

## Beliefs

Community involvement contributes to a successful youth justice system.

■

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.

■

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

■

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

■

Youth Justice Committees benefit from sustained relationships with community partnerships.

■

Youth Justice Committees encourage and engage volunteerism.

■

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 CALGARY YOUTH JUSTICE SOCIETY

## Report from President

As many of you know, my involvement with Youth Justice Committees and the Calgary Youth Justice Society stemmed from a personal tragedy which served as the catalyst for a journey of healing - a journey to heal the loss and a journey to make a difference. I have been involved with Youth Justice for the past 12 years and I have found an organization and a concept that celebrates the positive in youth while also contributing to the growth of communities and community leaders. As I reflect on my year as President of the Board of Directors, I am reminded of the staff who are the core of this organization as well as the volunteers, who dedicate and commit their time and efforts to making a difference in the City of Calgary; a difference which has a national and provincial reach. As your President, I was and remain committed to our vision of *“Calgary communities actively participating in the youth justice system to effectively reduce youth crime by focusing on the success of youth.”*

This year the Board of Directors and staff will be sharing our hopes and dreams for the future in a strategic planning session to articulate the how we will “Dream Big and Act Bold” to best serve our community. As I reflect on the past, I am struck at the significant growth of the Society and I am captured by the heights we will reach as we continue to grow, change and develop into an organization that can truly spread the wealth of our knowledge, passion and commitment. While we have had many great years, our mark in this community has only just begun.

## Report from Executive Director

PRIDE! This is the feeling that exudes when I have a chance to talk about the Calgary Youth Justice Society and the Youth Justice Committees we serve. I am proud of the quality of work, the commitment to excellence and the dedication of our staff and board...proud of our volunteers and their commitment to improve the lives of youth in our community... proud of our community partners who so willingly endeavour to support youth beyond what we could do ourselves... proud of our justice stakeholders who work hard to ensure that communities have an opportunity to participate in youth justice... proud of our donors in their ability to see the importance of what we do and support us financially... proud of the parents and the victims who willingly participate to achieve the best possible outcome for our youth... and last but not least, I am proud of our youth! Every day, youth are accepting responsibility for their actions and taking steps to make amends. What we can achieve together is far more than what each of us could achieve ourselves.

This has been a very rewarding year with much advancement in our effort to support the work of Youth Justice Committees. We have focused our priorities in the following areas:

- Develop and deliver quality training opportunities for volunteers.
- Enhance volunteer’s access to operational support and resources.
- Establish and maintain effective partnerships with organizations offering programs and services for youth, and build effective consequence options.
- Provide public education to Albertans about Youth Justice Committees and the Youth Criminal Justice Act.
- Work in collaboration with Calgary Youth Attendance Centre and Young Offender Branch to provide the best possible service to Youth Justice Committees.
- Recognize and celebrate our volunteers.

Our team is looking forward to another great year of building the success of youth together. We are grateful for the opportunity.

Sandy Vander Ziel,  
President – Board of Directors

Denise Blair,  
Executive Director

**350+** Youth Justice Committee volunteers  
**190** volunteers who have been with the program for  
3 years or more  
**116** volunteers have served 5 years or more  
**10,693** volunteer hours donated in 2007  
**24** Youth Justice Committees in Calgary  
**140+** Calgary Communities served  
**701** youth served in 2007  
**7,500** youth served in the last 10 years

## **OUR SUPPORTERS**

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



Alberta **LAW**  
**FOUNDATION**

**Solicitor General of Alberta  
City of Calgary**

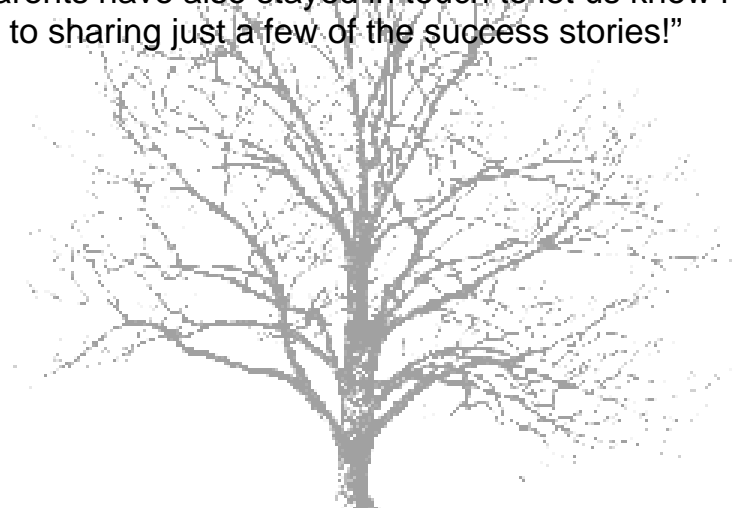
**IBM Employees' Charitable Fund  
TD Canada Trust Prairie Region  
Suncor Energy Services  
Telus Corp.**

**Michael Unger  
RBC Royal Bank  
Suzanne Jackett**

## **“Together We Make a Difference”**

“Youth Justice Committees have referred many appropriate boys and girls to the POWER service at the Calgary Learning Centre to try and determine if underlying learning, literacy or attention concerns are contributing factors to their daily challenges. Almost all of the youth have received service, ranging from hooking them up with community resources, to full psychoeducational assessments and work with our paediatrician. I am pleased to say that a number of those youth have stayed in touch to let us know they are in school, or have graduated. Some parents have also stayed in touch to let us know how their children are doing. I look forward to sharing just a few of the success stories!”

~ Mary Cole



## **“Root-Bound”**

“I had the transformative experience of touching a giant Sequoia, 39 feet across at its base and reaching 300 feet into the sky. This amazing tree had been standing in that spot for over 2000 years. What had it survived? Drought? Flood? Winds? Fire? How had it survived? Then I learned that the roots of this living being, one of the largest and oldest on the face of the earth, went no deeper than five feet into the ground. How did it stand and how did it survive with such a seemingly weak root system? How, indeed. For that same root system stretched out over an acre of land. It literally balanced on the breadth, not the depth, of its foundation.” (Chris Trout, Strengths in Focus, August 2005)

This description is reminiscent of the youth we work with and value of community volunteers. Perhaps our youth are like the Giant Sequoia. Their resiliency and success not attributable to a few strong, deep roots but rather founded on a root system that is wide and far-reaching. As Youth Justice Committee volunteers, we help to build that stability and strength in our young people through caring, supportive relationships and by stretching their roots to valuable resources. As a volunteer you send an important message to each young person with whom you connect. However brief or trifling our work may appear at times, collectively we are extending the roots of our young people just a little bit further.

Working together, we can contribute to the success of our youth beyond what each of us could do alone.

## Our Team:

We are very pleased at the Calgary Youth Justice Society to have all our positions filled by amazingly talented and passionate souls. At your service are:

### Board of Directors



Sandy Vander Ziel	President
Leann Acheson	Vice-President
Sherrie Jones	Treasurer
Mike Yanko	Secretary
Gil Cordell	Director
Holly Wong	Director
Dave Ladic	Director
Ankia Van Wyk	Director
Lisa Hunter	Director
Lynne Davies	Director

### Staff

Denise Blair  
Lori Herod  
Monetta Bailey  
Anthony Scott

Executive Director  
Coordinator of Volunteer Resources & Community Development  
Youth Justice Education & Enhancement Project (YJEEP)  
Program Developer

### Office Volunteers

Kirk Schmidt

Website Volunteer

***Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, my friend, anyone can start from now and make a brand new end.***

**~ Carl Bard**

# PROGRAM UPDATES

## **Youth Justice Education & Enhancement Project (YJEEP) - Monetta Bailey**

*This last year with the Calgary Youth Justice Society has been great! I am excited to see the growth that has taken place with the CYJS and I am even more excited about what is in the works for us in the future. But by far my greatest pleasure has come from being able to travel across the province sharing the YJEEP materials that we have produced with others. I have had a great response from volunteers through the province who are thrilled to be able to use the YJEEP materials in their communities. Thanks to all the volunteers who had a hand in this project.*

*I have also been able to use the materials in the community, sharing the work that youth justice committees do with agencies, parents groups and young people. Most people are encouraged to hear that such a program exists and are eager to work with us in various capacities. I must echo the sentiments of everyone I have met and say that it is truly a great program that is doing great things in the community, and it is my pleasure to be a part in sharing this story.*

*As I write this update the materials are not yet printed, however I believe that they will be available for the committees in time for the AGM. I trust that many of you will find them useful and take the opportunity to share with others about what you are doing. Increasing people's knowledge can only serve to make a good program great! I look forward to a fantastic future with the Calgary Youth Justice Society and the youth justice committees in Calgary!*

## **Coordinator of Volunteer Resources & Community Development - Lori Herod**

*I have been with Calgary Youth Justice Society (CYJS) for a little over a year now and I must say it feels like home. One of the reasons I love working with CYJS is the people, both here at the Society and in the committees. As many of you know, much of my first year was given over to fighting ovarian cancer and everyone's support throughout was amazing. I cannot tell you how grateful my family and I were for it. It says so much about those involved in Youth Justice; that is, we are bonded by our care and concern for others.*

*Due to my illness I am not as far along as I had hoped to be in terms of developing and refining resources. That said, there have been some very positive outcomes this past year due in large part to you, our wonderful volunteers. For example, there is now a New Volunteer Course Training Team in place consisting of Mike Yanko, Heather MacKay-Forrest and Jocey Bonnycastle. In addition to volunteering with committees/the CYJS Board, they spent quite a few hours observing, refining and facilitating portions of the course this past year. The upcoming May serial of the course will be entirely facilitated by the team, as will all serials from this point on. Many thanks to Mike, Jocey and Heather!*

*There is also an e-learning course development team in place consisting of Monetta Bailey, Linda Figley, Dorothy Hall and Courtney Rhude. The course, Youth Justice and the Extra-Judicial Sanctions Program is in the final stages of development and once completed, will be converted to HTML, uploaded to the CYJS web site and volunteers recruited for a pilot course. It will serve as a refresher course for experienced volunteers, as online training for new volunteers who cannot attend the face-to-face training, and as a public education tool. Many thanks to Monetta, Linda, Dorothy and Courtney!*

*In cooperation with the Calgary Youth Attendance Centre, this spring an identification card program was instituted for volunteers. Beginning July 1, 2008 volunteers will be required to wear an ID card at panel hearings in order to increase our credibility with both the public and the youth/parents/victims served by the Extras-Judicial Sanctions (EJS) Program., CYJC volunteers have been stepping up to the plate (as always!) and coming to various events and into the office to have their photographs taken and we are close to everyone having their ID cards.*

*Despite my illness, training and meetings over the year went very well due in large measure to the efforts of both my CYJS colleagues and Heather MacKay-Forrest's. There were 5 New Volunteer Training Courses, 10 tours of the Calgary Young Offender Centre, 4 Chairs' Meetings, 6 Quadrant Evenings. There were also a number of advanced or specialized training workshops (e.g., Safe and Sound, Effective Interviewing, Crazy by Design), and a number of conferences (e.g., the Solicitor General's Annual Youth Justice Conference, Victims of Crime Conference). Many thanks to Heather for keeping things on track and to my CYJS colleagues for picking up many of my tasks/responsibilities!*

*Currently, we are working on developing a safety course, much like the Safe and Sound workshop conducted in December 2007, but tailored to the needs of committee members. The Chief Curriculum Developer on this project is our "Uber Volunteer" Mike Yanko (thanks Mike!), and he is being assisted by three City of Calgary Youth Probation Officers. We expect to pilot the workshop in the fall of 2008.*

*There are many other small and large projects in the early development stages which I won't give away, but barring any further illness I hope to coordinate a number of additional resources to assist/support committees this upcoming year.*

*Thank you all once again for the time and effort you give to Youth Justice and remember:*

*Together we do make a difference!*

## **Program Developer - Anthony B. Scott**

*It is a pleasure to have joined the Calgary Youth Justice Society. Being a volunteer, as well as having worked with the Society through another capacity prior to that, I've long had a great deal of respect for the work done by all involved in this vision. Having recently become a Daddy, the lessons of understanding and the strengths-based approach we believe in have suddenly had new meaning and importance attached to them.*

*In speaking to representatives and decision-makers of various organizations, I need only highlight the finer points of the impact you, the volunteers, have on young people through this program. Awareness of the Youth Justice Committees is wide-spread, as is appreciation for the individual consideration given to the young people and the results you achieve.*

*Based on this, my goal with each community partner is to develop a mutually beneficial partnership which will provide the Committees with additional referral options and enhanced access to opportunities for volunteerism, community service and programs. So far, we are making very good progress on this front.*

*In short, I aim to help both CYJS and the Committees by working with our partners to ensure appropriate EJS options are identified, negotiated and communicated effectively. I envision long-term, high-quality relationships forming in the process.*

## **Parents**

"The situation which brought us to the YJC was not wonderful but the committee was great...they seemed to be the first group of adults who actually listened to David<sup>1</sup>...[The volunteers were] of extreme value...you could tell they cared about us and were intent on doing the right and best thing. Teens tend to act first, think later. This was a lesson [he] won't soon forget: think first before you act"

*~ Parent of a young person*

<sup>1</sup> Name has been changed

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# 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 Heather MacKay-Forrest.

In addition to being a loyal volunteer with her local Youth Justice Committee for the past four years, Heather regularly volunteers at fund raising and training events. For example, in January she coordinated the Society's Charity casino which raised approximately \$100,000. She is also a member of the New Volunteer Training Team which conducts five eight-hour courses from Sept to June annually. Whenever we send out a request for volunteers, Heather is always first to step up to the plate, and we are delighted to recognize her efforts on behalf of the Society and Youth Justice community with this award.

"I am humbled and grateful to the board for the nomination of the Grant Spiro Memorial Award. As a born Calgarian with many family roots it gives me great pride to be recognized for something I love to do VOLUNTEER! The culture of volunteering goes way back in my family, starting as far back as my Grandmother and Mother and has continued through to my grandchildren. I believe that there are many GREAT Volunteers in our community whom are making a difference. I am honoured and very appreciative to receive this AWARD!

I have been a volunteer in Calgary for years with many agencies and organizations. However not one quite like Calgary Youth Justice Society! WOW. I joined the Calgary Youth Justice Society with my youngest daughter Brandy, because it was a way to support her studies in College and our interest in social work. As a single Mother of three this was a way in which we could do something together and give back to the youth of Calgary and support our community. We knew that if we had an opportunity to have an impact on youth and parents we were contributing to a GREAT City. We both sat on panels together and enjoyed the interaction that occurred on the panels. Brandy brought a fresh new light to how youth act and what were appropriate consensuses. Some of the panels were tough however they provided some valuable life lessons for all involved. I believe the experiences youth gain from restorative justice initiatives are the foundation of future community ownership, health, pride. I also had the opportunity to review and be part of restorative justice in Ireland.

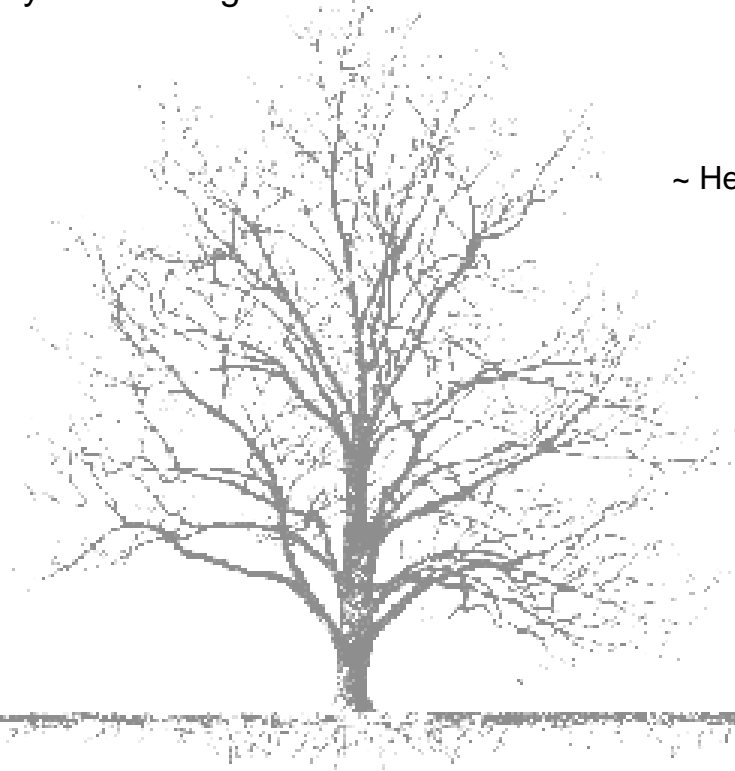
Calgary Youth Justice Society provide an opportunity for Youth to be apart of the restoration of the justice system. I had the privilege to assist at the Society office

this past year while staff was off ill and on summer holidays. This provided me some wonderful learning opportunities and increased perspective of how much work and energy is generated by the board and staff. My eyes were wide open and I value the continued support, leadership and tremendous work that the board and staff provide to all the committees in Calgary. The Society and Board Chair are strong leaders in our community and with the excellent staff leadership by Denise Blair show that the society is a leading organization in the non-profit area.

My involvement in the community makes me proud and provides me with a sense of honour and accomplishment to assist with our youth and mentoring of our next generation. I have been an enthusiastic advocate and continue to be a supporter for Calgary Youth Justice Society. The commitment and roles with Calgary Youth Justice has been my pleasure to work with on the greatest TEAMS ever.

Special thanks goes to Brandy for getting her mother involved and to my new husband Dave, who gives up some of our time together so that I have the opportunity to make a difference and be involved with Calgary Youth Justice Society. It tickles me pink to be honoured in this way!!! Thank you to Denise, Lori, Monetta and Anthony for allowing me to continue to contribute to this great TEAM. Thank You!"

~ Heather MacKay-Forrest



I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.

~Edward Everett Hale

**Calgary Youth Justice Society  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**May 7, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 6:53 p.m. by President Sandy McLeod

**1. Meeting called to order – Sandy McLeod**

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as submitted.

First: Greg Steiner

Second: Teresa Geiger

MOTION: That the minutes from the Annual General Meeting held on May 14, 2006, be approved after making the amendments to the minutes so that they reflect the proper year.

First: Chris Smith

Second: Kathy Hutchings

**2. President's Report – Sandy McLeod**

**3. Treasurer's Report – Sherrie Jones**

MOTION: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

First: Karyann Boychuk

Second: Amanda Salopek

MOTION: That Tom Carey Chartered Accountant be appointed as auditors for the Calgary Youth Justice Society for 2007.

First: Lynda Purdy

Second: Lynne Leggo

**4. Executive Director's Report – Denise Blair**

**5. Election of Board Members – Amanda Salopek**

MOTION: That the slate of nominees be accepted into positions with the Board of Directors for the 2007/2009 term

**Slate of Nominee's:**

**1. Lynne Davies**

**2. Mike Yanko**

**3. Lisa Hunter**

**4. Holly Wong**

First: Sherrie Jones

Second: Karyann Boychuk.

**6. Grant Spiro Memorial Award Presentation – Denise Blair**

**Recipient: Mike Yanko**

**7. Volunteer Recognition**

Melanie Wasylyshen – Calgary Youth Justice Society  
Sandy Prokopiw – Young Offender Branch / Charlotte Allan - CYAC  
Cst. Jean Whyte - Calgary Youth Justice Society, Board of Directors.

**8. Adjournment – Sandy McLeod**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

First: Lynda Purdy

Second: Helen Leask

Minutes recorded by Amanda Salopek (Board Director).

***“Age considers; youth ventures”***

**~Rabindranath Tagore**

“Going into it you have different expectations – like Judge Judy – but then you realise that most people are regular people in your community who want to help out.... Normal people are easier to relate to and have conversations, I like the personal aspect....[they] made me re-evaluate what I was doing. I already knew right from wrong but it was hard to decide at that moment. Talking to the committee helped reinforce right from wrong and made me think about it more”

*~ Young person after successful completion of YJC sanctions*