

It takes a community ...



# Processing...

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The Calgary Youth Justice Society Newsletter  
Q1 2011



“Take time to deliberate; but when the time for action arrives, stop thinking and go in.”

~ Andrew Jackson

### Scale-Up: Supported by the TELUS Community Investment Board

The TELUS Community Investment Board has provided a grant allowing us to continue the *Young Women Of Power* (YWOP) program held at the Calgary Youth Attendance Centre (CYAC). This program seeks to inspire and equip young girls with tools that will give them confidence to positively address their circumstances. YWOP's purpose is to build confident, empowered women by redefining beauty and strength, establishing a sense of worth that produces power for them to become unwavering in their values and principles.

Since YWOP became available in the fall of 2010, nearly 40 young women - referred via Youth Probation and Youth Justice Committees - have participated in workshops that speak to confidence, family, relationships, school culture and mental wellness. Workshops are facilitated by the dynamic Alison Springer, based on research compiled by our former practicum student, Zahra Shamji.



### Note from The Editor

The great thing about time is that enjoyment accelerates our movement through it ("time flies..."). 'Time' is a big thing around our office in the spring as we set plans in motion for the Annual General Meeting (AGM), and of course, put together the first Newsletter of the year.

2011 marks the 15th year for our organization and, for more than a dozen volunteers, the 14th year of serving on Youth Justice Committees. When people find themselves on the cusp of having done *anything* for a decade-and-a-half (a hat-tip goes to our Executive Director), I think it's safe to say that they've enjoyed themselves to the extent that when those 5113 days of service are pointed out at this year's AGM, the news will come as a shock.

This year the Young Offender Branch and the Calgary Youth Justice Society (CYJS) will recognise nearly 300 volunteers in our city who have given the time to contribute their insights and life lessons, through their Youth Justice Committees (YJC), to hundreds of young people going through the Extrajudicial Sanctions (EJS) Program. The tangible payoff: 80+% of those youth don't come back into contact with the law. The intangible payoff: the satisfaction of having played a part in someone's life that changes its course for the better.

So wherever you find yourself on the continuum between week 1 and week 728 (or more) of following your passion, savour the point you're at. Before you realize it you'll be looking back on a long and satisfying run.



Anthony B. Scott, B.Sc., BA

Director, Development and Community Outreach

Editor, Calgary Youth Justice Society Newsletter

### DOORs Intro./Refresher Sessions - Open Invitation

As part of the CYJS's ongoing efforts to support our city's YJCs, a second run of the 'Opening DOORs' Intro. Series will be available at the (CYAC) on April 21st and 28th.

For members who missed the original Series or for those who would like a refresher, the 60-minute workshops will (re)-introduce the Database of Opportunities and Resources (DOORs) and highlight its various features. Our attempts to enhance ease-of-use and functionality of the database - whilst keeping 'feature creep' at bay - have resulted in two modifications to the database so far in the year since going live. Credit for both goes to volunteers (you know who you are).

As mentioned elsewhere in this Q1 Edition of the Newsletter, a User and Policy Manual will be available in the near future. The manual has been developed (by the same fine gentleman who facilitates the DOORs workshops) in order to maintain continuity with the live sessions and infuse the document with a familiar 'voice'.

A little over one year ago, the original *Opening DOORs* began with a focus group who met at the YCAC. Attendees were given an in-depth look at the database through the eyes of both Users and Moderators to show the nuts & bolts of the project and a generous helping of feedback was provided in return. That night made it possible for us to offer YJCs a universally accessible tool that eliminates the disparity of resource knowledge and provides a forum for sharing ideas among the greater group.

**Development & Community Outreach V. 1.1.0**

2011 will be the final year for the Development & Community Outreach Project (DCOP). As a two-year initiative to connect YJCs with one another and to better connect them with youth-focused programs, services and opportunities for community service and volunteerism, it has been a resounding success.

To date, Calgary's YJCs have gained equal access to over 40 EJS options for referring young people, and through the creation of DOORs, pooled more than 40 *creative consequences* that in numerous cases have been used by Committees other than the original creator.

DOORs' reach has also been extended to the Cochrane, Okotoks and Airdrie YJCs to provide members of those Committees to further pool the knowledge of experienced volunteers and to provide ideas for pursuing partnerships in their towns.

Where do we go from here? That, of course, involves volunteers...

**Firmware: Volunteer Knowledge & Experience**

The DCOP has a finite amount of time left and with the coming conclusion comes the need to carry forward the work that has been done to date.

Prior to and during DCOP, many volunteers developed ingenious resources and methods to assist young people with personal growth and self-discovery. As well, valuable connections were made with organizations offering interesting and beneficial youth-focused programs and services.

A 'Partnership Team' is being proposed for YJC volunteers who are interested in taking those activities on formally. The team is intended to represent *all* YJC volunteers in our city as additional opportunities are sought for our young people to learn and grow. Familiarity and comfort with DOORs will be necessary as the team goes forward.

Interested parties are encouraged to contact Anthony B. Scott for additional details. At least one meeting should be held before summer arrives to discuss and arrive at a common vision for the group. For those whom the idea is appealing or who wish to make inquiries, please do so before April 30th, 2011.

Anthony may be contacted at 403.261.9861 ext. 223 or via email at [ascott@calgaryyouthjustice.com](mailto:ascott@calgaryyouthjustice.com).

**Message from the Executive Director**

A while back, I ran into a little plaque at a card store that offered a new spin to this familiar saying, "It takes a village to raise a child". Here is their version:

"They say it takes a village to raise a child, but no one ever tells you where it is or how to get there".

If you have children, you likely chuckled as I did, reflecting on how true this feels sometimes when we are challenged with the fine art of parenting.

Upon further reflection, my smile faded as I considered the many parents out there for whom this may be a stark reality. And then my feeling turned to gratitude as I thought about the Youth Justice Committee volunteers and the positive feedback that I hear from parents of our youth who feel so supported by their community.

I have been challenged with the question, "if it takes a village to raise a child, then who is raising the village?" Youth Justice Committees have shown the positive change that occurs within youth through a supportive relationship with a caring adult. It is our desire at Calgary Youth Justice Society to not only provide services and resources to help raise a well equipped village, but also to seek out new opportunities to build an even bigger village, ready to wrap their hearts around our young people.

Denise

**DOORs User & Policy Manual**

A document is in the works that highlights the features and functions of DOORs. It will be available by the end of April, which is, coincidentally, when two additional 'Opening DOORs' sessions are being held. The manual is loaded with screenshots, tips & tricks and, of course, suggestions for best using the technology.

This manual will be perfect for use as reference material or for familiarizing new volunteers. It has undergone internal review and is currently receiving the final polish. YJC volunteers will receive it via email and we will post it on our website for future reference and downloading.

**Message From Tammy McCorkell, Director of Volunteer Resources & Community Development**

I would like to thank *Alberta Culture and Community Spirit* for making a two-day Leadership Institute Training (Level 1) course available to our organization and the *Slovenian Canadian Club of Calgary* for providing the venue for 21 YJC Volunteers from Calgary and Drumheller to participate in the training. The workshop provided an opportunity for in-depth examination of personality, strength and personal blind spots that can affect performance and relationships within an organization. Participants learned to better identify styles and strategies for dealing with others and this awareness led to an analysis of the strengths inherent in our committees and where gaps may exist in human capital. Great fun and great work!

Level 2 training will be available to participants this coming fall – stay tuned! It is the kind of passion and dedication seen at the workshop that continuously propels our leadership abilities as an organization. I have received numerous compliments regarding the high calibre of instruction, the appropriateness of the content and, of course, the food was great, too! I was delighted to be part of the training!

Congratulations goes to Amy J, Anthony S, Barbara B, Carol S, Carole M, Desneige L, Don H, Isabel G, Jeffrey V, Karla D, Kate C, Margaret P, Morris J, Randy V, Rosanne A, Rowena C, Sharleen A, Spencer H, Steve D, Susan K, & Tammy M!

**Seeking Board Members**

Looking for a rewarding experience? CYJS Board of Directors is adding to their dynamic team! To find out more about this opportunity to learn, grow and make a difference with this dedicated group of people, please contact Denise Blair very soon at 403-261-9861 or email: [dblair@calgaryyouthjustice.com](mailto:dblair@calgaryyouthjustice.com)

**Upcoming Training**

Our commitment to offering the best training and continuing education continues. New Volunteer Training sessions are:

Part 1 - Tuesday, April 26th

Part 2 - Tuesday, May 3rdth

Part 3 - Tuesday, May 10th

As always, training is held at the Calgary Youth Attendance Centre, 3850 Manchester Road SE.

Be sure to keep an eye on the Events Schedule page of our website for updates and new developments.

[www.calgaryyouthjustice.com/volunteer\\_training.php](http://www.calgaryyouthjustice.com/volunteer_training.php)

**Software Update: New Partnerships**

At the end of February, access to 'Step Up' was gained for YJCs. The City of Calgary's Community and Neighbourhood Services is extending an invitation to YJCs for referrals. Step Up will provide an opportunity for young people to develop volunteerism experience and will provide a certificate upon completion.

This is a guided community development initiative wherein the youth collectively brainstorm, design and implement small events that will benefit the general area in which it is housed. For example, the most recent group put together a winter festival for new Canadians on March 5<sup>th</sup>. It was supported by Our Lady of Peace School and the Millrise Community Association.

To make these initiatives happen, youth learn to approach potential local stakeholders to 'pitch' their idea and drum up local support. Crucial skills are developed by focusing on public relations, planning and financial management. Leadership experience and increased employability are two of the more tangible outcomes of Step Up participation. Intake is ongoing.

The spring/summer edition will be based out of McKenzie Towne at the McKenzie Towne Resident Association and 20 hours commitment is required for young people to adequately contribute. Two-hour meetings are held weekly and youth are en-

## How We Got From 'There' to 'Here'

It seems the genius of Everett Rogers has been proven again. Twenty-one months ago the CYJS launched the Development and Community Outreach Project. With funding from the Department of Justice's Youth Justice Renewal Initiative and the Government of Alberta's Community's Initiatives Project, we set out to consolidate the collective knowledge of Calgary's YJCs' volunteers and create an environment that would allow the local administration of the Extrajudicial Sanctions Program to flourish.

Buy-in and support from the YJCs in and around Calgary has been, and remains,

extremely strong. So too is the support we and the YJCs have received from our Community Partners, who make the Committees' work possible by providing access to much needed programs and opportunities to help steer young people back on the right track.

The *Database of Opportunities & Resources* (DOORs) has become the primary bridge between Committees and Community Partners, recently achieving 100% adoption.

Another heart-felt 'Thank You' goes to the first five YJCs to join us in this new direction. Doing the math, our group

did better than Mr. Rogers' statistical average—in the neighbourhood of 23%.

Trying to convince the mass of a new idea is *useless*.  
Convince *innovators* and *early adopters* first.

### Technology Adoption Curve



## Software Update: Con't.

couraged to make contributions in between - such as research or photocopying – which will assist YJC-referred young people with shorter agreement-completion windows. Step Up is supported by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary and the Calgary John Howard Society. YJCs and young people interested in participating should contact Karla Cote at 403.537.7597. The referral form, Step Up poster and flyer have been uploaded into DOORs and the e-reserve feature is active.

Also, the one-and-only Ed Kubeczek we've come to know and love from the John Howard Society's CYES program is heavily involved. His experience working with YJCs will ensure the necessary time and participation requirements are met for our young people to be successful.

Talks have also begun with the Cedarbrae Community Centre about accepting YJC-referred young people to perform various community service tasks - primarily with

the community garden. Assistance with the spring planting and autumn harvest will be invaluable, with work rebuilding various plot frames and garden maintenance available through the summer months. At the end of the season, a portion of the food is donated to the food bank, extending the reach and impact of the work done.

The South Glenmore, Calgary SW and Sarcee West YJCs represent areas of the city that either encompass or border the Community Centre. YJCs to the east (bordering Macleod Trail) may also find significant benefits in this partnership.

Details will be distributed to Chairpersons via memo and, as always, the appropriate referral form, contact information and supporting documents will be distributed en masse and entered into DOORs for electronic enrolment.

## Chairs'/Resource Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for mid-to-late June, 2011. As usual, the Chairs' meeting will begin at 6:30pm.

Venue: TBA

Presenters:

- Karla Cote of *Step Up*
- Cedarbrae Community Centre

## EJS Referral Options: 00101010

Yes, *that* many opportunities have been made available to Youth Justice Committees over the last two years. Who's up on their binary?

## Mark your Calendars

The Calgary Youth Justice Society's *Annual General Meeting* has been set for May 31st, 2011. Watch for further details to arrive soon!



## You gotta ask yourself - do you feel lucky?

Open call for Volunteers at the 2011 CYJS Casino at  
The Deerfoot Inn & Casino  
Day 1 - Sunday, June 12, 2011  
Day 2 - Monday, June 13, 2011  
Various positions still urgently needed (including Key positions)  
Shifts: 10:30am to 7:00pm, 11:15am to 7:00pm, 6:15pm to close,  
10:00pm to close.  
For more information, Tammy may be contacted at:  
[tmccorkell@calgaryyouthjustice.com](mailto:tmccorkell@calgaryyouthjustice.com)  
The Casino is a huge part of our operating revenue and the shifts are  
fun to work with meals and snacks provided!



## Web Tech Support

Two very talented web volunteers have come aboard and will be working with us to give our website an overdue facelift. Haley MacLeod and Dinithi Perera each bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the project. Frequent visitors to [www.calgaryyouthjustice.com](http://www.calgaryyouthjustice.com) can expect plenty of notable changes and modifications over the coming months.

Our goal is to arrange the existing material in a more logical fashion to enhance the experience of visitors while making pertinent information for volunteers more easily retrieved.

Why not check in now and then? We think you'll like what you see.

## National Volunteer Week April 10 to 16, 2011

During this week long celebration, the CYJS would like to extend our sincere gratitude for all the YJC volunteers' dedication and commitment!

## Random Fun Information

Women blink nearly twice as often as men.  
In every episode of Seinfeld there is a Superman somewhere.  
43.7% of statistics are made up on the spot (like this one!).  
It is possible to lead a cow upstairs.... but not downstairs.  
"Tom Sawyer" was the first novel written on a typewriter.



## Calgary Young Offender Centre (CYOC) Tours

Wednesday April 27, 2011; 7:00pm to 8:30pm (6 spaces open)  
CYOC is located at 12626 85th Street NW. The tours are open to active CYJS Volunteers only. Registration is required.  
Groups are limited to 10 participants each.  
Please register with Tammy McCorkell: [tmccorkell@CalgaryYouthJustice.com](mailto:tmccorkell@CalgaryYouthJustice.com)

## Upcoming Training &amp; Education Opportunities

**WHAT: Restorative Justice & the Youth Criminal Justice Act**

**WHO:** DANIEL JOHNS, Criminal Justice Educator, from The Calgary John Howard Society will be presenting

**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 18, 2011 From 7:00pm to 9:30pm.

**WHERE:** Deerfoot Meadows Superstore - Community Room (Upstairs) 20 Heritage Meadows Way SE

**HOW:** Max Size: 25 Participants Please register with Tammy McCorkell @ [tmccorkell@CalgaryYouthJustice.com](mailto:tmccorkell@CalgaryYouthJustice.com)

Light snacks & refreshments will be provided.

**WHY:** The Criminal Justice Education (CJE) program aims to increase awareness and knowledge of the criminal justice system. Participants are given opportunities to examine and express their concerns about crime and criminal justice issues. Community members can explore the values and application of the adult Criminal Justice System and the YCJA. CJE staff act as resource personnel for community members regarding changing legislation about Canadian law.

Specific questions may be submitted to Tammy McCorkell ahead of time, to be passed along to Mr. Johns.

### More Education

**WHAT:** Street Drugs

**WHO:** Det. Doug Hudacin, Calgary Police Service, Drug Expert

**WHEN:** Wednesday, June 15, 2011; 7:00pm to 9:30pm

**WHERE:** Deerfoot Meadows Superstore – Community Room (upstairs) 20 Heritage Meadows Way SE

**HOW:** Maximum number: 25 Participants. Please register with Tammy McCorkell: [tmccorkell@CalgaryYouthJustice.com](mailto:tmccorkell@CalgaryYouthJustice.com).

Light snacks & refreshments will be provided.

**WHY:** Overview of common street drugs in Calgary. Discussions of drug-related EJS charges and consequence options

Det. Hudacin provides an open and informal opportunity for dialogue regarding understanding “gateway” drugs/relationships and trends in drug use.

### 5th Annual Alberta Restorative Justice Conference

Mark your Calendars - The conference will take place on November 18th to 19th, 2011 in Edmonton. [www.arjassoc.ca](http://www.arjassoc.ca)

### Community Education Services

Community Education Services (CES) are provided FREE of charge – registration is through Alberta Health Services:

<http://fcrc.albertahealthservices.ca/calendar.php>

*Video Game Addiction: The State of the Debate*

May 18, 2011; 6:25pm - 8:00pm; Kids 1st Parent Link Center - Chestermere

*Boys & Working With Boys' Brains* - May 17, 2011; 11:00am–12:30pm; Alberta Children's Hospital – Theatre

### New Volunteer Training

All sessions are held at the Calgary Youth Attendance Centre (CYAC) located at 2850 Manchester RD SW

Session 1 – Tuesday April 26, from 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Session 2 – Tuesday May 3, from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Session 3 – Tuesday May 10 from 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Pre-Screening & a request for registration by a Committee Chairperson is required. Space is limited. No summer NVT sessions will be available.

### Community Education Services Con't.

*Teens and Risk-Taking: Challenges and Opportunities* - May 12, 2011; 6:30pm - 8:00pm; Okotoks Public Library

*Marijuana: Myths and Realities* - April 19, 2011; 6:25pm – 8:00pm; Alberta's Children's Hospital - Theatre

*Eating Disorders* - May 12, 2011; 9:00am - 10:30am; Alberta Children's Hospital - Theatre

Join us on FaceBook! “LIKE” The Calgary Youth Justice Society on FaceBook for up to-the-minute news, discussions and more!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Calgary-Youth-Justice-Society/127087990696428>

### Other Training & Education Opportunities

*The Peace Circle Training* at the Alberta Restorative Justice Conference last November was so well received that Calgary's John Howard Society is thinking of holding a training session in May. If you are interested, contact Debbie at [debbie.nowakowski@calgaryjohnhoward.org](mailto:debbie.nowakowski@calgaryjohnhoward.org) so they can gauge people's interest in holding another training session.

*Resources in Understanding Restorative Justice From an Aboriginal Perspective*

The Native Law Center of Canada ([www.usask.ca/nativelaw](http://www.usask.ca/nativelaw)) publishes a newsletter titled "Justice As Healing" and has a well-organized collection of resources on Aboriginal law, including theoretical papers and cases studies. This is a one-stop shop to gain an understanding of Aboriginal Restorative Justice.