

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

320 Youth Justice Committee volunteers
206 volunteers who have been with the program for 3 years or more
148 volunteers have served 5 years or more
10,693 volunteer hours donated in 2008
25 Youth Justice Committees in Calgary
140+ Calgary Communities served
950 youth supported by YJCs in 2008
9000 youth served in the last 11 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
Robert Freeze
Gil Cordell
Audrey Shelly
Elaine McMurray
Anika Van Wyk
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Pembina Pipeline Corp.
Penn West Energy Trust
Ensign Energy Services
Byler Family Foundation
tera Environmental Consultants
DESA Glass

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
Gil Cordell	Treasurer
Mike Yanko	Secretary
Lynne Davies	Director
Drew Rowe	Director
Ankia Van Wyk	Director
Anne-Marie Block	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

It is the highest form of self-respect to admit our errors and mistakes and make amends for them. To make a mistake is only an error in judgement, but to adhere to it when it is discovered shows infirmity of character.”

~ Dale E. Turner

PROGRAM UPDATES

Manager, Volunteer Resources & Community Development – Tammy McCorkell

Having just starting in January of 2009 as the Manager of Volunteer Resources, I have spent the last few months learning about the program, meeting the volunteers, working to get new volunteers trained and dealing with a multitude of volunteer centered issues.

I find it very easy to work at the CYJS because everyday I spend my time helping our volunteers. I admire the people I serve and fully believe in what they do. Although we're small, I also have an amazing team here at the Society. Denise and Anthony have more than proven their patience, understanding and a belief in my creativity.

Over the next year I look forward to developing and facilitating the Refresher training alongside Ron Toner, creating an ongoing Leadership Development program to enhance the skills of our volunteers and to continue to improve the on-boarding process for our new volunteers.

I often wonder if this feeling of compete awe I experience daily will ever subside? I can't see how when daily I work with people who are committing their precious and valuable time to our cause. I see people trying to improve their overall skills, learn and understand more about the extra-judicial program and who are always going above & beyond.

I look forward to the next year with the CYJS and having the opportunity to meet and better serve the volunteers!

“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

Director, Development & Community Outreach - Anthony B. Scott

2008 was a busy year! As written in the previous Annual Report, the largest part of my to-do list involved securing, developing and maintaining community partnerships for the advancement of Youth Justice Committees' referrals.

The eagerness of our prospective partners to join us never ceases to amaze me. The awareness and appreciation for the work done by the volunteers are wide-spread, and they understand the impact made on young peoples' lives. The contributions made are immeasurable and timeless. They get it.

Over the year passed, we have had the privilege of numerous community-based organizations aligning themselves with us. This has resulted in an abundance of additional referral options becoming available, geared specifically toward the needs of the Committees and the young people we see. The programs, services and other consequence options now open via our Community Partners have been extremely well-received. The feedback from young people and from our partners has been equally positive.

My goal this year is to identify and create additional partnerships while further strengthening our existing relationships. I will be hard at work, ensuring appropriate EJS options are identified, negotiated and communicated effectively to the volunteers. In this way, we may continue to move forward and make the most of our new, and our existing, referral opportunities.

The vision of forming long-term, high-quality relationships for the Calgary Youth Justice Society and the Youth Justice Committees is coming into focus.

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 David¹...[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

¹ Name has been changed

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 Carol Byler. Just as our young people thrive, knowing that someone believes in them, it is also true for our organization. Carol has supported us with her encouragement, passion, contagious “can-do” attitude, in addition to generous financial contributions. The dictionary has a great definition for Carol, and it falls under the word *champion*: “a person, who enthusiastically supports, defends or fights for another or for a cause”. Thank you Carol, we appreciate all that you do.

“I am honoured to receive the Grant Spiro Memorial Award. I know there are many volunteers working with Calgary Youth Justice that are equally deserving of this award. In all my volunteer experience, I have not seen an organization with the quality of dedicated individuals freely giving their time and energy to support youth in our communities as those involved in Calgary Youth Justice.

I moved to Calgary with my parents over 40 years ago. I graduated from Sir Winston Churchill High School and the University of Calgary. I was married in Calgary and had my children at the Foothills Hospital. Calgary is my community and my home. I am very proud of our city and its amazing volunteer spirit.

I was introduced to Calgary Youth Justice the hard way- my teenager was caught shoplifting at Market Mall. The experience was traumatic for all of us. The Youth Justice Committee was amazing- they helped our family realize that our teen was over stressed. Our child was trying to excel academically, study for university entrance exams, volunteer, work, and participate in school and outside sports programs. The Youth Justice Committee asked our teen to carefully look at priorities and determine what was important and what wasn't - a valuable life lesson for all of us! Our teen concentrated on a couple of important activities, completed the alternative measures and managed to secure a scholarship to university. We were very fortunate to have the Youth Justice system and the caring members of this particular committee to help all of us through this potentially life changing event.

A couple of years later, I joined the Calgary chapter of Social Venture Partners. SVP invests, with a multi-year commitment, in financially sound, community-based charities dedicated to helping youth. In 2007, SVP selected CYJS as one of their investees. I volunteered to be the SVP lead partner- the liaison between SVP and CYJS. I attended CYJS Board meetings and planning sessions. I was extremely fortunate to be able to help with the 10-Year Gala last October - the highlight of the evening was personally meeting Police Chief Rick Hanson and realizing we both graduated from a Calgary high school around the same time!

No one is successful by themselves and this is especially true of any contribution I have made to Calgary Youth Justice. This award should be shared equally with Denise Blair, Sandy Vander Ziel and the other Board members, and Social Venture Partners. Denise, Sandy and the Board were always open and receptive to my input at the Board meetings even though I was not a legitimate Board member. SVP supported my requests for advice and specialized support for CYJS initiatives.

So, on behalf of my ‘supporting cast’, I thank you for the Grant Spiro Award and the opportunity to help my community and its youth.”

~ Carol Byler

Calgary Youth Justice Society
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - May 28, 2008

Meeting called to order – Sandy Vander Ziel

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as submitted.

First – Heather MacKay-Forrest

Second – Lynne Davies

MOTION: That the minutes from the 2007 Annual General Meeting be approved.

First – Crystal McDonald

Second – Brian Heritage

President’s Report – Sandy Vander Ziel

Treasurer’s Report – Sherrie Jones

MOTION: That the Treasurer’s Report be accepted.

First – Sandy Vander Ziel

Second – Morris Johanson

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

First – Heather MacKay-Forrest

Second – Anika Van Wyk

Executive Director’s Report – Denise Blair

Election of Board Members – Holly Wong & Lynne Davies

MOTION: That the slate of nominees be accepted into positions with the Board of Directors for the 2008/2009 term

First – Mike Yanko

Second – Lisa Hunter

Grant Spiro Memorial Award Presentation – Lori Herod & Mike Yanko

Volunteer Recognition

Adjournment – Sandy Vander Ziel

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

First – Anika Van Wyk

Second – Crystal McDonald

***“It is a pity that, as one gradually gains
experience, one loses one’s youth.”***
~ Vincent Van Gogh