

It takes a community ...



New Heights

The Calgary Youth Justice Society Newsletter
September 2010

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“The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world’s problems.”

~ Mahatma Ghandi

Message From Tammy McCorkell

I hope everyone had a great summer! As we get ready to head into one of our busiest times of the year with our YJCs it is important to remember our ability, rather our obligation, to build relationships in order to make an impact on the youth we see!

At a recent Strategic Planning meeting with our Board, we spoke about the importance of building strong relationships while imposing truly meaningful consequences specific to that young person as a way to ensure long-term success. We discussed the effectiveness of our program and although we are proud of our over 80% success rate with less than 20% of our youth re-offending, we are often challenged by the ones “that got away.” Could we have asked a few more questions to have got to the “real” root of the problem? Might we have remembered our overall goal and given one more follow up phone call to ensure they were in fact registering for their programs or actually attending them? If at the end of the day we believe in the consequences we chose for the youth, shouldn't we go the extra mile to ensure they are completing them? After all, it truly is the relationships we build that foster change and a lasting impression.

With the new DOORs database we are able to provide our youth with the most up to date programs and expose ourselves to an additional armoury of unique creative consequences submitted by committees across the city. The ability we are given to make a connection through intervening should not be taken lightly. It is the choices WE make that can ultimately change a youth's life and divert them from the path they are on.

It really does come down to our ability to build a relationship with the youth. With that openness to communication that develops, we are better able to cater consequences to the individual needs of the youth so that we can ensure success. Different personalities, opinions and approaches are to be valued on our committees, but at the end of the day no matter how the panel delivers the consequences, it is important they make an impact on the young person. It is important the youth we see are given the tools to be successful and the motivation to complete them.

I hope that September offers a chance for you to experience the power of building a strong relationship and doing so in the true spirit of Restorative Justice.

“If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.”

-- Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Upcoming Training

Our commitment to offering the best training and continuing education brings additional opportunities for our volunteers this fall. Keep an eye on the Events Schedule page of our website for updates/changes and new developments.

http://calgaryyouthjustice.com/volunteer_training.php

Autumn Chair's/Community Resource meeting

Loads of positive feedback pertaining to the new format mans we're sticking with the combined Chairpersons' Meeting plus Community Resource Meeting into the future. The next one is scheduled for October 19th and will be held at the Calgary Youth Attendance Centre - 3850 Manchester Rd. SE

6:30 to 7:30— Chair's Meeting

7:30 to 8:30—Community Resources Meeting featuring Ed Kubeczek of CYES & Kathy Hutchings, Chartered Mediator.

Rocket Science — Referral Option In-the-Works

We have had terrific talks with the Rotary International District 5360 about making an additional option available to Youth Justice Committees. The *Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN)* is a four-day Rotary camp created for young people who want to grow but have limited opportunities to attend other development programs. They will learn new things about themselves and the world around them. Youth of similar age are organized into small groups where topics such as goal-setting and problem/issue resolution will be explored. By working in groups, participants learn to trust and cooperate with others to achieve common goals. Further details and contact information will be in the December Newsletter.

9th Annual Youth Justice Committee Conference

The 10th Annual YJC Conference is being hosted by the Alberta Solicitor General, Young Offender Branch.

This annual conference focuses on providing opportunities for Youth Justice Committee volunteers from across the province to share experiences, learn from each other and further develop knowledge in working with youth and the prevention of crime.

It will be held at the Mayfield Inn & Suites in Edmonton from October 29th to 31st.

You may register on-line at:

www.programs.icdr.com/yjc

Alternatively, Dorothy Morrison may be contacted by phone at 1.800.378.3199 or by email at dorothy@icdr.com.

Suiting Up

We are happy to extend a warm Welcome Alysha Rozon who has volunteered to be our Administrative Assistant. Alysha will be initially focusing on assisting the Society to get our new Volunteer data base up to date. Alysha brings enthusiasm, professionalism and research experience attained while recently completing her Psychology degree at the U of C.

Alysha is originally from Saskatchewan and hopes to become a law student. Our hope is to reciprocate her efforts with a meaningful, engaging experience and to support her in learning more about the various aspects of the judicial system.

Note from The Editor

Just as I thought the excitement of the last nine months was behind us - the *Community Policing Award*, DOORs, the YJC laptops and the server from IBM Canada (pg. 4) - we have the Calgary Police Service offering a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Youth Justice Committees.

The Hockey Calgary/ CPS *Power Play Program* is being made available as an Extrajudicial Sanctions option. It is a mentorship program where young people can learn to skate and take away some hockey skills.

Hockey Calgary is providing the ice for free at Max Bell Arena *and* the equipment. Sworn police officers are on-hand to help with equipment, be on the ice and to keep the sessions fun. Healthy snacks are also provided.

In updating a recent presentation on Youth Justice Committees I found a quote from a judge who was speaking about his aspirations for the program back in its early days. He said:

“Youth Justice Committees need to be strong enough to make sure that their values and interests get to be expressed in reality.”

What better way to achieve that, than through hockey?



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

Message from the Executive Director

I came across a little saying on a plaque in a card store that says:

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

It was funny to me at first. I mean, as parents...can't we all at times identify with that! Then I thought about the parents of the young people we work with and how maybe this feels like a stark reality for them...wondering where this village is and how to get to it. And then, just when they least expect it, volunteers from their community step in to support them through a troubling time. If it takes a village to raise a child, then we must also contemplate what it takes to raise the village. I am so proud to say that as Youth Justice Committee volunteers, you are doing much more than providing a service for our young people; you are creating a village. And so, on behalf of the many parents who have found a village through your support, guidance and understanding, thank you!

~ Denise



Mission Control: DOORs update from Anthony B. Scott

A significant enhancement to DOORs is underway that will allow Committee to reserve seats for young people in our partnering organizations' programs & services. The database will generate a message to be sent to the appropriate program coordinator to notify them of the Committees' intent to enrol a youth. Accompanying this reservation feature will also be a real-time notice of space availability.

These added capabilities have been made possible by The Calgary Foundation who provided a grant to enable us to capitalize on the convergence of several technological windfalls. Several YJC volunteers are to be credited for the above ideas to increase the capabilities of the Database of Opportunities & Resources. Thank you for your insights.

Not-For-Profit Rocket Fuel

National Volunteer Week 2011 has been changed to April 10 – 16th. The Calgary Youth Justice Society would love to hear your ideas on an event, training opportunity, guest speaker, recognition items, or other ways to thank our volunteers for their contributions. Please submit your (budget conscious) ideas to Tammy McCorkell @ 403.261.9861 X222 or tmccorkell@calgaryyouthjustice.com.

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." ~Sherry Anderson

Telemetry

Calgary Youth Justice is looking to compile a selection of **success stories** to capture the real work the CYJC volunteers do every day!

The stories will allow us maintain a lasting record of the event and help communicate the positive outcomes that our Volunteers, Youth and Parents have experienced to our various stakeholders. These stories will also be useful for funding applications, year- end reports to funders, community training, our website, AGM reports, newsletters and for other media-related needs.

Many volunteers have experienced truly impactful results of a youth receiving the perfectly suited consequence, a personal or family shift or another "small miracle." Please take a moment to submit your anecdotal stories, quotes (yours, a young person's or an author you admire that is relevant to our Program), or your personal inspirational reflections or via email to tmccorkell@calgaryyouthjustice.com



Committee Members are needed for the following YJCs: **Riverbend, Ogden, North Central & Calgary SW.** Please phone or email Tammy McCorkell @ 403.261.9861 X222 or tmccorkell@calgaryyouthjustice.com to discuss these opportunities further.

Deployment

A very special *Thank You* goes out to the Calgary & Area Youth Justice Committees. As of September 30th, 18 of the 22 YJCs in Calgary plus the Cochrane Youth Justice Committee have adopted the Database of Opportunities & Resources as their go-to source of Extrajudicial Sanctions referral options.

Your participation in this initiative is making our local administration of the Extrajudicial Sanctions Program a true example of the 'village' approach to raising our children.

The Okotoks Youth Justice Committee will be joining our village shortly and their presence will further strengthen the community we're creating. Members of this Committee bring a wealth of knowledge and experience that will surely prove invaluable as we move forward.

IBM Canada helps make Calgary and its Youth Justice Committees a Smarter Community

Last year was marked with the development of the Database of Opportunities and Resources. DOORs allows Youth Justice Committees to easily isolate and access available resources to meet the unique needs of each individual young person they work with, based on their circumstances and charges. This innovative technology has received much attention from stakeholders and has the potential to be applicable for Youth Justice Committees across the country.

This year we're taking that exciting initiative even further thanks to a donation of funds for net-books. Committee members can now remotely access the resources in the database exactly when needed - when they are in the interview with the young person and their parents.

The reaction to our announcement that each Youth Justice Committee was going to be provided with their own net-book?

"The Calgary Youth Justice Society is doing what?!"

The new interconnectedness of Youth Justice Committees and the service providers they rely on has created a 'smarter community' – a collaborative effort based on effective communication that helps our young people grow from their experiences in the Extrajudicial Sanctions program.

In fact, the significant scale and impact of this smarter community attracted a new partnership with IBM Canada, who recently donated a powerful server to further our mission and give our work a real boost. By expanding our IT infrastructure and increasing our organizational capacity even further, with IBM's help we find ourselves on the cusp of making contributions to Calgary Youth Justice Committees that were mere dreams only a short time ago.