

It takes a community ...



Tail Winds

The Calgary Youth Justice Society Newsletter
June 2009; Editor—Anthony B. Scott

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“The winds and waves are always on the side of the ablest navigators”

~ Edward Gibbon

Windfall — New Community Resource Available

It is our pleasure to announce a further referral option, brought to us by the John Howard Society. Designed for Youth ages 13 to 18, the *Youth Drug Impact Program* (YDIP) is based on of extensive youth input and in addition to speaking to the impact of drug use and the tie-ins with crime, it includes life skills elements to keep the subject matter grounded. The Calgary John Howard Society began offering (YDIP) in early May, 2009 and will begin the next set of meetings on July 7th, ending July 23rd, 2009.

The aim of YDIP is to help youth understand the relationship between substance use/misuse and criminal activity and behaviour and to develop coping strategies to avoid illicit drug use and criminal involvement.

YDIP addresses youth who have been identified as being in the *Action* stage of drug habit acquisition (i.e., beginning to use, but are not entrenched in drug use). The main objective of the Project is to increase the ability of the targeted youth to reduce at-risk behaviours regarding drug use and criminal activities. To this end, YDIP will employ activities such as:

- Assess the needs of target youth through one-on-one consultation and networking sessions with community partners; conduct focus groups and interviews with youth about process, delivery and curriculum.
- Develop a curriculum utilizing interactive sessions to help participants understand the reasons, issues, and consequence of drug use; the correlation to criminal behaviours and help them develop ongoing behavioural mechanisms to prevent drug and criminal involvement.
- Deliver the project through educational group sessions with targeted the population, combining education about the impacts of drug use, impacts of crime and how the two interact.

Cindy Brown and Ashley Hassett are the Program Coordinators and they have worked with the Calgary Drug Court to arrange speakers who have been-there, done-that. These individuals are eager to offer their stories and perspectives on getting tangled up with illegal substances so as to dissuade young people from taking that path. Their real-world views and personal accounts will be invaluable.

This program has the capacity for 10 to 12 youth per group and takes place from 4:30 to 6:30/7:00 on Tuesdays & Thursdays over three weeks for approx. 15 hours total. Warm, nutritious dinners are part of the program since it goes through the traditional supper hour.

Ms. Brown may be contacted for further information at 403.536.4327 and Ms. Hassett at 403.536.0544.

Autumn Chair's/Quadrant Meeting

The innovation never stops!
We would love you to join us in trying a new format for the next Resource meeting. A combined Chair's Meeting/Quadrant Meeting of 2009 is scheduled for October 6th, 2009.

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 9:00—Community Resources Meeting featuring:

- Janica Fisher & Marnie Worbets of *Humanity In Practice (HIP)*
- Cindy Brown of the John Howard Society's *Youth Drug Impact Project (YDIP)*
- Tobi Ferris of CYFC's *Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative*



"Safe Harbor" - Ramon Garcia

On the Hangar Deck

A brand-new initiative to assist Youth Justice Committees in Calgary is now in the initial stages of development. The *Database of Opportunities and Resources* (DOORs) is being brought to you by the Development & Community Outreach Project (DCOP) so Committees may continue to 'open doors' for young people. DOORs will house information on youth-focused programs, services and voluntarism/community service opportunities as well as YJC 'creative consequences' from around the city – creating a library for all volunteers to access and benefit from the collective genius behind these resources.

All information will be 'tagged' as "best for" or "most applicable to" various categories of information such as: age, sex, type of offense, issues/strengths, etc. According to this basic information, the database will pare the entire library down to a short-list of best-fit program/service and creative consequences for a given panel to take into consideration when designing an agreement.

The intent is to maximize time volunteers use interviewing young people and minimize the time spend debating the merits of various consequence options. DOORs will not *dictate* consequences - it will provide a short-list of recommendations based on policy and available programs/services. Ron Toner and Anthony B. Scott will serve as the moderators of the database, entering and keeping the information up-to-date.

Message from the Executive Director

Resistance.

I have been thinking a lot about resistance lately.

I live my work. My personal values align very close to what I do every day. I am passionate about my belief that everyone has potential that is overlooked, unappreciated, misinterpreted or simply undiscovered. Building an engaged community that provides support and guidance to redirect youth at risk or in conflict with the law makes sense to me. The work that our volunteers do is absolutely vital and the impact on our young people and their future success is immeasurable. So, I am sometimes discouraged when I meet with resistance to support what we do.

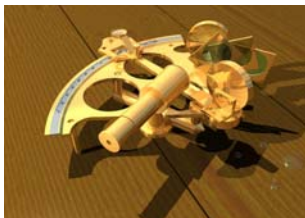
Michael Bungay has put together an audio-visual clip at:

(<http://www.greatworkmovie.com/>)

focusing on doing great work. He says "To do great work you must be willing to take a stand, ruffle a few feathers, and reset an expectation or three. Scepticism, disappointment and resistance are measures of success – clues that you are on the right path – if everyone is happy then you're not doing great work." I guess this is really another way to say what I remember hearing from my dad – nothing worthwhile ever comes easy.

The definition of resistance means "*a force that tends to oppose motion*" but it also means "*the capacity to withstand*". If we find in our day to day work that not everyone understands or appreciates the value of giving kids a second chance, then rest assured that we know we are on the right track. Thank you to everyone who, at times, must step into the wind to help our young people to soar.

"To fly we must have resistance".
(Maya Lin)



Taking the Helm — Setting our Course

Calgary Youth Justice Society Survey

The Calgary Youth Justice Society has designed a survey to help with future direction and further enhance what we and the Committees do. It is a multi-stage process involving collecting feedback in various forms from a number of groups.

A focus group of Annual General Meeting attendees may claim bragging rights to being the first participants in this grand scheme.

Additionally, we placed an on-line survey on our website and solicited volunteers, friends, family and loose acquaintances to complete it. It will be available until July 15th.

Development & Community Outreach Project Launch

We will officially embark on the journey that is DCOP as of July 1st, 2009. With funding from the Community Initiatives Project and the Department of Justice



Refresher Training

The first ever(!) Refresher Training will be held Tuesday, July 14th at the Calgary Youth Attendance Centre, 3850 Manchester Rd, SE from 7 PM to 9:30 PM.

Ron Toner and Tammy McCorkell will review case management and introduce techniques for motivational interviewing with time set aside for questions and/or concerns. This opportunity is open to anyone interested in finding out what has changed since their New Volunteer Training or just keen to hone their skills.

No minimum number of years-of-service is required to participate— all volunteers are welcome. Group sizes will be limited to 15 participants. Additional Refresher Training dates will be available later in year and will be advertised on the *Events Schedule* page of our website.

Youth Justice Renewal Fund, as well as generous private donations to make the DOORs database a reality, this two-year pilot project will increase the level of support and communication available from the Calgary Youth Justice Society to volunteers through:

- More responsive and consistent communication
- More efficient processes for access to training and resources
- More effective relationship between committees and existing partners
- Identification of more effective partners given change in nature of youth and crime
- Improved consistency in program offerings and resources

Volunteers may expect increased availability and improved consistency of communication between CYJS and its community Committees and partners. It will help CYJS strengthen the relationship between its Committees and partners by ensuring appropriate alternative measures options are identified, negotiated and communicated effectively.