



Appropos

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

HOLIDAY KINDNESS

(Contributed by Kim Kurtz, Volunteer Services)

We thank the many people and organizations that generously gave time and support to the youth and families of Batshaw during the holiday season:

- ◆ CHOM/ Mix 96 and Mega Bloks donated over 400 new toys, worth \$6,000, through the Annual CHOM/ Mix 96 Toy Drive.
- ◆ Montreal Gazette assisted 90 of our families with \$125 Gazette Christmas Fund cheques.
- ◆ Sun Youth Organization contributed 48 food baskets.
- ◆ Fléchère Ferland matched VIA employees to over 40 pre-adolescents in group homes.
- ◆ Generations Foundation, Reitman's, Future Shop, Nicholl Paskell-Mede, St. Thomas Church in NDG, provided toys and support through the holiday season.

(Contributed by Cathy Carroll, Manager, Child and Family Services Division)

Thank you for your generous contributions to our 2004 Christmas Basket Drive, which was our best since we started 15 years ago. We were able to prepare and deliver 63 Christmas Baskets to needy Batshaw families.

Each contribution was significant --from the collection of non-perishable goods, donations of money, turkeys and toys, wrapping of presents etc. to provide families with a significant basket for the holiday season. Special thanks to Bono Fruits and Vegetables and to Maria Zanti, co-organizer, Ola, internal operations, all the staff who contributed and my Santa's helpers, Manon, Serge, Sue, Phyllis, Doris, Sheryl and the elves from Collège Laval. Thanks to the private donors who sponsored a family. I apologize that I cannot name everyone as I would need the whole newsletter. Best wishes to all for 2005. I count on your support for next year's baskets.

If you helped out in some way and were not mentioned above, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your assistance.

HOLIDAY PARTY

On December 18th, 200 Batshaw staff and their guests gathered at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel. We enjoyed excellent food, a visual retrospective from the Computer Services department, great animation from Showtime staff, and 'du dancing en masse!' Many thanks to Ola Dupelycz, France Lespérance, Francis Sergerie, Yves Provençal, Henri Derome and Louise Jessop. Perennial MC Ted Larivière missed this year due to surgery, rumored to be on his funny bone.

WE NOTICE!

(Submitted by the staff of the Human Resource Development Department)

Thanks to the staff and managers who helped us deliver all the training programs in 2004. In particular we thank the trainers who take on this additional responsibility ensuring that we deliver programs supporting best practice in Batshaw.

Thanks also to the administrative support staff. Without your help, we would not be able to manage the numerous registrations, provide the variety of programs in several locations, nor offer the opportunity for as many staff to attend these programs.

WORLD AIDS DAY – December 1st

(Contributed by Lynn Dion, resource person on STIs/HIV prevention and youth sexuality issues, Dorval Campus – Division of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents)

There was good participation at the lunch conference organized by the Task Group on Youth Sexuality. AIDS Community Care Montreal staff and volunteers reviewed the basics about HIV. Janice Dayle rendered a touching testimony about her life as a HIV-positive woman, reminding us that HIV-positive people still face discrimination and stigma.

On December 1st, Red Ribbons were distributed to commemorate World AIDS Day. The \$320.93 collected for our Special HIV/AIDS fund for Batshaw clients living with HIV/AIDS. On behalf of the Task Group, thanks to all who contributed. Special thanks to Manon St-Hilaire, Carlos De Castro, Marie Leduc, Marie-Pierre Ulysse, Linda Kalman, Sue Plaisance and Cheryl Nelson for distributing the Red Ribbons. For information on the Special Fund, or if you have a HIV-positive client needing financial assistance, contact Lynn Dion (Dorval Campus, 636-0910, ext. 142).

Q92/940AM SUPPORT FOSTER FAMILY RECRUITMENT

From January to early March, Q92/940AM will air public service spots supporting Batshaw's foster family recruitment program. The spots solicit candidates for both regular and respite care. Many thanks to Q92/940AM for taking this on, to Aaron Rand for lending his voice to the cause, and to Susan Hayward, respite foster parent and Q92/940AM staffer, for organizing the campaign.

SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

(Submitted by Kees Maas, Psychologist, Professional Services Division)

February 6th-12th, the Association québécoise de prévention du suicide presents Suicide Prevention week. Posters will be up soon. The objective is to break the isolation of individuals who consider suicide, sensitize the general population to the fact that the suicidal process is reversible, and that suicide can be prevented through a collective effort. These messages complement our implementation of the Batshaw Suicide Protocol. Since 2004 there has been one single phone number to access suicide prevention help lines throughout Québec: 1-866-APPELLE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(Contributed by Felicia Agyekum, Chairperson, MR/MC Committee)

Please reserve the following dates in your agenda:

- Friday, February 4th (tentative) – 1 p.m. - Panel Discussion: *Mental Health and the Black Community and the Place of Black Young Adults in Quebec Society.*
- Friday, February 11th – 3:30 p.m. - Talent Extravaganza with guest keynote speaker: *Yolande James, MNA for Nelligan*
- Friday, February 18th (tentative) – 3:30 p.m. - Fashion Show organized by the Foster Family Association
- Friday, February 25th – 12:30 p.m. - Luncheon

All activities take place in the Auditorium at 6 Weredale Park. More info soon.

THE BATSHAW CALENDAR

February Suicide Prevention week, February 6th-12th
For info. Kees Maas @ 937-9581, ext. 236, or
Wendy Lewis @ 937-9581, ext. 210

Black History month (see above)