



Appropos

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

NEW GOLF CHAMPIONS!

(Contributed by Leo Ferguson, Program Manager, Division of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents)

The annual golf tournament held at Bonniebrook Golf Club September 16th was a huge success with over 120 participants enjoying a day of golf and fun. The winning team of Mario Foisy, Jean-Marc Lauzon, Christian Lauzon and Ghislain Gauthier came away victorious with a score of 9 under par, ending years of dictatorship by that "other" team. Other winners included Pam Greenberg, Monique Laverdure and Janet Mitchell for ladies best score and Mike Tott, Linda Tott and René Létourneau for best score with handicap. Via raffle tickets, we managed to raise almost \$2200 for the Ways and Means (i.e. client) Committees at Prévost and Dorval, the general camp fund and the Christmas basket drive. Congratulations to all the winners including Jim Parris with a trip for two on **VIA RAIL** and Erika Murray with the **ELAN SKIS**. Many thanks to our sponsors and everyone who gave of their time to help out, sell tickets and/or obtain sponsors.

BOURBONNIÈRE CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

(Contributed by Julia Paré, Program Coordinator, and Brian McGirr, Program Manager, Division of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents)

Bourbonnière Group Home celebrated its 20th anniversary on September 29th by hosting a wine and cheese party for its former and current multi-disciplinary team members, associated BYFC colleagues and community partners from the hospitals, school board and other community referral centers. Among the guests were the founding members: staff from both the Montreal Children's Hospital (MCH) and the former Shawbridge Youth Centres (SYC).

The group home was created in 1985 through the collaborative work of SYC and the MCH Department of Psychiatry to treat adolescents with psychiatric and/or medical disorders requiring specialized interventions and residential care. A Day Program was added in 1996 to allow for shortened residential stays and more intensive after-care.

Guests heard the results of an informal client follow-up survey carried in the three weeks prior to the party. Fifty of the program's approximately 170 clients since 1985 were randomly contacted by phone and asked four questions.

- In answer to the question "Where are you living now?", we learned that all of the adolescents were living at home or on their own with close ties to their families.
- The second question asked if the client had been re-admitted to either residential or psychiatric care, after their discharge from Bourbonnière. We found that for all but four clients, Bourbonnière was their last admission to residential or psychiatric care.
- The third question asked if the client was working or in school. We learned that all but six of the adolescents were working, in high school, CEGEP or university.
- In answer to the last question "Did Bourbonnière help you to get through a difficult time in your life?" the clients (adolescents and parents) gave only positive responses, with a common theme best represented by one client's words:

"Bourbonnière allowed me to have time out to make the transition from my world to the real world so I could do what I needed to do to be part of it."

Fittingly, a plaque was given to the team with the following inscription:

"To the Bourbonnière group home staff, past, present and in memoriam, for their outstanding commitment to the youth and families of the last 20 years."

DORVAL GIRLS HELP GULF VICTIMS

(Contributed by Christine Jagiello, Program Manager, Oasis, in the Division of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents)

In the days following hurricane Katrina, girls of the Oasis program saw news programs and became aware of the terrible devastation suffered by the residents of the Gulf Coast. They wanted to do something to help. With the help of educator Angela Ellington they baked goodies and sold them at a bake sale at Dorval Campus which was well supported by all the staff. They raised \$150 which was donated to the Red Cross. I am very proud of the Oasis girls and thank everyone who supported us! One client, Annie, was moved by the circumstances to write the following poem:

A Call for Help A Sign of Hope

First off living large,
 Second part just got harder
 No home to go to
 No parents to call to
 The people who suffer
 Are the true survivors
 Of our atmosphere
 The hurricane Katrina
 Came as fast as it passed
 Destroyed so much
 But people still keep their heads up
 For they have hope to still be heard
 Give generously is all they need
 Some food, some clothes,
 some love, a home
 Lost in this world like me, I see the other side of the story
 Men raping girls out of desperation, murder, and stealing just
 To keep on walking
 Walking endlessly until they find their destiny.
 To restore their peace
 Dry your eyes don't cry
 Everything will be alright on this journey
 You will find your inner strength
 Help out this world because one day its us that will
 Be needing the help.

THE BATSHAW CALENDAR

- November 20-26: Substance abuse prevention week/ Semaine de la prévention de la toxicomanie
- November 25-30: Canadian HIV/AIDS awareness week (for info.: Lynn Dion, 636-0910, loc. 142)
- November 28: Board meeting (for info.: Thérèse Gauthier, 989-1885 loc. 202)
- December 1st: World Aids Day (for info.: Lynn Dion, 636-0910, loc. 142)

Correction: In the article on the annual staff and family BBQ in the September edition, we did not thank the right Darlene. Our apologies and THANKS go to Darlene Job.