



Apropos...

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

CENTRAIDE, YOUTH HORIZONS FOUNDATION

The time of year has arrived when the Youth Horizons Foundation, which has taken on the role of supporting all of Batshaw, starts its annual fund raising drive. It is also the time of year when all Montrealers are asked to pledge support to Centraide, which funds over 250 community organizations tackling a wide range of problems experienced by poor and marginalized citizens. Donation forms are attached for both charitable groups.

Contributing is made easy by Batshaw's program of deduction at source. You can authorize our payroll service to deduct a modest (or generous) amount from every pay. This will minimize the impact on your personal cash flow, and assure a steady income to the cause you choose all year round.

I contribute to both of these causes and I encourage you do to likewise. If you don't, I encourage you to support another charity which works for a cause you believe in or has meant something to you and your family. It's a social investment that will pay.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

On Friday, November 26, 1999 the Multiracial / Multicultural Committee will hold a Community Resource Fair at 6 Weredale Park, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The following community organizations have confirmed their participation: The Islamic Centre of Quebec - South Asian Women Community Centre - Kahnawake Social Services - Shield of Athena - Youth-in-Motion - Inuit Catholic School Board - Project 10 - Native Friendship Centre.

The organizers are inviting all interested staff to attend, in addition to staff delegated by their division directors. It will be an opportunity to find out about organizations whose knowledge of their community and its resources can help us make vital contributions to the families we serve.

NATIONAL CHILD DAY

In 1993, the Government of Canada designated November 20 as National Child Day to commemorate two historic United Nations events: the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child on November 20, 1959 and the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on November 20, 1989.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child addresses the rights of children and youth under the age of 18. It recognizes their basic human rights and gives them additional rights to protect them from harm. The Convention also recognizes the important role of the family in bringing up children. National Child Day is being celebrated across the country with special activities and events on November 20. I encourage you to join in the celebration.

HOLIDAY PARTY 1999

The 5th Annual Holiday Party for Batshaw Youth and Family Centres staff will take place on Saturday, December 11, 1999. This year's party is at the Bill Wong Restaurant on Decarie. Cocktails at 7 p.m., followed by dinner at 8 p.m. Don't miss out on this fun event, reserve your tickets now. For tickets or further information contact Louise Auclair at (514) 989-1885.

YOUTH SEXUALITY TASK GROUP

Recently, the Task Group on Youth Sexuality was created at Batshaw. This work is part of a mandate given to the Youth Centres by the Regional Board of Montreal Centre as part of the Community Action Program for STD/HIV prevention. The mandate of the task group is :

- To facilitate initiatives coming out in the field of helping youth live more responsible and loving relationships.
- To help in the development of sexual education programs for Batshaw youth relating to their own life experiences.
- To support programs that will better inform and equip staff and foster families to talk about sexuality.
- To support the implementation of programs on sexual education throughout Batshaw.

Members of the Batshaw Task Group cover most sectors of our organization. Members include: Barbara Kemp, Head Office; Marie Leduc and Marlene Baumel, Health Services; Melissa Edward, CCC; Charlotte Gibson, Foster Family Association; Ruth Potts, Foster Care; Irish White and Virginia Kerr, Residential Services; Carlos de Castro, Youth Protection; Pierrette Laroche, Project 10; and Martine Bernier, resource person for STD/HIV prevention.

One of the Task Group's first projects will be to commemorate World AIDS Day on December 1st, 1999. You will all be invited to do something to sensitize your environment to this epidemic that particularly touches our youth.

NEW PRÉVOST BACKUP/ADMISSIONS SERVICE

Planning has gone on over the last few months to create a new backup and admissions service on the Prévost campus. These new initiatives will help increase stability in client life at the campus. One of the measures to be implemented is the creation of a unit which will respond to the backup needs in the division of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents. These are situations where a young person becomes highly unstable and a risk to self or others.

Currently the beds used to respond to these situations are spread out over a few units. This can have the effect of stretching the ability of these units to respond to their other clients. The new backup unit will take responsibility for most of the backup offered within the division. The program will use a combination of social skill acquisition and problem solving approaches, and will be a partnership with the security service of the campus.

At the same time a new approach will be taken to the admission and orientation of new arrivals at the campus. There are over 600 admissions every year. Therefore, managing these arrivals in a consistent and planned manner will make a positive contribution to both the experience of the young person and to the smooth running of the units on campus. Some renovations are required to accommodate both services. It is hoped they will be operational by the new year.