

It takes a community ...



Community Partnerships

The Calgary Youth Justice Society Newsletter
June 2008; Editor—Lori Herod

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WE'RE CELEBRATING
OUR 10TH
ANNIVERSARY
OCTOBER 17TH, 2008
SO PLEASE
SAVE THE DATE!

A New Look for the Newsletter — Our Youth Justice Education and Enhancement Project Coordinator Monetta Bailey used green hues for the educational materials she produced (see page 6). I was quite taken the colour scheme because for me it symbolizes growth. That is, while the EJS Program is about holding youth accountable for their actions, it is also about using consequences as an opportunity to steer them along a path toward more positive growth. I hope you like the new look and if you have anything you'd like to submit which deals with the theme of promoting growth please do, we'd love to hear from you. (Email: lherod@calgaryyouthjustice.com)

The Extra-Judicial Sanctions Program —
A positive, community-based approach to helping youth in conflict with the law.



Community Partnerships

CYJS Annual General Meeting & Volunteer Celebration May 28th, 2008



Heather MacKay-Forrest
Grant Spiro Memorial
Award Recipient
CYJS Annual General
Meeting May 28, 2008

The Grant Spiro Memorial Award is named after a citizen who helped to build the foundation for Youth Justice Committees to operate in Calgary. Each year, in his memory, we recognize an individual or organization for their significant contribution to the Calgary Youth Justice Society and the Youth Justice Committee initiative. This year we are pleased to present this award to Heather MacKay-Forrest.

In addition to being a loyal volunteer with her the Southland Youth Justice Committee for the past four years, Heather regularly volunteers at Calgary Youth Justice Society fund raising, training events and meetings. For example, in January she coordinated the Society's Charity casino which raised approximately \$75,000. She is also a member of the New Volunteer Training Team which conducts five eight-hour courses from Sept to June annually. Whenever we send out a request for volunteers, Heather is always first to step up to the plate, and we are delighted to recognize her efforts on behalf of the Society and Youth Justice community with this award.

"I am humbled and grateful to

the board for the nomination of the Grant Spiro Memorial Award. As a born Calgarian with many family roots it gives me great pride to be recognized for something I love to do VOLUNTEER! The culture of volunteering goes way back in my family, starting as far back as my Grandmother and Mother and has continued through to my grandchildren. I believe that there are many GREAT Volunteers in our community whom are making a difference. I am honoured and very appreciative to receive this AWARD!

I have been a volunteer in Calgary for years with many agencies and organizations. However not one quite like Calgary Youth Justice Society! WOW. I joined the Calgary Youth Justice Society with my youngest daughter Brandy, because it was a way to support her studies in College and our interest in social work. As a single Mother of three this is a way in which we could do something together and give back to the youth of Calgary and support our community. We knew that if we had an opportunity to have an impact on youth and parents we were contributing to a GREAT City. We both sat on panels together and enjoyed the inter-

action that occurred on the panels. Brandy brought a fresh new light to how youth act and what were appropriate consensuses. Some of the panels were tough however they provided some valuable life lessons for all involved. I believe the experiences youth gain from restorative justice initiatives are the foundation of future community ownership, health, pride. I also had the opportunity to review and be part of restorative justice in Ireland.

CYJS provides an opportunity for Youth to be apart of the restoration of the justice system. I had the privilege to assist at the Society office this past year while staff was off ill and on summer holidays. This provided me some wonderful learning opportunities and increased perspective of how much work & energy is generated by the board & staff. My eyes were wide open and I value the continued support, leadership & tremendous work that the board and staff provide to all the committees in Calgary. The Society & Board Chair are strong leaders in our community and with the excellent staff leadership by Denise Blair show that the society is a leading organization in the non-profit area.



The Award was presented by last year's recipient Mike Yanko

Dawn Fraser, CYAC & Sandy Propokiw, AB Solicitor General's Office present certificates/awards at the CYJS AGM



Elsie Kosek, Chair Millican-Ogden YJC
10 year certificate



Hank Popoff, South Centre YJC, 7 years



Lynda Parsons, Chair Mid-Sun YJC
11 year certificate

Report from CYJS Board President

As many of you know, my involvement with Youth Justice Committees and the Calgary Youth Justice Society stemmed from a personal tragedy which served as the catalyst for a journey of healing - a journey to heal the loss and a journey to make a difference. I have been involved with Youth Justice for the past 12 years and I have found an organization and a concept that celebrates the positive in youth while also contributing to the growth of communities and community leaders. As I reflect on my year as President of the Board of Directors, I am reminded of the staff who are the core of this organiza-

tion as well as the volunteers, who dedicate and commit their time and efforts to making a difference in the City of Calgary; a difference which has a national and provincial reach. As your President, I was and remain committed to our vision of :

"Calgary communities actively participating in the youth justice system to effectively reduce youth crime by focusing on the success of youth."

This year the Board of Directors and staff will be sharing our hopes and dreams for the future in a strategic planning session to articulate the how we will "Dream Big and Act

Bold" to best serve our community.

As I reflect on the past, I am struck at the significant growth of the Society and I am captured by the heights we will reach as we continue to grow, change and develop into an organization that can truly spread the wealth of our knowledge, passion and commitment. While we have had many great years, our mark in this community has only just begun.

- Sandy Vander Ziel

Report from CYJS Executive Director



PRIDE! This is the feeling that exudes when I have a chance to talk about the Calgary Youth Justice Society and the Youth Justice Committees we serve. I am proud of the quality of work, the commitment to excellence and the dedication of our staff and board...proud of our volunteers and their commitment to improve the lives of youth in our community... proud of our community partners who so willingly endeavour to support youth beyond what we could do ourselves... proud of our justice stakeholders who work hard to ensure that communities have an opportunity to participate in youth justice... proud of our donors in their ability to see

the importance of what we do and support us financially... proud of the parents and the victims who willingly participate to achieve the best possible outcome for our youth... and last but not least, I am proud of our youth! Every day, youth are accepting responsibility for their actions and taking steps to make amends. What we can achieve together is far more than what each of us could achieve ourselves.

This has been a very rewarding year with much advancement in our effort to support the work of Youth Justice Committees. We have focused our priorities in the following areas:

- ✦ Develop and deliver quality training opportunities for volunteers.
- ✦ Enhance volunteer's access to operational support and resources.
- ✦ Establish and maintain effective partnerships with

organizations offering programs and services for youth, and build effective consequence options.

- ✦ Provide public education to Albertans about Youth Justice Committees and the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

- ✦ Work in collaboration with Calgary Youth Attendance Centre and Young Offender Branch to provide the best possible service to Youth Justice Committees.

Recognize and celebrate our volunteers.

Our team is looking forward to another great year of building the success of youth together. We are grateful for the opportunity.

- Denise Blair

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are 25 Youth Justice Committees in Calgary serving over 140 communities
- 350 volunteers serve in Calgary YJCs
- 190 volunteers have been with their CYJC for 3 or more years
- 116 CYJC volunteers have served 5 years or more
- 10,693 volunteer hours were donated and 700 Calgary youth were served in 2007
- Approximately 8,000 Calgary youth have been served in the last 10 years

Now those are numbers to be proud of!



Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, my friend, anyone can start from now and make a brand new end.

- Carl Bard

Duke of Edinburgh Program Now Running at CYAC Wednesday Evenings

The CYAC started a Duke of Edinburgh Award Program in May on Wednesday evenings.

The program involves three levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold) of activities in four areas (community service, personal skill development; physical recreation, and an adventurous journey). Youth aged 14 through to 25 work through each level individually with support from program staff.

If you would like more information about the program or referrals, please contact the Coordinator Tirian Eynon by e-mail at teynon@dukeofed.org or telephone at 403-237-7476. You can also visit the web site at <http://dukeofed.org/>

REMINDER

As of July 1st, 2008 photo or plain identification badges are required when volunteering with your Youth Justice Committee. If you do not yet have a badge, please contact Lori Herod at lherod@calgaryyouthjustice.com or 403-261-9861, Ext 222.

New CYAC Program Coordinator

Hi everyone. My name is Amy Waterman and I'm the School Liaison and Program Coordinator at the Calgary Youth Attendance Centre (CYAC). This is a new position at the Youth Attendance Centre which I was happy to fill upon recently returning to work from a year Maternity Leave. I've been with Youth Corrections for about nine years and have spent close to four of those years at CYAC. I began my career as a Case Worker at the Edmonton Young Offender Centre where I remained until transferring to Calgary in the fall of 2004. Prior to starting with Youth Corrections I spent some time working with at-risk youth at the Terra Association (pregnant

and parenting teens), the Youth Emergency Shelter, and Howard House Group Home – all in Edmonton. My educational background is in Corrections/Criminal Justice from Grant MacEwan College/ Athabasca University.

By creating the Program Coordinator position we are hoping to increase the efficiency of our program scheduling process as well as add new programs to our calendar once we move into our new building this fall. So, I would ask that you please book any CYAC programs for the youth on your caseload through me. If you are able to fill out the program referral form and e-mail

it to me – great. If not, please just e-mail or call me with the young person's name and the program requested, and I will fill out the referral form(s) myself and let you know of the next available program date. I will do my best to create updated calendars of our programs and get them out to you via e-mail, file pick-up folders, and/or Youth Justice meetings. If you have questions regarding our programs, the scheduling of, or would like an updated calendar please don't hesitate to contact me. My direct line is 403-297-8965 or via e-mail at amy.waterman@gov.ab.ca.

New Referral Process for CYAC Work Crew & Programs

The following is a letter dated May 23, 2008 from Ron Toner, EJS Program Coordinator at the CYAC to all Calgary YJC Chairs. (Note: The attachments Ron talks about are available from committee Chairs and will also be uploaded to the CYJS web site in the very near future.)

In light of recent concerns surrounding various staff receiving incoming calls from parents and youth requesting programming, we will be implementing a new process to assist us in becoming more effective and efficient in this area.

Usually, YJCS would provide the young person with a referral form for our programs and work crew. The young person is told to contact the Youth Attendance Centre to schedule for the aforementioned programs. We have experienced several telephone calls where youth don't recall the program they have been referred to and have, at times, been scheduled with the work crew or a program they should not have attended.

The new process will involve emailing your referrals directly to the Programs Coordinator Amy, Waterman at amy.waterman@gov.ab.ca. The attachments provided can be typed over and sent to her mail box. When a referral is received, she will immediately place the young person on the appropriate program and or submit the work crew referral directly to the Correctional Peace Officer. The Program Coordinator will forward the referral form back to the sending committee member with the scheduled date(s) and the committee will contact the young person to inform them of program confirmation. For Committees without email, all program scheduling will be directed through Amy. She can be contacted at 403-297-8965.

With regards to our Work Crew Program, I am including an attachment for Committees to provide youth. The information sheet provides detailed information regarding how to schedule with the work crew etc, including rules and regulations.

It is hoped that by utilizing the above new processes, we can better meet the current requirements for youth referred to our programs. If you have any questions in regards to these procedures, please speak with me.

If you have any questions please contact your Chairperson or Ron Toner at 297-7740.

Training News



(L to R) Heather MacKay-Forrest (Southland YJC), Mike Yanko (CYJS Board) and Jocey Bonnycastle (Southland YJC), receive an appreciation gift at the CYJS AGM May 28th for their efforts in developing and facilitating the NVT course.



(L to R) Courtney Rhude (Chair South Glenmore YJC, Linda Figley (Chair, Fish Creek YJC), and Monetta Bailey (YJEEP Project Coordinator) receive an appreciation gift at the CYJS AGM May 28th for their time and effort in developing the first in a series of e-learning course, " The Youth Criminal Justice System and the Extra-Judicial Sanctions Program. The course will be piloted in the summer of 2008 (for more information, please contact Lori Herod at 261-9861, Ext 222 or

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE SEPT 08 TO JUN 09

New Volunteer Training Courses

Serial 04/08

- Part 1 – Sep 25
- Part 2 – Oct 2
- Part 3 – Oct 9

Serial 05/08

- Part 1 – Nov 13
- Part 2 – Nov 20
- Part 3 – Nov 27

Serial 01/09

- Part 1 – Jan 15
- Part 2 – Jan 22
- Part 3 – Jan 29

Serial 02/09

- Part 1 – Mar 12
- Part 2 – Mar 19
- Part 3 – Mar 26

Serial 03/09

- Part 1 – May 7
- Part 2 – May 14
- Part 3 – May 2

Chairs Meetings

- Thurs., Oct 2, 2008
- Thurs., January 22, 2009
- Thurs., April 16, 2009

Quadrant Evenings

- Oct 23, 2008 (Deerfoot Meadows Superstore Community Room)

Special Events

- Oct 31 to Nov 2— Youth Justice Committees Provincial Conference (Edmonton)
- Oct 17th, 2008—CYJS 10th Anniversary Celebration
-

Advanced Training —TBA

Tours of the Calgary Young Offender Centre—TBA

*Youth Justice
volunteers plant
trees under whose
shade they do not
expect to sit.*



At this year's AGM, CYJS gave away 80 white spruce tree seedlings. We asked those taking the trees to plant them as a symbol of the youth justice community's involvement in helping youth in conflict with the law. Over ten years approximately 8,000 Calgary youth have gone through the Extra-Judicial Sanctions program; thus, each seedling represents 100 youth who avoided the formal justice system.



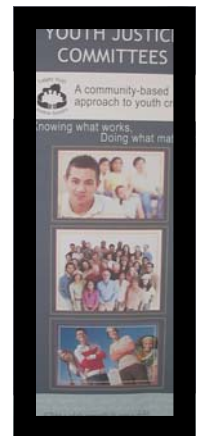
This is a powerful statement about the wonderful volunteers who give of their time, energy, wisdom

Youth Criminal Justice Education Materials Now Available



As shown on the left, the Youth Justice Education and Enhancement Project (YJEEP) public education package is now available for each YJC. Also available as shown on the right is an 8 foot high portable banner that YJCs may sign out. For more information please contact Monetta Bailey, YJEEP Coordinator:

- Telephone: 261-9861
- Email: monettab@calgaryyouthjustice.com



New Report Available from the Canadian Institute for Health Information

“Mental Health, Delinquency and Criminal Activity Report: Improving the Health of Canadians 2008” - This newly released report looks at numerous studies which investigated mental health and delinquent/criminal behaviour with a particular focus on youth. The report reviews and summarizes a wide array of data which indicate a strong correlation between youth delinquency/crime and risk/protective factors:

- **At the individual level**, risk factors for delinquency include low self-worth, hyperactivity and victimization. Protective factors against delinquency include having high levels of life satisfaction, optimism, emotional capability, being self-motivated and being able to manage stress.
- **At the family and school/peer levels**, risk factors include negative parenting styles and peer influences, minimal parent-child interaction, lack of school involvement, poor academic achievement and bullying. Protective factors include a parenting style that is nurturing and a school environment in which youth feel connected.
- **At the community level**, risk factors include living in neighbourhoods with high turnover of residents and high rates of violent crime, and feelings of hopelessness. Protective factors include feeling a positive bond to society.

These data are useful when assigning consequences to youth in the Extra-Judicial Sanctions Program. That is, while one goal of the program is to hold youth accountable for their actions, it is equally important to use the opportunity to build on and/or build in new protective factors. For example:

- **Build on existing protective factors** – A youth has played on a sports team (organized, adult coached) in the past, but quit at some point. A “consequence” might be to have the youth agree to join a team that is of interest to him/her, play an agreed upon number of games and then have the coach sign a form the YJC provides. The point of this type of “consequence” is to reignite the youth’s interest in a pro-social activity, and in doing so reforge the youth’s bonds with the community, connect the youth with positive adult role models/mentoring/support, and help the youth to build self-esteem and confidence.
- **Building in new protective factors** – A youth who may be missing parental support/guidance/nurturing might be assigned a consequence in which s/he can build an alternate adult relationships such as the Alberta Mentoring Foundation, Big Brothers and Sisters, etc.

The full report is available at http://www.cmha.ca/data/1/rec_docs/1771_mh_crime_full_report_apr11_08_e.pdf.

Have a safe and happy summer!