

It takes a community ...



Balance

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The Calgary Youth Justice Society Newsletter

Q2, 2011



“Botte buona fa buon vino.”

(A good cask makes good wine)

~ Tuscan proverb

Note from The Editor

The theme for this Newsletter did not come easily. But thanks to an evening with good company and a fine bottle of Italian wine— *Vin Santo*, to be exact— the cover and opening thought were inspired.

Some background: the Calgary Youth Justice Society was in the process of substantial growth when the Q1 Edition was published and given the quality of the people who've come aboard, I'm confident that the training, resources, and other support our organization offers will be of impeccable quality. That brings us to the idea of balance; the level of harmony between the various elements in a wine, leading to determination of quality.

As you'll read in the coming pages, our two new staff members bring a wealth of experience and talent to our organization and in doing so—if you'll follow my analogy— add much-needed staves to the barrel that is the Calgary Youth Justice Society. We have always been a good cask but a better one is in the making.

One request... please refrain from assigning attributes such as 'acidic', 'oaky' or Heaven forbid, 'fruity', to our staff members.



Anthony B. Scott, BA, B.Sc
Director, Development and Community Outreach
Editor, Calgary Youth Justice Society Newsletter

Wisdom for the Ages

Apples and Wine

Women are like apples on trees. The best ones are at the top of the tree.

Most men don't want to reach for the good ones because they are afraid of falling and getting hurt. Instead, they generally opt for the apples nearer the ground that aren't as good, but easy.

The apples at the top think something is wrong with them, when in reality, they're amazing. They just have to wait for the right person to come along; the one who is brave enough to climb all the way to the top of the tree.

Now men... Men are like a fine wine. They begin as grapes and it's up to women to stomp on them until they turn into something acceptable to have dinner with.

Courtesy of wordpress.com

Introducing Jennifer Barroll

Over the years, Jennifer has had the great privilege of living and traveling all over the world to see and experience many cultures and different ways of life. Her work with youth has reached across cultures and stretched around the globe over the past decade.

She has worked with youth and young adults from the Philippines, to Budapest and across North America in various programs and organizations to encourage, inspire and support them as they discover how to use their unique gifts and talents to shape a fulfilling life full of purpose.

Jennifer joins the Calgary Youth Justice team as a part of the *In The Lead* Program development team. Adding to her current work with the Calgary Police Service's *About Face* program where she works with first time offenders, Jennifer is excited to be a part of the incredible team of experts developing this unique, strengths based, empowering leadership program for students and corporate staff.

Welcome to the Calgary Youth Justice Society, Jennifer.

New Volunteer Training Dates

The Calgary Youth Justice Society is unable to offer new volunteer training sessions over the summer months. The next series of New Volunteer Training (NVT) sessions will be Sept 12th, 19th & 26th 2011. These are all Mondays.

All New Volunteer Training sessions take place at the Calgary Youth Attendance Centre - 3870 Manchester Rd. SE - from 7pm to 9:30pm.

Please refer to *New Volunteers* on Page 5 for more information.

Message from the Executive Director

Calgary Youth Justice Society is very excited about what's ahead in 2011 and beyond.

Balance is a fitting theme to express the focus and intentions of Board and Staff as we navigate the growth of our organization. An increase in both financial and human resources means that we are better equipped to serve Youth Justice Committees while at the same time extend our reach in new ways to build an even bigger village to support Calgary youth.

We will continue in our efforts to provide quality services and resources to Youth Justice Committees and volunteers so that they can best support our young people to be accountable for their actions and to steer away from crime in the future. A consideration of the trends that are influencing the young people we see and the types of crimes they commit will help to guide our new volunteer training, advanced training, partnership development, new collaborations, and public awareness. We will also be using an increase in both human and financial resources to implement new and improved ways of providing operational support to Youth Justice Committees in addition to volunteer recruitment, management, and recognition.

Calgary Youth Justice Society is launching "In the Lead" starting in September (see page 7). This is a separate program that will be running parallel to the Youth Justice Committee program, serving young people 'at potential' to build leadership and increase resilience.

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Decanting – Getting the Very Best from CYJS

As alluded to in the Editor's Note, with the added talents of Jennifer and Linda, the Calgary Youth Justice Society is capable of offering additional services to the Youth Justice Committees.

We are seeking the input of Committee volunteers via an on-line survey that we intend to use to guide us toward needs and/or issues that we can address.

This survey comes in two parts: part one focuses on training, communication, support and resources - asking a series of questions wherein we seek feedback on what we do and ask what may be done to improve or build upon them.

Part two of the survey pertains to DOORs (Database of Opportunities & Resources). We hope that the responses

will give us the necessary wish-list with which to give DOORs its final improvements before the *Development & Community Outreach Project* wraps up.

As of this publication, the survey will have just been posted on Survey Monkey, meaning any YJC volunteers reading this Newsletter until July 29th will still have plenty of time to give us your two cents - or three cents from certain volunteers (you know who you are).

In our testing phase, it took volunteers less than 15 minutes to complete the survey. They're the *three cents type* of volunteers mentioned above, too!

Our gratitude goes out in advance for your contributions of time and thought. www.surveymonkey.com/s/QDYJD62

Presenting Linda White

Linda brings a unique perspective to youth justice from her experience in the family violence and mental health sectors. She has two adult children and two preschool-age grandchildren and loves cooking, genealogy and reading - she's recently purchased an e-reader!

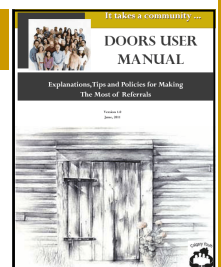
Reflecting on her first impressions of the agency, she comments, "Obviously proud of the good work that you do through the Youth Justice Committees, and bursting with enthusiasm for the new *In the Lead* project, the agency tone is positive and even celebratory!" She noticed the attention and value that is given to volunteers and their ideas by staff. "Although sure-footed about what they are doing, staff are still open and flexible about new ways of doing things. I like that." Keen to participate with us, Linda took the April-May volunteer training and plans to visit some panels to see firsthand the great work YJCs do.

Linda's role is the Director of Operations, which includes overseeing the YJC program, developing systems and processes for the growing agency, donor and funder relations and various administrative tasks. For now, she's working Tuesdays through Thursdays. "My extension at the office is 224 - I'd love to hear from volunteers and donors about why they remain passionate about the Calgary Youth Justice Society. I welcome invitations to come to Committee meetings or panels."

DOORs User Manual

The long-awaited DOORs Manual v. 1.0 has been published and distributed to YJC volunteers via email.

For convenient future reference or downloading it will also be posted on the Calgary Youth Justice Society website alongside the Monthly DOORs content exports.



Fortifying our Partnership Portfolio

Talks with the Calgary Cedarbrae Community League Association Hall & Community Centre - regarding community service for YJC-referred young people - have been successful. Their Board unanimously approved working with Youth Justice Committees and immediately began brainstorming various tasks.

The Community Association would like to establish a strong rapport with their neighbouring YJCs, so as to provide as many appropriate opportunities as possible. Brenda, the CCLA Manager will be the primary contact for keeping abreast of current and near-future tasks, and signing youth up.

Using the Meadowlark Park Community Association as an example, the summer months will likely entail rubbish clean-up, tagging removal or cover-up and community garden repair and maintenance.

Assistance with the autumn harvest will be invaluable, helping ensure freshness of the produce for distribution to its various destinations. As mentioned in the Q1 Edition of the Newsletter, 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, Chinook and Southland YJCs represent areas of the city that either encompass or border the Community Centre, so will find the greatest benefit to 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.



What's that sound?

That's not the sound of our feathered friends celebrating the return of spring... It's the Calgary Youth Justice Society now on Twitter!

We're diversifying our communications portfolio to offer an additional option for Youth Justice Committee volunteers, supporters and other interested parties to keep up us in real-time and communicate with us more quickly than via email.

We intend to send out updates fairly frequently - weekly, on average.

Following us on Twitter also means not having to log into Facebook or wait (for what must seem like *forever!*) between Quarterly Newsletters.

If you don't already have a Twitter account, following the three steps outlined below will get you set up.

Step 1: Create an account for yourself at twitter.com

Step 2: Use the *Find Friends* feature to look us up. Our account is CalgaryYouthJustice - (yes, one word with the appropriate capitals).

Step 3: Click *Follow* and you'll begin receiving our brief notes and updates. They must be less than 140 characters in length so we have no choice.



Midpalate with Tammy McCorkell

Breaking News!!! We have ordered the printer for our new ID badges! Yes it IS true!

This will be my main project over the summer.

I have not yet had a chance to try the software but I have been told that standard jpeg photos will work. I intend to start with Committees that work out of Police Stations & then quickly move on to other committees. The ID Badges will be more professional in appearance, thus better representing the important role YJC Volunteers provide.

To find the best machine for the job I had to describe - in detail - the service that YJCs provide. The operator who took my order was so amazed at what our volunteers do that he gave us a discount!

The Society would like to thank our Social Planner, Elizabeth, at FCSS for making our dreams of obtaining this printer a reality!

I would also like to wish everyone an amazing summer! I know many committees will continue operating over the summer. I hope those cases go well! I will be available to help in any way I can. On that note, I will be away from the office between Aug. 4th and Aug. 8th, inclusive.

For volunteers who are taking the summer off, I hope it is relaxing and you are able to regenerate!

2011 YJC Conference

The 11th Annual Provincial Youth Justice Committee conference is back in Calgary this year from October 14th through 16th.

The Conference Planning Committee is looking for CYJC Volunteers for the event. Positions include meet & greet, moderators & MCs.

Tammy McCorkell may be contacted for more info. or to express interest. See pg. 6 for more.

Police Information Checks Update

Volunteer Calgary is pleased to see a plan in place to decrease wait times for police information checks for volunteers in Calgary. Federal Public Safety Minister Vic Toews recently announced in Calgary "new technology will further strengthen the reliability of these checks by making the verifications faster and more efficient."

The Police Information checks are becoming more comprehensive with the addition of a digital finger printing technology. This new digital scanner means that applicants can submit their fingerprint for verification and in a matter of minutes, receive a response, as opposed to the weeks or months of waiting that were required before. In March Calgary Police started using the Livescan system to help ease the backlog of vulnerable sector police checks and are looking to have a second scanner in place in June.

With an additional machine and additional, trained staff, the Calgary Police services hopes to reach their goal of having all vulnerable sector police checks completed and returned to non-profit organizations within two weeks. However, police information checks are just one potential step in a thorough screening process and are by no means a fool proof way to ensure that your

volunteers are properly screened and ready to volunteer with your organization. (The best police information check will only identify known offenders.) For a more detailed look at how your organization can develop a thorough screening process please review our recent post on screening.

~ Sue Luciuk, Interim President and CEO, Volunteer Calgary

Grazie!

The CYJS AGM was a huge success thanks to Volunteers, Community & Program Partners, plus an amazing Keynote Speaker.

The CYJS held its AGM & Volunteer Recognition Event on May 31, 2011. The event was at Cardel Theatre which proved an ideal location for the amazing mix of business, socializing and networking.

The event was fully staffed by Event Volunteers who did a fabulous job and allowed the CYJS Staff an opportunity to mix with the crowd and enjoy a delicious mock-tail! We have received numerous messages of praise regarding the event and appreciate all the hard work that was put into it and all the donations we received.

The evening was capped off by Wayne Hammond who spoke on Resiliency. He was truly inspirational and his admiration for the work the YJC Volunteers do was evident throughout!

New Volunteers

If you are a new volunteer and have not yet had a chance to sit on a panel since you received your training or want to see additional panels over the summer, Ron will be holding panels Monday evenings 5-7pm at CYAC. Contact Ron Toner ron.toner@gov.ab.ca or 403.297.7740 for more information.

Upcoming Conference

Enterprising Spirit: Creating Value and Social Good

November 17, 2011

Registration for Awards Evening 5:30 -7pm FREE

Speakers include Mayor Nenshi.

Also, award nominations for Social Enterprise (not-for-profits that have set up a business where proceeds are given to clients and reinvested back into the not-for-profit) will be accepted until Sept 15, 2011.

Register @ <http://www.tricofoundation.ca/conference.php>

Everyone WINS!

The *Women In Need Society* may just become our newest community partner, offering opportunities for community service hours to young women going through the Youth Justice Committee Program. WINS is a charitable not-for-profit organization based here in Calgary. Established in 1992, WINS has grown from one Thrift Store to four throughout the city. The stores are donation-driven. In addition to providing affordable, quality clothing and household goods to women in need and their families, the stores contribute to the financial sustainability of the Society. As well, WINS now operates three Family Resource Centres in low-income housing areas.

A chance meeting with Jay Danychuck - the Retail Business Manager (made possible by SVP Calgary) - got us wondering aloud how WINS might offer young women a chance to help others and gain some life experience. Jay thinks very highly of the philosophy behind the EJS Program and more highly of the volunteers to administer it. She was eager to explore the possibilities. We recently had a follow-up meeting wherein we fashioned a rough framework for taking YJC-referrals.

The stores are located in Dover, Bowness, Killarney/Richmond and Fisher Park. Further details are yet to be worked out, such as who will coordinate the placements, but we're confident that a formal setup will be reached during the summer. A memo will be drafted and distributed via email to Chairpersons at that time. Watch for more on Facebook!

Message from the E.D. Continued

Continued from Page 3

With this program come new 'firsts': we are serving youth in a new way; we are looking at crime prevention through leadership in a new way; we are engaging corporate employees with young people in a new way; we are diversifying our revenue stream in a new way; we are collaborating in a new way; and, we are evaluating the difference we are making in a new way.

All of which will help us to move closer to our vision of creating a Calgary where "young people contribute to, and flourish in, safe, caring communities" through our mission of "engaging communities with young people to foster choices and opportunities that build upon their strengths, diverting them from crime."

Wishing everyone moments full of sunshine and rejuvenation this summer.



~ Denise Blair

Restocking YJCs

Fish Creek YJC (Queensland, Deer Run, Parkland & Deer Ridge) is seeking an experienced volunteer from a surrounding committee to fill an Executive position.

The FishCreek YJC is also seeking several new volunteers to train in Sept.

Tammy may be contacted by phone at 403.261.9861 Ext. 222 or by email for more information.

More on the Upcoming YJC Conference

Tammy's email is tmccorkell@calgaryyouthjustice.com

We can tell you now that the conference will be held at the Westin Hotel. Further conference details will become available later this summer. We'll be sure to promptly pass them along to YJC volunteers.

Keep an eye on your In Boxes this summer. Again, those dates are Oct. 14th to 16th.

Youth Justice Committee Awards – Scoring Your Peers

The time has come for Youth Justice Committee volunteers to put forth nominations for the Youth Justice Committee Awards. The Department of the Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security seeks to acknowledge the efforts of individuals who show excellence in volunteering with Youth Justice Committees.

Below you'll find a sample *Eligibility Criteria and Nomination Form*.

Criteria for selection are as follows. The nominee must:

- Currently be an active member with more than **one year** of volunteer experience associated with the Youth Justice Committee Program.
- Demonstrate exceptional commitment to the Youth Justice Committee Program through their unique contribution in a leadership role (youth support or organizational).
- Serve as positive role model and mentor for youth.

Additionally, a short written component must be completed on a separate sheet of paper that briefly describes why you believe this individual should receive a Youth Justice Committee Award.

The *Eligibility Criteria and Nomination Form* may be downloaded from the conference website at: www.YJCAAlberta.com

This URL may also be used to keep abreast of conference developments.



Youth Justice Committee Awards Eligibility Criteria and Nomination Form

Objectives
The Department of the Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security seeks to acknowledge the efforts of individuals who show excellence in volunteering with Youth Justice Committees.

Criteria for Selection

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- Demonstrate exceptional commitment to the Youth Justice Committee Program through their unique contribution in a leadership role (youth support or organizational).
- Serves as positive role model and mentor for youth.

Nominator Information

Name:					
Youth Justice Committee:			Daytime Phone:		
Address:					
City:	Province: AB			Postal Code:	
Email:					

Nominee Information

Name:					
Youth Justice Committee:			Daytime Phone:		
Address:					
City:	Province:			Postal Code:	
Email:					

On a separate sheet of paper briefly describe why you believe this individual should receive a Youth Justice Committee Award.

Signature of Nominator: _____ Date: _____

Mail or Fax Nomination to: Sandra Prokopiw
Youth Justice Committee Program
Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security
Young Offender Branch
10th Floor, 10365 – 97th Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3W7



Fax: 780-422-0732 Tel: 780-422-5019

I truly believe that John Volunteer is the main reason for the development and success of the _____ Youth Justice Committee. John has been involved personally since the inception of this group and on a day to day basis plays an integral part of the success we share.

John dedicates countless hours of his time as Chairperson of our Committee. He organizes meetings, with the members and referral candidates. He has been responsible for assisting with the development of procedures and processes that we use today to aid in our work. He helped me tremendously with the New Member Orientation Manual as well as keeping statistics on case work and alternative measures. Our reputation speaks for itself.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please call.

Thanks,

Matt Volunteer

Sample

Leading with Our Nose – *In the Lead***In the Lead**

Believing. Seeing. Succeeding.

Calgary Youth Justice Society and Cenovus Energy: together, creating a community where no leader is left behind.

Cenovus Energy has partnered with Calgary Youth Justice Society to launch an innovative leadership development and coaching/mentoring program designed to build resiliency in young people, thereby fostering healthy choices and opportunities that divert them from crime. Beyond the contribution of valuable financial resources, Cenovus Energy is excited to connect employees to a meaningful community engagement opportunity as a volunteer coach for program participants.

The Challenge

Not all young people with strong leadership abilities are easy to spot. Many young people, who face challenges and obstacles growing up, develop characteristics that can be the foundation of great leadership; but too often, they are overlooked in favour of peers who are displaying their potential in more conventional and obvious ways. It's time to adjust our focus.

The Response

In the Lead is a program that uses a strength-focused approach to build innate leadership ability and character development in young people aged 14 to 18, engaging with what is strong in youth as opposed to what is wrong: increasing their resilience and reducing the likelihood of risk-taking behaviour that could lead to criminal activity or leaving school. Youth participants will be encouraged to discover and apply their strengths and abilities in a healthy, productive way to make a real difference in their lives today, and lay the foundation upon which to realize their potential.

The Approach**Group Sessions:**

For the first pilot, running from September to January, 18 youth will be nominated for the program by teachers at Discovering Choices High School. Over the course of 16 weeks, they will meet weekly as a group with a youth facilitator (our very own Jennifer Barroll) to explore core competencies that lead to resilience and work on team projects that will benefit the community and provide an opportunity to experience and practice leadership strengths.

One-on-one Coaching:

Through a supportive relationship, young people and trained/resourced volunteer coaches from Cenovus Energy will work together to explore and share their unique personal experiences and leadership journeys.

The Team

The development, implementation and evaluation of the program will involve the work of many. In addition to Denise Blair and Jennifer Barroll at Calgary Youth Justice Society, we have several partners. Corey Olynik, author of "A Mentor's Mentor", is an experienced and much sought-after Leadership Development Coach in both the private and non-profit sector. Corey is involved with the development and delivery of coaching sessions and Coaches training. Dr. Wayne Hammond and Rob Zimmerman from Resiliency Initiatives Canada, together with University of Calgary's Faculty of Medicine, are contributing through program development in all areas and evaluation using proven tools to capture the growth in core competencies and developmental strengths of participants. Big Brothers Big Sisters is helping with policy development and matching. Discovering Choices is nominating students and supporting this program as a credit course and the City of Calgary Youth Probation is offering the support of social workers who can assist the coaches with sensitive matters as needed.

For more information about this exciting new initiative, please contact Denise Blair at Calgary Youth Justice Society.