



Apropos...

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

(Contributed by Kim Kurtz, Volunteer Services)

The week of April 27th to May 3rd is designated as **National Volunteer Week**. It is a wonderful time to give thanks to those who give their time freely to our young people, families and programs. From Châteauguay to Prévost, from Dorval to St. Leonard, volunteers are making a difference at Batshaw Youth and Family Centres.

In some cases volunteers are acting as tutors to preadolescent and adolescent youngsters who are struggling with school subjects. In some instances, young people who are feeling alone, or lack male or female role models, request older sister or older brother volunteers. There are over 100 volunteers who are presently active at Batshaw: 33 tutors, 18 older sister/ brother, 17 providing program animation, 30 involved with the literacy program and a half dozen performing clerical and communication support.

There is always a shortage of older brother volunteers, not only at Batshaw, but with other organizations that provide Big Brother services. (We are presently seeking nine candidates for possible matches.)

During the course of the year two of our volunteers were recognized for their efforts at Batshaw. A community recognition program noted the efforts of Sabrina Discenza and Kate Love. Sabrina was a program animation volunteer at our Mountainview School. Sabrina contributed 60 hours in October, November 2002. Kate is a McGill student who coordinates and contributes countless hours towards the literacy volunteers and in particular the Youth Outreach Project with Batshaw.

Volunteers are enriching our services and programs, if you know of a volunteer, thank them for their commitment. I am sure your words will be appreciated.

THE MDSC HAS A QUESTION FOR YOU

(Contributed by Sandra Baines, member of the MDC Steering Committee, and Human Relations Agent in the Access department of the Youth Protection division)

The MDSC is asking for your cooperation in completing a questionnaire related to the PNF training. The purpose is to gain an understanding of the impact of the training on practice. Has this training had an impact on your day-to-day work? The process provides an opportunity for the MDSC to find ways to improve services to our clients. A more extensive evaluation will be conducted through our Association (ACJQ) and will include all of the Centres Jeunesse who have participated in the training. Batshaw will be carrying out its own assessment of the impact. Look for the questionnaire next month. Take a few minutes to complete it, your participation is invaluable.

GENERATIONS BUYS SUPPER FOR KIDS!

The directors of the Generations Foundation, Adrian and Nathalie Bercovici and with their active board of directors raise money and organize special events for the benefit of many different groups in Montréal. Batshaw also benefits. For example, Generations sponsored 62 Batshaw youth to attend the Trails End and Amy Molson camps last summer by subsidizing most of the cost. Their generosity is not on a small scale!

A few weeks ago Adrian and Nathalie once again invited all of the youth living in the preadolescent group homes of the Child and Family Services division out for supper at La Stanza restaurant in St. Laurent. Everyone ate to their hearts content with Adrian and Nathalie present. Many thanks on the part of the youth and staff to two people who work year round to help their fellow citizens.

BUILDING POSITIVE MEMORIES

(Contributed by Marie-Pierre Ulysse, liaison person with the CCC and FFA)

On March 6, 2003 a happy group of 16 youths and 4 foster parents participated in a day of amusement at Jillian's Entertainment Center. Upon arrival many youth were shy as they did not know each other; however, that did not last long. As we arrived at Jillian's the young people were already talking with one another. After a delicious meal the group played electronic games for two hours non-stop. The happiness on the faces of these kids is impossible to describe. Pictures were taken and sent to the youths as a souvenir of the day.

March 2003 has brought along the first edition of the FFA Amazing Game Party for Teens. The need to develop such an activity for the 12 to 14 year olds was identified by two FFA members, Wendy Fournier and Beverly Boyce. With the addition of this activity, the FFA provides at least one activity per year, open to different age groups. (1) The FFA Annual Children Christmas Party is open to children ages 12 years and under, (2) The FFA *La Ronde* outing that takes place every summer in August is open to youths in foster care who are 14 years old and over; and (3) FFA Amazing Game Party for Teens for youngsters ages 12 to 14.

CCC CONFERENCE - "OUT OF THE BOX"

(Contributed by Marie-Pierre Ulysse, liaison person with the CCC and FFA)

The annual conference organized by the Council for Clients and Community will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2003, 9 to 3:30 p.m. at 6 Weredale Park. It will be a day of workshops of interest to anyone associated with social services. It is free and constitutes a super opportunity to join together and learn more about pertinent issues. A BBQ lunch will be provided. Come in large numbers! Publicity will be posted shortly. More details will be sent through e-mail.

BATSHAW CALENDAR

May 12th Batshaw Board Meeting
6 Weredale Park
For further information contact:
Thérèse Gauthier, 989-1885

May 15th CCC Conference
6 Weredale Park
For further information contact:
Marie-Pierre Ulysse, 989-1885