

Rob Baumgarn – Facilities and Youth Recreation Coordinator

Softball/Baseball

This past year WCER joined together with the softball association. We helped with the administrative portion of the league. We were in charge of registration, field maintenance, finding umpires and creating schedules. Members of the league are NLS, Marshall, MACCRA Y, Paynesville, BOLD and Willmar. It looks like we will be adding a few more communities to the league.

Numbers continue to be strong. With the help of parent volunteers as coaches, we have seen a positive turn around in our youth baseball programs. We are able to play several games with other towns and the level of play continues to grow.

We currently administrate the 3rd/4th grade, 5th/6th grade, 7th grade, 8th/9th grade baseball leagues and U-10, U-12, U-14 and U-16 leagues.

We made T-ball as a stand alone program the past couple of years. T-ball has become one of the most popular programs that we have.

Youth football-

Our 5th and 6th tackle football program is one of the most popular programs that we have running. We have 5 teams in Willmar and we play other towns. These towns are NLS, Atwater, MACCRA Y and Morris. With the new Roosevelt complex up and running now, it is the player's great place to play.

Youth Basketball-

We partnered with Ridgewater College to do a drills and skills with grades 3-6.

Youth Soccer-

Numbers continue to grow. We are working together with the Summer Soccer Association on fields and schedules. Soccer has become a very popular sport in Willmar

Brad Bonk Adult Recreation/Aquatic Coordinator

Adult Recreation:

The Adult Recreation program continues to produce high numbers of participants in the three programs offered. These programs have benefited from the large amount of facility space that the program has been allowed to use. In the winter alone adult recreation used 40% of the gym space available in the community after school. The following is a break down of the categories in which adult recreation was offered starting Nov. 07 through Oct 08.

The 07/08 Basketball program contained 24 teams in the 3 winter leagues with an additional 7 teams competing in the spring leagues. Once again a successful basketball Winter Classic tournament was held with 10 team participating.

The Volleyball program in 07/08 contained 65 winter volleyball teams participating in 7 leagues with an additional 8 spring volleyball teams participating in one league. These leagues started in early Nov. and concluded in late April. The Co Rec. Winter Classic Volleyball tournament did not take place in 08 due to low number of team registered. The Women's Winter Classic Volleyball tournament did take place with 8 teams participating in two divisions.

There were 55 teams that competed in the summer softball leagues that ran from early May to late August Monday through Friday. The fall softball league contained 12 teams in two divisions (Co Rec. and Men's).

The City of Willmar's Public Works employees produce some of the nicest outdoor ice in the state, and the time and effort that they put in is utilized by a number of citizens in the community. The rinks and warming houses were open from mid Dec. through the middle of Jan. These warming houses were staffed from 4 to 9 on the weekdays and 1-9 on the weekends.

Aquatics Center:

The summer of 2008 was the fourth full year of service. We have a great group of lifeguards, who do a great job at the Aquatics Center. The attendance of the Aquatics Center was very strong this past summer. There were very few days the Aquatics Center was closed due to bad weather. Some of the data that was collected:

- *We had over 16,500 people come through and use Dorothy Olson Aquatics Center.*
- *For the third year in a row the week of SonShine was the busiest of the summer.*

I started with Willmar Community Education and Recreation on Oct. 1. So all of the information included in this report will precede my employment. Currently we are completing the adult winter recreation programming and looking forward to summer. We are hoping to integrate new adult recreation programs for the summer that would include Sand Volleyball, Willmar Fest Sand Volleyball Tournament, Bocce, Kickball, as well as a Willmar Fest Softball Tournament.

Jim Nicholson-ABE Coordinator

Willmar's Adult Basic Education program now has three sites in Willmar. Our main site is at Washington Learning Center and we have auxiliary sites at the Kandiyohi County Jail and Ridgewater College. The Washington Learning Center is open five days a week and offers day and evening classes. The Kandiyohi County Jail classes are offered three days a week and the Ridgewater College site classes meet twice a week. We offer GED testing at the Washington site, Kandiyohi County jail and Renville County jail in addition to the testing center at Ridgewater College.

Willmar's Adult Basic Education (ABE) is also a member of the Glacial Lakes Consortium. Willmar is the fiscal agent for the consortium with sites at BBE, KMS, NL/S and ACGC, Hutchinson, Litchfield, Dassel/Cokato, Paynesville and soon to be added Buffalo Lake-Hector. To qualify for state and federal funding an ABE site must be a member of a state recognized consortium.

Our Funding comes from three sources: per capita monies based on the school district census and state and federal funds, which are based on the number of student hours generated at each site.

We have two main areas of focus in helping our students reach their educational goals. We provide English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction and we offer GED test preparation. We also help students with citizenship, driver's test preparation, basic computer, reading, writing and math skills.

We offer a Family Literacy program, where we partner with the Early Childhood program at WLC, to help families understand the importance of education and provide parenting skills. We have partnership with the Work Force Center to provide instruction to their clients in both ESL and GED preparation. We offer GED and transitional programming at our Ridgewater site. We have an evening citizenship class currently in session.

Tammy Rudningen – Youth Development/Enrichment Coordinator

The past year has been another busy one! I have continued teaching the high school Youth Service class at Willmar Senior High. Ninety –three eleventh and twelfth grade students enrolled for the 2008-09 school year. These students learn while they volunteer in our pre K-8 classrooms. The classroom teachers enjoy the extra hand in the classroom and the Youth Service students benefit from the many learning opportunities that occur. Over 3,000 volunteer hours will take place during these four terms.

Prairie Fire Theatre returned to Willmar for the twelfth year in a row to put together two successful shows. The popular shows involved about 150 local youth. The touring actors were also able to visit all of the first and second grade classrooms in the district as a result of a cooperative effort with the Willmar Area Arts Council.

A collaborative effort continues with Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center that allows for several outdoor hands on learning experiences for children and their families.

The Rural Youth Leadership Conference for students in grades 6-8 was a huge success with maximum enrollment and excellent participation. This annual event is a collaborative effort with WCER and ACGC Community Education programs. The Rural Youth Leaders continue to do a variety of “random acts of kindness” at the 6th–8th grade levels. One of the local group’s favorite projects was the day the group volunteered at our local humane society. The large mural at Kennedy’s Cardinal Place was also made possible by the efforts of a local artist and the young participants of Cardinal Place.

As a STRIVE mentor, I am again paired with a student who is falling behind academically. This mentor program has proved to be quite valuable to students who struggle academically and are at risk of not graduating. My student is working hard towards earning her diploma and graduating with her class.

Heart & Sole Running Club continues to be a popular spring activity for youth in grades 5-6. Participation in the Foot Lake 4 is a highlight for the large group.

Academy Camp took on a new name and a new look for 2008. It is now called Camp Brainiac. Group t-shirts and root beer floats were additions to the program this year. Attendance was down overall, but the students and teachers who attended called it a success. Plans for 2009 include a location move to Willmar Junior High.

“KIDS KAMP” (**K**ids **A**re **M**arvelous **P**eople) was implemented this summer in place of the older “On the Road” program. It offered a variety of hands-on adventures in our local parks for youth in grades 1-6. “KAMP” took place at eight of our local parks over the season. Participation was less than hoped for and some adjustments will be made for the upcoming season.

General adult enrichment offerings continue to evolve as the needs arise in the community. Several new classes were offered in each activity brochure. There has been a trend in decreased enrollment in adult enrichment classes. However, we have seen increased usage of Washington Room 111 as a classroom/meeting room for a variety of WCER programs.

Danae Sischo – Cardinal Place Coordinator

Cardinal Place school age care program is offered before and after school, on non-school days, and over the summer to grades K-6 and to the Cardinal Kids Preschool students. Cardinal Place programming is offered at Kennedy, Jefferson, and Lincoln Elementary Schools, with students from Roosevelt and CCS bussed to sites. Over the last year, Cardinal Place served around 250 kids and their families by providing quality school age care.

It is the goal of Cardinal Place staff to provide a caring and fun environment for children that meets their social, physical, and emotional needs through a variety of experiences and activities. We encourage children to make positive choices while promoting self awareness, fostering creativity and providing leadership opportunities.

2008 brought many positive changes to Cardinal Place. In 2007, our main focuses for change were on providing a safe environment, increasing program structure, hiring a Site Supervisor for each site, drawing on staff creativity and strength in activity planning, and increasing staff retention. In 2008, changes were focused on our summer programming, offering enrichment opportunities with our afterschool programming, and making Cardinal Place more efficient and family-friendly. Our before and after school programming includes arts and crafts, outdoor and gym games, science experiments, computer lab, cooking, homework help, community service projects, and more.

Throughout 2008, Cardinal Place collaborated with many area programs to offer our kids additional learning opportunities. These programs included 4H, the Barn Theater, the Youth and Paws program at Ridgewater, the Willmar Police Department and Bike Safety group, Hormel/Jennie-O, and Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center.

Ann Trochlil – Cardinal Kids Coordinator

Cardinal Kids preschool began its fifth year of programming in September of 2008. The program, which serves four year olds in their last year before kindergarten, is an inclusion program for students from the Early Childhood Special Education department learning along with students from the community. Students continue to receive a top-notch educational experience from certified teachers and specialists and staff. The educational piece runs from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday with before and after school care being provided by Cardinal Place childcare program. This collaboration between WCER programs is a great benefit to the families we serve. Cardinal Kids preschool program coordinator is Ann Trochlil. We have had another wonderful year and are looking forward to continuing to offer quality early childhood programming to the residents of Willmar.

Jodi Wambeke – EFCP Coordinator

Early Childhood Family Programs (ECFP) has many wonderful opportunities for education and support for children and families in our community.

Early Childhood Family Education continues to serve many families either on site in one of our many classes, at one of our collaborating special events such as the Read Along at the Fire Station or Open House. **ECFE on Wheels** is our ‘off-site’ programming that happens at RICE, WIC Clinics, Paz Y Esperanza, Jennie-O Turkey store and home visits. So far this school year we have seen over 735 families in all of the programs.

The Family Literacy is still going strong. We have several of the parents the will be taking the GED test by the end of the school year. The program continues to get bigger and better. We have applies for a couple of grants that would help keep this programming going strong.

We continue to work with Public Health to offer **Incredible Years** which is a parent program designed to strengthen parenting skills and prevent behavior problems in children 3 to 10 years of age. In addition to the English classes we have offered this in Spanish and at the jail for the incarcerated fathers, we have just started a teen parent group and we are offering it at one of the local churches were they assist with child care for families.

Kids Together Preschool and Creative Kids Preschools are going strong as ever! We have 115, 3-5 year olds enrolled. We still have a strong collaboration with Early Childhood Special Education, Head Start and Family Literacy

Early Childhood Screening is done on a monthly basis as of February 2009 we have screened 259 children which is a 90% turn out rate.

The **Week of the Young Child** is coming up in April and this is always a big event for us. This year, in addition to working with Ridgewater College Student Senate and Kandiyohi County IEIC, we will be working with Ridgewater Early Childhood Department to bring more educational activities to this event. This event typically has over 700 children and parents attend.

FLOOR ACTIVITIES AND REVENUES:

The Civic Center Arena continues in its purpose of meeting the wide range of community needs as a multi-purpose facility providing indoor ice skating and a large event and exhibition space. The facility overall, attempts to provide a well-balanced blend of rentals, public options and access to most groups during ice season, and works to maintain a balance between ice and dry floor. Scheduling ice time between user groups and using maximum available time for promoting a healthy list of dry floor events requires considerable cooperation from all renters.

Dry floor activities continue to fill most weekends in March and April, with the Sonshine Festival the largest single event. Other dry floor events continue to represent a variety of endeavors, both for private business activity or community use.

Of note, Monaco Motorcoach hosted a convention in the facility and on the grounds prior to the Sonshine Festival. The convention and festival occupied the staff for 20 straight days of event production. Both were successful and extremely beneficial as community events, with Monaco Motorcoach contributing \$7,500 to the local food shelf.

Total ice usage by major renters declined by 46 hours, with Willmar Youth Hockey dropping 95 hours from 2007. A rate increase, and more hours rented by the figure skaters helped to defray this revenue drop.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ISSUES:

Many maintenance projects were accomplished in 2008, including painting of 10 locker rooms and adjoining hallways. Completion of the Blue Line Arena continues with a good portion of the ceiling being insulated, and heat and dehumidification installed. This made the environment tolerable for figure skaters, curlers, and K-4 hockey players, where very cold air conditions made activities difficult or impossible. The exterior of the Blue Line Arena was painted to match the Civic Center, achieving a “one facility” look. The challenges of maintaining this facility with 73,000 square ft. of space are many and varied, however, staff continues to improve the facility by finishing projects, and maintaining existing space and equipment to an excellent degree.

SUMMARY:

2008 realized an increase of total revenue in the amount of \$7,720.07. Two areas however, show concern; 1. Amount of ice hours rented by Willmar Youth Hockey, which is experiencing low participation numbers. 2. Attendance at Willmar High School hockey games, which makes for lower admission revenues. Particular attention is paid to promotion ideas to attract elementary age children to skating, in attempts to help Willmar hockey's numbers. Tied to this issue is attendance at the Willmar High Schools Boys Hockey games, where five consecutive losing seasons has definitely curtailed enthusiasm among young people about joining the sport. On a positive note, figure skating, curling, and public skating showed increase in participation numbers and revenue. Staff looks to re-evaluate season start-up times, and eliminate any open ice times slots by compressing scheduled usage, so that staffing costs and energy can be reduced. Looking for more desirable public skating times will also be considered, as its popularity seems to be growing and ice time is available.

REVENUE SERVICE CHARGES	2007 \$ AMOUNT	2008 \$ AMOUNT
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,290.47	\$ 541.49
Donations	\$ 1,500.00	\$.00
Tournament Fees (Commission)	\$ 806.80	\$ 3,191.00
Skating Programs	\$ 2,176.00	\$ 1,045.00
Ice Arena Rent	\$131,938.29	\$136,133.00
Dry Floor Events	\$ 54,599.22	\$ 59,554.21
Skate Rentals/ Skate Sharpening	\$ 1,423.82	\$ 1,468.63
Open Skating Public Fees	\$ 2,519.61	\$ 3,119.24
Advertising Sales	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 6,975.00
Vending Machine	\$ 13,226.45	\$ 12,088.19
Concessions	\$ 47,879.89	\$ 50,888.53
Hockey Games	\$ 17,189.00	\$ 12,619.00
Accessories Sales	\$ 86.92	\$ 39.25
TOTAL SERVICE CHARGES	\$279,936.47	\$287,662.54

MISCELLANEOUS	2007 \$ AMOUNT	2008 \$ AMOUNT
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Puck Shoot %	\$ 54.60	\$.00
BLA Zamboni Reimbursement	\$ 812.18	\$.00
Camping	\$ 200.00	\$ 40.00
Novelties	\$.00	\$ 300.00
Copies	\$ 9.00	\$ 25.00
Concession Reimbursement-Curling	\$ 750.89	\$ 176.49
Willmar Senior High	\$ 420.00	\$.00
Light Bulb Recycle	\$ 43.80	\$.00

TOTALS **\$2,290.47** **\$ 541.49**

DONATIONS **2007**
\$ AMOUNT **2008**
\$ AMOUNT

Torgerson Properties	\$ 1,500.00	\$.00
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TOTALS **\$ 1,500.00** **\$.00**

TOURNAMENT FEES (Commissions) **2007**
\$ AMOUNT **2008**
\$ AMOUNT

WYH Tournament	\$ 806.80	\$ 3,191.00
Diamond Edge Show	\$.00	\$.00
H.S. Holiday Tournament	\$.00	\$.00

TOTALS **\$ 806.80** **\$ 3,191.00**

2007

2008

SKATING PROGRAMS AMOUNT	HOURS	\$ AMOUNT	HOURS	\$

Learn to Skate	8	\$1,524.00	8	\$ 635.00
Curling	70.75	\$ 232.00	14.25	\$ 90.00
Learn to Play Hockey	8	\$ 420.00	18.5	\$ 320.00

TOTALS	86.75	\$2,176.00	40.75	\$1,045.00

	2007		2008	
ICE USERS AMOUNT	HOURS	\$ AMOUNT	HOURS	\$
*****High School/ Practice				
300.25	\$ 31,465.50	294	\$ 34,715.00	
Miscellaneous	38	\$ 3,795.79	48.25	\$ 4,866.00
*Senior High Phy Ed Classes .00	54.75	\$.00	55	\$
Adult Curling League 3,450.00	123	\$ 2,500.00	132.25	\$
WYH Tournaments 12,452.50	90	\$ 9,784.50	111.25	\$
Willmar Youth Hockey 63,154.50	744.5	\$ 70,686.50	628	\$
Figure Skating Club 15,930.00	134.5	\$ 13,706.00	150.75	\$
WCER			18.5	\$ 1,565.00

TOTALS	1,485	\$131,938.29	1,292.25	
136,133.00				

DRY FLOOR SHOWS	2007 \$ AMOUNT	2008 \$ AMOUNT

Ag Show	\$ 2,224.00	\$ 2,360.00
KWLM Spring Show	\$ 2,365.00	\$ 2,355.00
Builders Home Show	\$ 2,825.00	\$ 2,825.00
Tribune Garage Sales	\$ 1,488.00	\$ 1,768.00
Jose Cole Circus	\$ 2,108.00	\$ 1,233.90
Sonshine	\$22,535.00	\$25,212.69
A.W.A.K.E.	\$ 3,525.00	\$.00
Camper Show	\$ 2,541.02	\$ 2,544.12
Community Christian School	\$ 1,758.00	\$ 1,870.00
Kandiyohi Horticulture Society	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Extreme	\$ 883.00	\$.00
Ridgewater College Graduation	\$ 1,612.00	\$ 2,202.00
Zuhrah Shrine Circus	\$ 1,883.00	\$ 1,855.00
Tribune Senior Show	<u>\$ 2,416.50</u>	<u>\$ 2,018.00</u>
	\$48,263.52	\$46,343.71
Lobby Rental	\$.00	\$ 612.50
Meeting Room Rental	\$.00	\$ 350.00
Clothing Concepts	\$.00	\$ 580.00
Auto Value Show	\$ 493.00	\$.00
ARC Spring/Fall Dance	\$ 750.50	\$ 679.50
Fladeboe Auction	\$ 580.00	\$.00
KAT Rodeo	\$ 360.00	\$.00
Quilt Show	\$ 870.00	\$.00
Cummings Tool Show	\$.00	\$ 580.00
KCP Customer Apprec.	\$1,112.00	\$ 1,639.50
Monaco International Chapter	<u>\$.00</u>	<u>\$ 7,937.50</u>
Miscellaneous Shows Total	\$ 4,165.50	\$12,504.00

Gum Ball Machine	\$ 617.87	\$ 754.73
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TOTALS	\$13,226.45	\$12,088.19
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	2007	2008
CONCESSIONS		
REVENUE	\$ AMOUNT	\$ AMOUNT

Hockey Tournaments	\$ 5,197.96	\$ 9,241.98 includes a state & regional tournament
H.S. Holiday Tournament	\$ 1,516.64	\$ 4,913.13
High School Games	\$12,731.13	\$10,007.08
Dry Floor Events	\$21,060.64	\$21,531.00
WYH Games	\$ 5,647.12	\$ 3,554.27
Figure Skating Show	\$ 1,726.40	\$ 1,641.07

TOTALS	\$47,879.89	\$50,888.53
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	2007		2008
HOCKEY GAMES	ATTEND.	\$ AMOUNT	ATTEND.

H.S. Hockey Games	5,441	\$17,189.00	4,278	\$12,619.00
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	2007		2008
ACCESSORIES SALES	\$ AMOUNT		\$ AMOUNT

Tape, Laces, Mouth Guards, Pucks	\$ 86.92	\$ 39.25
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TOTALS	\$ 86.92	\$ 39.25
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