

It takes a community ...



Providence

The Calgary Youth Justice Society Newsletter

December 2009

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“There are no little events in life. Those we think of no consequence may be full of fate, and it is at our own risk if we neglect the acquaintances and opportunities that seem to be casually offered, and of small importance.

~ Amelia E. Barr

Opportunity Meets Preparedness — New Community Resource Available

Chair's/Community Resource Meeting

It is our pleasure to announce a further referral option: the *Feed The Hungry* program, brought to us by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary. This program consists of four smaller programs (Sunday Dinner Program, Community Kitchens, Hampers for the Homeless and Agency outreach) but the Sunday Dinner component is the one open to referrals from Youth Justice Committees. A brief outline is provided below.

The Sunday Dinner Program provides full course, nutritious meals to an average of 700 dinner guests in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. Dinner includes meat, potatoes, vegetables, fruit, salad, bread and dessert with weekly changes made to the menu. The program provides these meals 48 Sundays of the year from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral Hall (221-18th Ave. SW).

On those Sundays dinners are offered, eight to nine hours of community service time (9:30 am to 6:30 pm) are available over two shifts. The first shift offers young people the opportunity to set up the hall and do early meal prep work from mid-morning to early afternoon. The afternoon shift involves the cooking, serving and clean-up aspects of the dinner.

Young people are permitted to stay the whole day and do both shifts but it makes for a long day. That said; the Program Coordinator provides breaks, snacks, and a lunch at shift-change to reward the outgoing volunteers and fuel-up the incoming group. Please use four-hour increments when making *Feed The Hungry* a component of EJS Agreements.

We've had such positive feedback on the new format that we will continue to combine the meetings. A combined Chair's Meeting/Community Resource Meeting of 2009 is scheduled for March 23rd, 2010.

Venue: Slovenian Canadian Club of Calgary

The Address: 2335 16A Street South East

Programme:

6:00 to 7:30 — Chair's Meeting

7:30 to 8:30 — Community Resources Meeting

Featuring:

- Janica Fisher & Marnie Worbets of *Humanity In Practice (HIP)*
- Sherri Johnson of *Feed The Hungry*
- Anthony B. Scott of the *Calgary Youth Justice Society* to speak about the new DOORs database

Note from The Editor

This year-end edition of our organizational Newsletter caps a very busy 2009 - a year full of innovation and success for the Youth Justice Committees and the staff of the Calgary Youth Justice Society. Fresh approaches were taken to standard offerings such as training and meetings while we were assembling new offerings such as Refresher Training and the Development & Community Outreach Project.

This has been a very good and productive year for the Society, with more 'big things' on the horizon (see 'Opening DOORs') and further into the new year. It has been my pleasure to assemble the contents of this publication and hope that "Connections" through "Transitions" have sufficiently conveyed the organizational philosophy of strengths-based support; a philosophy we strive to live up to. That underlying message will continue to serve as the foundation of future editions.

... as will the tradition of themes, visual humour and puns.

Lastly, a message to the members of our city's Youth Justice Committees, our stakeholders, community partners, investors and other readers: your support has been indispensable in allowing this organization to become what it is and accomplish its goals to date. Together, we will continue to create, develop and deliver the initiatives that help serve youth, aged 12-18 who've made mistakes and need help to get back on track. These kids are anyone's kids... everyone's kids.

Thank you all.



~ Anthony B. Scott, B.Sc, BA

Director, Development and Community Outreach
Editor, Calgary Youth Justice Society Newsletter

Note from Tammy McCorkell

I wanted to take this opportunity to offer a heartfelt thank you to the volunteers of the CYJS. Throughout the year, our volunteers give so much of themselves through the gift of their time. Recently, at a Volunteer Calgary training session, we discussed the idea around the true value of a volunteer's time. Although it might be possible to put a "dollar value" on the actual job or task performed, how does one determine the value of what is so freely given when a volunteer puts in just an hour of their personal time? An hour of one's free time is invaluable. It could be used to catch up on a favourite television show, get a load of laundry done, get that much needed nap in, to complete a page in a scrapbook or to simply just be with friends & family. Clearly, it is absolutely impossible to assign an accurate & all encompassing monetary value to such a gift. During the last year, so many of our volunteers have experienced substantial changes in their lives; From triumphs such as graduating, having a child, to experiencing hardships, such as job loss, having to take over additional responsibilities at work, or a sickness or death in their families. Some have managed, despite these incredibly demanding changes, to somehow continue to give of their limited resources to the CYJS. I want to thank our volunteers for each and every second they are able to contribute to the Society. Each moment becomes exponentially valuable to the Society, the Youth we serve and the Community at large.

We could not do what we do without you! Thank you and Happy Holidays!



"The Chance Is Higher" - Ari Marcopoulos

Message from the Executive Director

Good Fortune

In keeping with the theme of providence for this newsletter, meaning: fate, luck, chance, external circumstance, outside influence, divine intervention, or destiny; I believe that this past year has not been as much about luck as it has been about good fortune. Good fortune is an auspicious (conducive to success) state resulting from favourable outcomes. There are many influences and moments throughout 2009 that have resulted in a feeling of good fortune for our organization and have created much anticipation for a very successful 2010.

When I rewind the year in my mind and watch it over again from the beginning, I find myself pressing pause on many special moments: the many times when staff at CYJS have demonstrated their passion and commitment to this organization; the conversations with volunteers, sharing a story or seeking resources and knowledge to make an even bigger difference with our young people; listening to our Board of Directors as they put their hearts, minds and hands into the work and decisions that often take place behind the scenes; getting a cheque in the mail from an donor, turning a great idea into a reality; new relationships with people who are helping us to grow in new ways; and colleagues and mentors who have selflessly supported me to become more as a leader; and all of the hugs, smiles, tears and laughter that have been such a memorable part of this past year.

When you unwind this holiday season, take some time to rewind as well....Where will you press pause? What has contributed to your good fortune this past year? Which special memories from 2009 will you spend a bit more time with?

Merry Christmas and best wishes for a wonderful New Year.



Considerations for Tax Season—Charitable Donations

Income tax-time is when we most heavily test our powers of deduction. Why not make the effort less 'taxing' and make a donation to the Calgary Youth Justice Society? As a registered charitable organization we will provide tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more.

To make the process as easy as possible we have established an association with CanadaHelps. This allows us to accept donations made via our website. Charitable donations make a tremendous positive impact on causes you believe in *and* may also qualify for a return at tax time too! 2009 isn't done yet... Donations made or dated in 2009 will receive a donation receipt for this calendar year.

Your generosity will permit this organization to continue delivering the superior training, resources and fundamental support to our city's Youth Justice Committees that they have come to rely on.



Opening DOORs — Opportunities & Resources for Committees & youth

The much-anticipated DOORs (Database of Opportunities and Resources) will go live in the early months of 2010. This tool was conceived and designed with Calgary's Youth Justice Committees in mind - to provide a one-stop-shop for up-to-date programs, services *and* creative consequences.

At the heart of this database is a search engine. This feature allows for information gleaned from young people's files and panel interviews to guide the selection of best-fit consequences for EJS Agreements. All information within has been coded to be identified by program requirements (age, sex, specific offences) and supplemental

youth information (presence of addiction, history of violent behaviour, self-esteem issues).

To further enhance DOORs we are incorporating consequence-related documents (referral forms, program adverts) to reduce the amount of paper kept by Youth Justice Committees. These documents will be updated on an ongoing basis as the Moderators keep DOORs current.

Arrangements will be made early in the new year for a group of testers to meet to give DOORs a once-over from the user's point of view. Committee-by-Committee training and account set-up will follow.

This offering will maximize the time volunteers use interviewing young people and minimize the time spent selecting consequence options and finding the proper forms. The short-list list of recommendations provided also incorporates adherence to EJS policy and guidelines for best use.



2010 New Volunteer Training, Refresher Training & CYOC Tours

Dates have been set for the early 2010 New Volunteer Training. The first round of the year will be held at the Calgary Youth Attendance Centre, 3850 Manchester Rd, SE from 7 PM to 9:30 PM. The dates and times are:

- Thursday, January 21st
- Thursday January 28th
- Thursday February 4th

Refresher Training consists of reviewing case management and introduce techniques for motivational interviewing with time set aside for questions and/or concerns. As before, this is open to anyone interested in finding out what has changed since joining a Youth Justice Committee or with an interest in brushing up. 2010 Refresher Training Dates will be set early in the new year and advertised on the *Events Schedule* page of our website.

The next CYOC tour has been scheduled for February 11th, 2010 beginning at 7:00. Please contact Tammy McCorkell to register.