



# Make A Difference MINISTRIES

M.A.D. House...M.A.D. in the Middle...M.A.D. Grads  
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### MAD HOUSE BEGINS YEAR 27 OF GIVING LOST TEENS NEW HOPE

It's our second season as "Make A Difference Ministries", but M.A.D. House is in it's 27th season of giving teenagers hope. We introduce them to God and help many begin their personal walk with Jesus. We hope this will be a life long journey. We are grateful to those of you who partner with us in a much needed ministry. More and more teenagers in the mainstream of life are at risk of slipping through the cracks as they have more connections on social media but less connections with real life face-to-face relationships. As we were interacting with some students at the Unity Music Festival last month, I was talking with one of our new C.O.R.E. students. I was asking her about her brother who began to really connect with some of the leaders at M.A.D. House. She told me that he was in a hospital getting some mental help. I had no idea that he needed that kind of help. He seemed pretty well adjusted and absolutely loved being at M.A.D. House. He was always there early and was one of the last to leave as he helped us clean up each week afterwards. She told me the date that he would be released and it is the day before M.A.D. House Kicks Off. She immediately got on her phone to pass on the information to him and said that he would be so excited. It gave him some hope that he can make it thru this school year. She told me that he survives from Thursday to Thursday. And some of the people pictured here are why so many teenagers around here have hope. These are caring, loving folks that faithfully pour into teens. Every week students walk into the doors of M.A.D. House and say...."I need to talk to Jon or Bob or Carole, Kevin or Shirley"...and on it goes. For many, Thursday is the highlight of their week. This is the beginning of a new season. This is a unique ministry and these unique folks are making a huge difference in the lives of hundreds and thousands of teenagers, giving them New Hope in Christ. This is the best group of leaders that we've had the honor to be part of



Pictured here are some of the staff for the 2015-16 season. There will be twenty five leaders in all for this year.

### GOD HELPS US GO BEYOND OUR INSECURITIES AND FEARS

It seems to be a different time in America right now. It seems that anything goes. Gay rights is a hot topic right now especially with teenagers. We're dealing with it a lot these days at M.A.D. House. God calls us to love Him and love others. So as we hold to the values that God has called us to, we also obey Him in loving others. Carole and I went to a restaurant for a dessert and as we were waiting for our food, I noticed a a guy and a girl in a booth across the room who attend M.A.D. House. When he saw us he hurried over to talk with us. After we chatted for a few minutes I saw the girl gather her things and stand by their table patiently waiting. We waved her over and the four of us had a nice talk for a few minutes. As I was standing to leave I took her bill for their meal and handed it to Carole. She was confused as to what was going on and asked, "Does that mean you're paying?" I told me we were. She said, "Why would you do something like that?" I told her that we wanted to bless them because so many people have blessed us. Both of these teens identify themselves as gay and have had some bad experiences in the Christian realm. They know our values are God's values. And yet they continue to come to M.A.D. House and hear about God's love and hope in life. Even though we stand on the Truth, God has given all of the M.A.D. House leaders a fierce love for these teens and they can see it and feel it. God tells us to love Him most of all and then love others. So as the hands of Jesus, we at M.A.D. House reach out to the heavy hearted, as His feet we run to the fallen and the lost. And I believe that when we give God our fears and insecurities, he gives us what we need to go beyond our comfort level and seek out the lost to shine God's light for them to see. We leave it up to God to work in their hearts. That's really all we can do. Be obedient and trust Him to be the agent of change in a kids heart.

**WWW.MADMINISTRIES.NET**

Please check out our new web site. It is heavily under construction, yet it has a lot going on. If you'd like to contribute to this ministry, you can give your tax deductible gift thru this site with any debit or credit card. We value your help and we need your help to keep this unique ministry going.

### ALL-IN

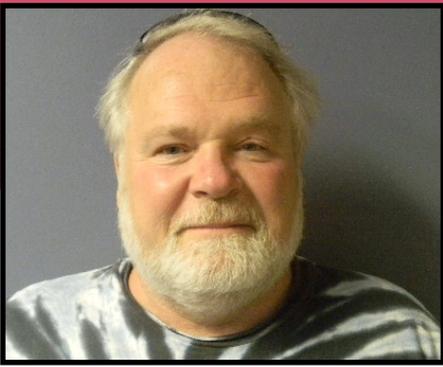
"Do you think I really matter to God?", a student asked me. Are we ALL-IN as God's Church to give a hurting world hope that they "matter to God?"

That's the theme of the M.A.D. House 5th annual Community Dinner. It's happening on November 12. We're still looking at a couple of locations and will have it on our web site soon. We hope you will consider attending this event. Meet the staff and students, hear some of their stories, have a great meal and see how you can help give them hope.

We are looking for Table Hosts that will fill 7 spots at a table. There is no cost to you for this.

Contact Dave Nordstrom at 231-750-3728 or email at CLmadhouse2000@aol.com

**MORE INFO ON  
WWW.MADMINISTRIES.NET**



Kevin Simonelli

# STAFF PROFILE

I would like to introduce you to Kevin Simonelli. Darla (Kevin's wife) was the first of the two of them to get involved. Kevin came to us about a year later and started out as a security person. And because he dealt with the more troubled kids who attended M.A.D. House, he built strong ties with them. One of the problems we had back then was that students would come to M.A.D. House for the fun part and then leave before we began the more serious discussion time. When students leave the building during the meeting, we make them also leave the church property so that we don't have parking lot problems. Before making them leave the property, he would try to coax them back in. They said, "we're not comfortable with the small group stuff". Then they said something interesting. They asked, "Why can't we do a small group out here and you can be our small group leader?" So that's how Kevin also started running a small group, with the exception that they did their small group inside with the rest. Kevin has a special gift in working with the tougher kids who attend M.A.D. House. We have a saying at M.A.D. "When society gives up on teenagers, they send them to M.A.D. House. When M.A.D. House gives up on them, we send them to Kevin". And though we say it jokingly, there is truth to it. We're very glad to have Kevin and Darla on the M.A.D. House team. They love to serve the kids and the kids love them.

## OVERWHELMED

"I need someone to talk to. I feel like cutting again..."

"Maybe I shouldn't be in CORE...I think I'm a bad person."

"My dad doesn't want me to come to Mad House anymore, but I need it. What do I do?"

"I just want to do something with my life that has meaning and purpose..."

"Can you get to Heaven if you haven't been baptized..."

Those are just a few of the opening lines of conversations we had with teens this summer. Often summer gives teens time to think about their lives. And they see the bad, negative things. They get overwhelmed, and feel unworthy, unloved and alone. The only real hope comes from a change of heart. To be able to offer hope to the hopeless is a great privilege. Jesus' teachings show them they have hope and alternatives to what the world has to offer them. This school year we will share the "Story of Hope" with the CORE student in Bible Study. It takes them thru the entire Bible in 20 lessons, showing the need for a sacrifice. We look forward to showing them the reason behind what we believe and how that can change them for now and eternity.

## SUPPORT PROJECTS:

You may be a person who likes to give to projects and events. As we kick off the fall ministry, here are some projects and events that are itemized below that we could really use for this years ministry.

### MINISTRY EVENTS

- \*Kick-Off Ice Cream Bash.\$200
- \*Halloween Event.....\$200
- \*Bands/Special Speakers(3 events @ \$300 each).....\$900
- \*Christmas event.....\$400
- \*Spring Luau event.....\$200
- \*Staff/Core retreat.....\$500
- \*Intersect All Night Event where we intersect our teens with other youth groups in an all night event.....\$50
- \*Vol. Appreciation Event...\$800
- \*Supplies, Promotional material and food for the Mad Ministries fund raising dinner.....\$2000 (The return on this investment will be between 5-10 times the night of the event)

### MINISTRY EXPENSES

- \*Emergency needs for teens....\$1000
- \*Promotional M.H. Video...\$350
- \*Club Activity needs.....\$400
- \*Birthday Cards.....\$100
- \*Display Booth for Unity Music Festival.....\$300
- \*Everything needed to run the \*5K event.....\$1000
- \*Gas for Bus/Van...\$150/month

October 3 is the date for the first annual "MAD 5K RUN" to help raise money for the M.A.D. Ministries work with teenagers. We are looking for sponsors and runners.



The cost for runners is \$25 which gets you into the race and an official race t-shirt.

### THERE ARE 3 LEVELS OF SPONSORSHIP

**PLATINUM:** Along with advertising in event material this level gets 20 free runners. This is \$1,000.

**GOLD:** This is \$500 and gets advertising and 10 free runners.

**SILVER:** This is \$100, which gets advertising and 2 free runners.

Charles Connell, the M.A.D. in the MIDDLE(middle school) ministry staff is spearheading this event. He can be contacted at (231)215-5814.

Also check out [www.madministries.net](http://www.madministries.net) for information on how to sign up. Or [www.facebook.com/madhousemuskegon](http://www.facebook.com/madhousemuskegon)

## HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

**During our staff meetings every other Tuesday, we are going to pray for YOU, the supporters of this ministry. We will pick 3 names and pray specifically for those folks that week. If you have prayer requests, please email them to Carole at: [CJN560@aol.com](mailto:CJN560@aol.com)**