrom



for and last but not least, I like to eat. Get a student out of the group and they become a whole different person and the time is very valuable. Feeding a student meets a basic need and focused time makes them feel valued. In the picture above I was spending time with Chance, not because he was causing trouble but because he is graduating and I wanted to spend some extra time with him before he moved on. Chance has been around for a number of years and was always a delight to have at M.A.D. House. Wildly creative, very positive and always desiring to help. We'll miss him as well as the rest of our Seniors.

## LEADERS AND GRADUATES

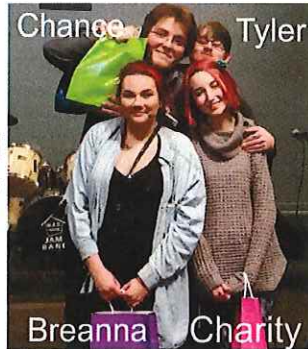
by: Carole Nordstrom

M.A.D. Ministries has its own version of Hope and Change. As we watched the four CORE Seniors walk down the aisle at M.A.D. House and file up on stage, we got a glimpse of their future as we looked at the leaders we have now.

Many years ago we recognized other Seniors and we have enjoyed watching them grow into awesome leaders in the Muskegon community, in their families and even at M.A.D. House. On the front side of this newsletter, you read articles from Mike and Heather who were students in our ministries and are now indispensable staff.

The teens graduating this year could make choices that could bring them into leadership roles in their communities, churches and families. We recently wrote about Breanna taking a missions trip this summer. Charity is making a difference in her family with her younger brothers. Tyler tries so hard to choose right even though his life is hard and he has been so damaged. Chance (also in the article above) is striving hard to become a man of God and make right choices. All four of our CORE Seniors this year have made some sort of a spiritual decision during their time in CORE at M.A.D. House.

Those Seniors have had irreplaceable times with the M.A.D. House leaders, who are God's vessels being used for the HOPE and the CHANGE that God offers. We are beyond blessed and very joyful God has sent the teens and these leaders to this ministry. Way to go Graduates! Way to go Leaders!



The Staff Gauntlet of Hugs for the Seniors



## SAVE THE DATE

August  
10-13, 2016

M.A.D. Ministries  
is a proud partner  
of Unity  
Christian  
Music  
Festival.



Tickets can be purchased  
thru [www.unitymusicfestival.com](http://www.unitymusicfestival.com)

## HEY RADIO APP

Teens are very  
emotion - driven.  
Music drives their  
emotions. So you  
can see that music  
has a lot to do with  
how teens act and



Hey Radio App  
looks like this  
on the App Store

react to life. I am on the HEY  
RADIO board because it pro-  
vides the music style the  
teenagers like, but the dif-  
ference being the "Message".  
Being a Christian station we  
play music where the lyrics  
speak of hope and gives an-  
swers to some of the questions  
the teens have. You can go to  
your APP store and download  
the "HEYRadio" (One Word)  
phone APP for FREE!

**How can we pray for you?**

**Let us know. Email Carole  
at [CJN560@aol.com](mailto:CJN560@aol.com)**

**We pray for you at each staff  
meeting. Let us know if there  
is anything specific we can  
pray for you about.**