



Apropos...

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month. This year, the Multiracial/Multicultural Committee encourages and supports Batshaw's points of services to plan special activities to celebrate Black History Month. The Committee felt it would be easier for all to participate in local events. A calendar of local activities and special events organized by community groups has been circulated to staff.

Over the past year, the Black Advisory Committee has conducted a consultation with members of the Black Community, parents using Batshaw services, foster parents from the Black community and Black youth in placement in Batshaw programs. A wealth of information and suggestions has been gathered through this process, and Batshaw has developed an action plan. The Black Advisory Committee is holding an information/consultation session on the results of this process for staff, and particularly for staff who are members of the Black community. This meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 28th, from 4 to 6 p.m., in the auditorium at 6 Weredale Park. Light refreshments will be served.

THANKS TO BOMBARDIER

(Contributed by Louise Jessop, Director, Division of Placement Services for Young Children)

The Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Foster Care team, along with some of our foster parents, children and partners, have recently completed work on a video. This video aims to inform prospective foster parents and other interested parties on the process of becoming foster parents and on the invaluable contribution that foster parents make to the children of this agency. The Foster Care team felt that a video would serve as an aid in their recruitment efforts, as well as in the orientation sessions offered to potential foster parents.

James Parris, the Manager of Foster Care, approached Bombardier who very generously contributed the sum of \$20,000 towards the project. Our colleagues at The Montreal Children's Hospital were also involved in the realization of the project. The video production company HOT SPOTS, helped us out by reducing their normal fee for the production of this type of video. Our thanks to all who participated. This worthwhile project was made possible because of their generosity.

BATSHAW-CLSC PROTOCOL

On Thursday, March 22nd, 10:30am Batshaw and the Regroupement des CLSC (the CLSCs on the Island of Montréal) will hold a reception and press conference at CLSC Metro. The purpose of the gathering will be to announce the coming into force of a Worker's guide to using the services of both organizations. Two years in the preparation, it is expected that this guide will support staff and managers in both organizations to provide timely and coherent services.

HOLIDAY KINDNESS

(Contributed by Kim Kurtz, Volunteer Services)

The holiday season may have come and gone, but the good deeds and kindness live on. Many come forward to assist our children and families. Every gesture, big or small is appreciated. Here are some of the people and companies who made a difference.

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres received a donation of over 1000 new Hasbro toys worth over \$25,000, courtesy of Mix 96, CJAD and Hasbro Canada as part of their annual toy drive. Thank you CJAD, Mix 96 and Hasbro!

Cathy Carroll, Manager, Therapeutic Foster Homes and Maria Zanti, Human Relations Agent, once again coordinated an internal Christmas Basket campaign. Through their efforts and the generosity of employees they distributed 45 food baskets to youth and families. Each basket was filled with non-perishables, as well as meat pie, holiday cake, milk, eggs and a turkey. Gifts were also included for each child in the family.

At DYP, Carol Antenucci and Sheryl Foley, initiated a drive amongst support staff and sponsors to gather gifts for adolescents to complete the baskets. Thanks Cathy, Maria, Carol, Sheryl and friends.

The Montreal Gazette provided 100 Batshaw families with \$125 cheques to purchase their holiday food items. Thanks Gazette.

The Sun Youth Organization dispensed over 50 holiday baskets to our families. Thank you Sun Youth.

Felicia D'Orvé, Access, with the assistance of Frank Campanile, Tupper, once again organized a huge gift collection for children and families. Over 600 gifts were matched to individual children. Felicia has received great support from anonymous donors, who literally shop for each individual gift. Thanks Felicia and Frank.

Through the drive and initiative of Geraldine Marchand, a VIA Rail employee, over 60 gifts were collected for our preadolescent youngsters. Geraldine encouraged individual VIA employees to each shop for one Batshaw youngster. A Santa wish list was provided by the Batshaw homes where the children reside, while maintaining the confidentiality of the children. The VIA employees in turn would individually shop for one of the children, and personally purchase an item from the wish list. Geraldine coordinated the whole effort. Thanks Geraldine and all those VIA employees who contributed.

Ruth Potts, Foster Care Services, raised more than \$600 through a *Comedy for the Cause* evening. Sue Oliver raised more than \$200 for the Christmas basket fund by making different Christmas theme chocolates. And Wendy Fournier and Bev Boyce who came up with \$50 for a Mom to buy gifts for her youngster, and bought mom a bowling ticket so she could attend his bowling banquet. Thanks Ruth, Sue, Wendy and Bev.

All of the DYP staff and in particular nurse Elizabeth Londei, are to be thanked for their extraordinary work through the holiday period. Thank you all.

The West Island office, led by David Lubert, Gloria Ann Cozier, Leigh-Ann Salway and Sandhya Karnick, coordinated a very successful Breakfast With Santa event. From decorating to purchasing gifts, the trio worked hard to make the holiday season, a happier one for Batshaw children. Sponsors who gave greatly to the West Island festivities included: S.T.S., Pfizer, Chenoy's, Hasbro Canada, Future Electronics, Abbott Laboratories, Holiday Inn Pointe Claire, Kinsmen Club-West Island and Encore International. Thank you all.

Lorien cottage at Prévoist campus did a walkathon of 10 kms, eight boys participated in this benevolent event under the supervision of Dave Brown. The walkathon took place through the woods of the Prévoist area, so all participants had to don snowshoes. A total of \$240 was raised through pledges from campus employees. The money was presented to the Shawbridge United Church for their Christmas baskets. Great job Lorien boys and staff.

When a social worker had a desperate, week-before-Christmas request for a family in need, CJAD and Canadian Tire came to the rescue. For several years, an 11 year old boy, dreamed of having a bicycle for Christmas. Unfortunately, the family was not in a financial position to purchase such a costly item. Through the personal efforts of Shawn Ryan and Marie-Claude Baribeau at CJAD, a little boy's dream came true. A beautiful blue bike was delivered before Christmas, along with wonderful gifts for the other four children and parents. Thank you Shawn, Marie-Claude and Canadian Tire.

If you helped out in some way and were not mentioned, our apologies, please accept our sincere thanks.

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