

It takes a community ...



Directions

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

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"Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction"

~ John F. Kennedy

Greeting Message From Tammy McCorkell

As my three month anniversary quickly approaches I am excited to say that I LOVE my job. In fact, just yesterday as I was driving past my previous employer and I was overcome with a feeling that I had made a great decision to leave. Although I enjoyed my previous HR/Training position, something was missing. When I left the office each day, I just didn't feel like I had "made a difference." I felt an overwhelming need to return to a not for profit environment and specifically, to work more closely with Volunteers. So I began to craft my dream role and put my wishes "out to the universe." Shortly after that, I came across a posting for the Volunteer Resources Manager at The CYJS. It seemed too good to be true!

I am so glad that I had the courage to leave my last position and more importantly that I chose The CYJS. Denise & Anthony have been welcoming, supportive and have really allowed me to run with any idea I have had. The Volunteers that I have met have also been friendly and welcoming. I am in constant awe of the generosity the Volunteers share, the commitment of their time and energy to help a youth when they least expect it!

I have now experienced two rounds of New Volunteer Training and at the end each session, I feel like I have been a part of something special. I see the intent and passion the new volunteers possess. I feel proud to know that we send them off to their respective committees, where they are able to further develop their skills by working along side seasoned members.

It is always validating to be in a position where your primary responsibility is to solve problems for people that you admire. I am in the process of developing a survey for the Volunteers to get a better idea of how to best address their needs. Additionally, Ron Toner and I are currently working on a Refresher Training course tailored to the specific needs of experienced volunteers.

I am proud to be a member of the CYJS and look forward continuing to serve our Volunteers to the best of my ability.

Spring Quadrant Meeting

The next Quadrant Meeting of 2009 is scheduled for May 6th .

Time: 6:00 - 8:30

Venue: Slovenian Canadian Club of Calgary

The Address: 2335 16A Street South East

Programme:

Janet Pieschel from Youth Link: Calgary Police Interpretive Centre

Trevor & Dean from The Optimist Club of Calgary

Joan Bever from the Parent Support Association

Sara Jiminez representing the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life



"Venti Please"
John E. Marin

Referral Options for Teen Girls

Taking into account their differing needs and the unique pressures pulling at them, several female-focused resources have been opened up to the young women participating in the Youth Justice Committees program.

The following are included in the updated Community Resource Guide posted on our website.

http://calgaryyouthjustice.com/resources_committees.php

The Healing Circle - Elizabeth Fry Society.

Provides opportunities for women to access holistic healing services based in Aboriginal spiritual traditions. Open to all women of any age. Often involves drumming, singing & prayer. Focus put on trust, respect and safety.

Girl Power Day Camp - The Women's Centre.

For teen girls aged 10-12 or 13-16 years old. Focussed on are: empowerment, gender roles and self awareness. Girl Power Day Camp Program occurs over 5 days each summer. It is an exciting time to participate in yoga, dance, drumming and self-defence. This program is offered fee-of-charge and lunches are included. Additional information is forthcoming as 2009 program details will be finalized at the end of April.

Various Workshops - The Women's Centre.

A place where any woman can get help without waiting lists, time restrictions, cost or judgement. Various offerings - updated quarterly - self-defence, "Feminism Is For Everybody", Life Skills, Interviewing Skills.

2009 AGM Invitation

The 2009 Annual General Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 26th at La Joie de Vivre. We will follow a similar format to AGMs of past years, beginning at 6:00 and ending at approx. 8:30. A buffet dinner will be provided.

Volunteer Training & CYOC Tours for April to August

All New Volunteer Training takes place at the new Calgary Youth Attendance Centre from 7pm to 9:30pm. Tammy McCorkell may be contacted at 403.261.9861 ext. 222 or tmccorkell@calgaryyouthjustice.com to register.

May 7th - New Volunteer Training Course pt.1

May 14th - New Volunteer Training Course pt.2 & CYOC tour

May 21st - New Volunteer Training Course pt.3

Message from the Executive Director

As many of you know, I am pursuing an MBA in my 'spare' time. I recently learned about two types of knowledge: explicit knowledge, which is easily captured into a manual, for example, and tacit knowledge which is more a result of experience. Driving a car requires mostly tacit knowledge—how to accelerate out of a turn, when to shift gears to maintain momentum, etc. And guess what! Tacit knowledge is plentiful amongst Youth Justice Committee volunteers. While training is an important aid, so much more learning occurs at the ground level when interacting with the youth and parents and other volunteers on the Committee. You know of times when you took an approach with a young person that worked well, observed a fellow volunteer handle a difficult parent with ease or knew just who to call and what to say to gain cooperation from the community hall. While each situation is different, is there something to be learned and or shared? Before some of this valuable know-how leaves with the inevitable turn-over of volunteers, spend some time discussing how your YJC can best capture tacit knowledge. How will you share when something has worked, or when it didn't? What valuable knowledge resides with each volunteer and what is the best way to retain that asset for your committee?

Pass it on, eh!

- Denise Blair



Charting New Courses — Working With New Community Partners

Women's Centre of Calgary

This organization offers a host of workshops and events such as self-defence – no time like the present to learn self-defence moves and feel confident in your ability to protect yourself. Also offered are multi-part sessions such as Women Power— learn more about empowerment, stereotypes, gender roles, self-awareness, self-respect, self-esteem and safety issues.

All services and programs are free. With updated calendars provided regularly.

With the exception of the "Girl Power" summer camps, The Women's Centre requests referrals of 17 and 18 year old young women only, so as to maintain the general adult ambiance.

Urban Youth Worx

Urban Youth Worx began in 1998 and has become an organization that values the creative process as a powerful tool in community development.

The program involves young people working under the direction of an artist to collaboratively paint murals on 4' by 8' boards that enclose construction sites as a

beautification project.

Initially, this program was thought of primarily as a positive, creative outlet appropriate for youth with graffiti-related charges. That idea has morphed into Urban Youth Worx being suitable for generally art-inspired young people we see.

Humanity In Practice (HIP)

HIP (yes, that's a exclamation mark) is about connecting people to causes via projects. This organization creates flexible volunteer opportunities for Calgarians of all ages to make a difference in our city.

"HIP Kids" runs October through May, offering a convenient way to plant the seeds of voluntarism by helping worthy agencies meet their goals by working on monthly projects. Partnership details are still being worked out. Stay Tuned...

