

We provided over 100 youth job opportunities this summer and cleaned up the parks around Madison- none of which could have been done without you.

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## ***Desk Gum, Filthy Water, Cisgender: Madison Street Team 2016***

Dean C. Bossenbroek- August 2016

*"Listening to six teenagers talk about their experience working for Briarpatch's Madison Street Team (MST) during the Summer of 2016 is kind of like turning on the Letterman Show expecting Madonna to talk about her latest pop-icon endeavors.*

Instead of providing another vanilla answer to what it was like working with her current collaborator, the next thing you know, Madonna starts describing how she battles foot fungus by peeing on her feet in the shower. It's real. *It's honest. It's intriguing. It's a non sequitur...*" [Continue Reading](#)

This is the first installment of the Briarpatch Blog. To read future articles about Briarpatch programs and youth, visit our [Facebook](#) or [Website](#)!

Madison Street Team was started in 1992 for two reasons- to provide a positive and productive first-time job experience for at-risk youth and to help build positive connections with the community while nurturing their personal strengths. This summer, Briarpatch provided over 100 youth with jobs!

## ***Ron Burford: Your Life is Out of Your Hands***

[Wisconsin State Journal - July 2016](#)



*Ron Burford, House Manager for Briarpatch's transitional housing for homeless young adults*

*"They are young. Alone. Vulnerable. Exploited. Every night, perhaps 300 "unaccompanied" teens and young adults in Dane County couch-surf, stay with unsafe people, or sleep in cars or outside, social service providers say..."*

[Continue Reading](#)

***Kids at work: Madison is investing in youth employment to address disparities and crime***

[The Capital Times- September 2016](#)

"Wesley Underhill, 16, was having one of those mornings. He dropped his phone in a toilet the day before, rendering it, and its alarm clock, useless. After waking up late for work and missing the bus, he decided to call a cab but ran into more trouble."

[Continue Reading](#)

### ***Briarpatch is awarded a \$600,000 federal grant for its Street Outreach Program***

Briarpatch had the honor of being awarded one of only 45 awards nationwide! The grant will allow the program to continue helping thousands of youth on the street every year for the next three years. Briarpatch was the only organization in Wisconsin to be awarded this grant- we are honored! Click [here](#) to read more about the Street Outreach Program.

### ***Briarpatch Kid of the Month*** ***September- Damontae***

September marks the first edition of 'Kid of the Month'! 'Kid of the Month' was started to acknowledge the accomplishments of youth across all of our programs.

Damontae received this award because he has transitioned home, started and is attending a new school, obtained a job, and continues to meet with his team of providers.

Damontae was nominated by his counselor, Randall. Congrats Damontae!

Check out our Facebook to see the new additions each month!



The number of runaway and homeless youth in our community is at an ***all-time high***. In 2015, ***1,104 students*** in Dane County reported running away from or being kicked out of home by their parents in the last 12 months. These numbers are unacceptable, particularly when we consider the fact that many of these young people will end up on the streets, ***possibly engaging in survival sex or other risky behaviors***. This is a solvable problem.

By making a tax deductible donation to Briarpatch you can help us get homeless youth off the streets and into safe housing.

**Donate Today!**



### ***Star Volunteer***

Anne has been part of the Briarpatch volunteer team for the last eight months. Anne serves as a volunteer counselor, where she responds to inbound calls via our 24-hour helpline. She also assists with client intakes and individual and family counseling sessions. Anne has an incredibly warm presence which allows her to join with teens and families alike. Anne has a background in

business; however is thinking of returning to school to become a therapist. Thank you Anne for your time and dedication!

### Why Briarpatch?

"The teens, of course- they are each so unique."

### What have you enjoyed most about volunteering at Briarpatch?

"Working with the teens and their families via in-person counseling sessions is my favorite part of volunteering."

### What are your future plans?

"More volunteering at Briarpatch. It is an exceptional place!"

## Upcoming Events

### For Fun

#### Toss a Buck for Briarpatch

##### On-Going

Stop in for a craft beer at [One Barrel Brewing](#) and toss a buck on the ceiling to get a discount off your drink! All money on the ceiling will go to our 'Giving Homeless Youth a Chance' shelter campaign.

#### National Runaway Prevention Month

##### November

November is National Runaway Prevention Month. To do our part to raise awareness of youth homelessness we will be doing a variety of activities throughout the month! Check out our [website](#) or our [Facebook](#) page to stay updated!

If you're interested in getting involved we have put together a toolkit for help.

#### The Cheese Raffle

November 6, Sunday 5pm  
Robin Room Madison, WI

### For Youth

#### Teens Like Us

##### Tuesdays 5:00pm-7pm

Teens Like Us is a drop-in group designed to promote healthy, self-respecting habits for LGBTQ youth. TLU meets weekly and also organizes periodic social activities! Meetings are held at Briarpatch's facilities at 2720 Rimrock Road. Contact June Paul for more information!

### For Parents

#### Parent Support Group

##### Madison

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1904 Winnebago Street

##### October 22

10:00am-11:30am

Supporting Non-Traditional Youth  
How can we best support these teens and show we care?

##### December 3

10:00am-11:30am

Topic TBD

##### Stoughton

Lakeview Church, 2200 Lincoln Avenue

##### October 11

6:30pm-8pm

Finding the 'sweet spot' between being supportive and being enabling

##### November 15

6:30pm-8:00pm

Topic TBD

Contact [Stacey Slotty](#) with any questions

## Why Dane County Needs Us.

*Hundreds of youth are homeless in Dane County every night:*

Approximately:

**300 youth** are homeless in Dane County every night

**75%** of homeless and run away youth have or will drop out of school

**1 in 3 youth**

will be approached for sex within 48 hours of leaving home

