

Beliefs

Community involvement contributes to a successful youth justice system.

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Young people benefit from positive community involvement. If young people are connected to their community in a positive way, they are less likely to offend against it.

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An effective response to youth crime includes the involvement of the young person, their parents/family, victims, the justice system and the community.

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All levels of government have an integral role to play in supporting the successful operation of Youth Justice Committees.

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Youth Justice Committees benefit from sustained relationships with community partnerships.

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Youth Justice Committees encourage and engage volunteerism.

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The Calgary Youth Justice Society provides fundamental support, resources, training and guidance which fosters the ease and quality of service for all Youth Justice Committees in Calgary.

Vision

Calgary communities actively participate in the youth justice system to effectively reduce youth crime by focusing on the success of youth.

Mission

The Calgary Youth Justice Society, through a community-development approach, contributes to the success of Youth Justice Committees by providing fundamental support through public awareness, resources, training and guidance.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What an exciting year! We marked our 10th year of service to the community by hosting “A Moment to Shine” celebratory event to recognize Youth Justice Committee volunteers and the difference they are making, by providing an effective early intervention that offers support and guidance to youth in conflict with the law. This special evening included some words from Parliamentary Assistant to the Solicitor General, Rob Anderson, Calgary Police Chief Rick Hanson and one of our founders, Elaine McMurray. We also had an amazing theatre production by Monsignor Smith Jr. High students and a video presentation of testimonials from volunteers, parents and youth. What a great evening of inspiration to propel us into our next decade.

Following our Annual General Meeting last year, Board and Staff gathered to develop a strategic direction for the next three years with annual priorities. Our focus was based on two intentions: to maximize our resources to best meet the current and emerging needs of YJC’s and the youth they serve; and to begin to create new opportunities and services to help youth at risk and in conflict with the law to turn things around by identifying overall gaps in services and reducing the 20% of our youth who re-offend. We are very proud of the good work that we are doing, and we know that it can’t stop here. Adopting Jim Collin’s claim in his book “Good to Great”, that *good is the enemy of great*, we will continue to strive for greatness by serving the needs of our young people and contributing to their success through the support of an engaged community.

We know what’s possible when a young person feels that someone believes in them. On behalf of the Board and Staff, we want to thank all of the volunteers for making that a reality for almost 1,000 youth in 2008, and everyone who contributes to making these powerful connections possible.

By inspiring our youth we are building an inspired future.

With sincere appreciation and great anticipation of a promising new decade,

Sandy Vander Ziel,
President – Board of Directors

Leann Acheson,
Acting President

Denise Blair,
Executive Director

300+ Youth Justice Committee volunteers
200 volunteers who have been with the program for
3 years or more
155 volunteers have served 5 years or more
9 13 year volunteers
12,000 volunteer hours donated in 2009
24 Youth Justice Committees in Calgary
140+ Calgary Communities served
750 youth supported by YJCs in 2009
9750 youth served in the last 12 years

OUR SUPPORTERS

The Calgary Youth Justice Society would like to give a heartfelt thank you to our supporters:



THE CITY OF
CALGARY



Department of Justice
Canada



Special Mentions to:

Solicitor General of Alberta
City of Calgary
The Brad and Tanya Zumwalt Fund at The Calgary Foundation
The Byler Family Foundation
Calgary Airport Authority
TELUS
Father Whelihan School
TD Canada Trust, Prairie Region
ConocoPhillips Canada

Our Team:

Calgary Youth Justice Society is so fortunate to have all our positions filled by amazingly talented and passionate people. At your service are:

Board of Directors

Sandy Vander Ziel	President
Leann Acheson	Vice-President
Noreen Hoffman	Treasurer
Mike Yanko	Secretary
Lynne Davies	Director
Gil Cordell	Director
Drew Rowe	Director
Ankia Van Wyk	Director
Anne-Marie Block	Director
Peter Davis	Director

Staff

Denise Blair	Executive Director
Anthony B. Scott	Director, Development & Community Outreach
Tammy McCorkell	Manager, Volunteer Resources & Community Development

Agency Volunteers

Heather MacKay-Forrest	Training Team, Office Support, Casino Chair
Mike Yanko	Training Team
Jocey Bonneycastle	Training Team

“My mother wanted us to understand that the tragedies of your life one day have the potential to be comic stories the next.”

~ Nora Ephron

PROGRAM UPDATES

Manager, Volunteer Resources & Community Development – Tammy McCorkell

The past year has been filled with many triumphs and learning opportunities. The Society has welcomed many new volunteers who bring with them new ideas, energy and enthusiasm. It is always a pleasure to see them working on their first panel or to follow up with them and hear about how their roles are evolving.

In 2009 I continued to support our existing volunteers as they grew in their personal, professional and CYJC careers and witnessed some amazing things happen. I have seen our Chairperson's continue to commit their time and effort in order to make their committees stronger and more functional. In our Chair/Resource Meetings I have witnessed a substantial increase in participation and volunteers eager to take on additional responsibilities and try innovative approaches in leading their committees.

A favourite part of my job is hearing the success stories. These really allow me to see volunteers in their glory. Many share a common thread of how the parents had almost lost hope, or the youth seemed unaffected by the committee's words or urging to get on the right track. Then... the "perfect" consequence is followed through with and the youth begin shift their focus and attitude. I always love to hear about youth that choose to stay involved with the program they were referred to, or the cause they volunteered with long after sanctions is complete. I love to see that spark in the volunteer as they gush over the youth and have sincere pride in the young person's success. I, too, feel that pride as they tell me about the difference THEY are making. Volunteers often give all the credit to the youth or the great referral agencies we are fortunate to work with but very seldom do they remember that they are the one who provided that referral or consequence. But I guess that's what makes them so endearing to me! To me it is so clear that volunteers and youth are really thriving and reaching their potential.

The Youth Justice Committee program was nominated for several awards including Volunteers Calgary's "Leader in Volunteer Engagement Award" and The Calgary Police Commission's "Community Policing Award." Although our motives for volunteering are not to receive this recognition, it really gives me pleasure to see that other individuals & organizations appreciate the CYJS Volunteers and the impact our program has on youth and the community. I have a great sense of gratitude and pride in our volunteers and the Extra-Judicial Sanctions program.

I look forward to what 2010 has in store for, the volunteers, myself and the CYJC Program!

"They [The Youth Justice Committee] assigned me something that they knew would help me in the areas that I needed it. They really pin-pointed my strengths and my weaknesses."

~ Young person after successful completion of YJC sanctions

Director, Development & Community Outreach - Anthony B. Scott

Looking back at the 2007 and 2008 Annual Reports, I'm in awe of how much work has been accomplished in such a short time. My focus has been providing the necessary supports to Youth Justice Committees to enable them to make referrals to youth-focused programs and services, mandated voluntarism and/or community service orders with ease. The Development & Community Outreach Project has allowed that work to take place and has shown impressive success over its first year. Significant strides have been made in providing enhanced access to resources and making those resources universally available and accessible.

Nearly two dozen Community Partnerships have been created and as many new programs and services are now available. A broad spectrum of foci among them helps ensure that young people get the appropriate help and opportunities to grow and learn from their EJS experiences. We've established what are sure to become many long-term, high-quality relationships. And let's not forget...

The Database of Opportunities and Resources (DOORs) that allows for options information to be kept updated, while also integrating a system that creates a short list of best-fit content. By making the list of programs & services searchable by pertinent criteria, the technology assists Youth Justice Committee volunteers in consistently making the best choices for our young people. Everyone involved in the process may be assured that when determining courses of action, the information they need is current and correct.

Live and in use for a short time now, numerous volunteers have embraced this innovative approach to EJS delivery. The 'Opening DOORs Series' is bringing the technology to each Committee and will continue until mid-autumn. For the DOORs Focus Group members and early adopters, you have my sincere gratitude for your support and ongoing feedback.

One of the most meaningful aspects of the Youth Justice Committee program is that it is delivered in community halls and various other public locations, where volunteers meet with young people and their parents to determine a course of action on the spot. When DOORs is fully available to all Committees and used during the meeting process, the Extrajudicial Sanctions Program in our city will reach new and exciting heights.

"My daughter is a changed person because of you [A Youth Justice Committee Volunteer]. I'm really grateful we got the chance to go through this and not a court system. She [her daughter] makes a lot better choices now and she's really aware of how they affect others. She is a much more confident individual. I am so grateful"

~ Parent of a young person

GRANT SPIRO MEMORIAL AWARD

The Grant Spiro Memorial Award is named after a citizen who helped to build the foundation for Youth Justice Committees to operate in Calgary. Each year, in his memory, we recognize an individual or organization for their significant contribution to the Calgary Youth Justice Society and the Youth Justice Committee initiative. This year we are pleased to present this award to Jocey Bonnycastle. Just as our young people thrive, knowing that someone believes in them, it is also true for our organization.

It is a great privilege to be the 2010 recipient of the Grant Spiro Memorial Award. As a native Calgarian, I take deep pride in the city as a whole, as well as the community to which I live. Although beaming with pride, I also feel the effects from the challenges we face as a city, province and country. Youths are too often ignored, silenced and treated far beyond their mental and emotional development. Throughout most of my adolescent life, and certainly as an adult – I have been drawn to the world of justice.

I graduated high school at Henry Wisewood and soon after entered the Applied Justice Studies Degree program at Mount Royal College. At the end of 2001, as my first semester progressed, I found myself motivated to become part of a movement for change and was interested in playing an active role in the community in which I lived. It was at this time I was introduced to the concepts behind restorative justice and namely, the principals of the Youth Justice Society. I was drawn to the concept that a youth's voice and story would be attended to and dealt with accordingly when in conflict with the law.

I was nervous following my initial training and being sent out for my first panel. What would a 20 year old have to offer in a legal hearing? Would anyone take me seriously?? I was pleasantly surprised in the role I could play for the youth as well as upholding the law, the mission of my committee and principals behind the Extra-Judicial Sanctions Program. As a young person (ok – not so young anymore!), I had ease in remembering how difficult it can be for youths to grow in today's environment. I found that the young person often sitting in front of the panel could have been a friend of mine, a sibling or perhaps even myself. I could relate to their tribulations; and found success in relaying my experiences and personal insight. Like the strength based approach we take to many of the youths we come in contact with, what initially was a perceived weakness or apprehension – now became a strength.

For the past 8 years I have been happily a member of the Southland Youth Justice Committee. In 2006, I had graduated from college, armed with knowledge and a passion to teach others. I was afforded an opportunity to join a 'new volunteer training team', and for the past four years, have worked alongside Heather Mackay-Forrest and Mike Yanko in delivering training to those who are joining the ranks of the program. I feel very fortunate to work with, and come across SO many dedicated people, who are truly selfless in their vested interest in the youths of Calgary.

Thank you once again for the acknowledgement, and I look forward to watching the society, as well as its hundreds of committee members continue to grow and achieve great heights.

~Jocey Bonnycastle

Thank you Jocey, we appreciate all that you've done and the future you've made possible.

Calgary Youth Justice Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - May 26, 2009

Meeting called to order – Leann Acheson

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as submitted.

First – Chris Smith Second – Morris Johanson

MOTION: That the minutes from the 2008 Annual General Meeting be approved.

First – Drew Rowe Second – Linda Figley

President's Report – Leann Acheson

Introduction of current Board Members

Sandy Vander Ziel Gilbert Cordell
Lynne Davies Anne Marie Block
Anika Van Wyk Drew Rowe
Mike Yanko

Treasurer's Report – Gil Cordell

MOTION: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

First – Morris Johanson Second – Chris Smith

MOTION: That Tom Carey Chartered Accountant be appointed as auditors for the Calgary Youth Justice Society for 2008.

First – Helen Leask Second – Lisette Clarke

Executive Director's Report – Denise Blair

Election of Board Members – Drew Rowe

Introduction of new Board candidates

Peter Davis (not present) Noreen Hoffman

Introduction of Anne Marie Block as interim Board member. Anne Marie has been filling a vacancy since January.

Announcement of Board Members standing for re-election

Gil Cordell Lynne Davies
Mike Yanko

MOTION: That the slate of nominees be accepted into positions with the Board of Directors for the 2009/2010 term

First – Sandy Vander Ziel Second – Vicki Moorman

Grant Spiro Memorial Award Presentation – Sandy Vander Ziel

Volunteer Recognition

Adjournment – Leann Acheson

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

First – Morris Johanson Second – Lynne Macdonald

“It always amazes me to think that every house on every street is full of so many stories; so many triumphs and tragedies, and all we see are yards and driveways.”

~ Glenn Close