



Appropos

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF!

This month the Batshaw Foundation launches its annual fundraising campaign. Letters go out to over 700 members of the community, and Standard Broadcasting donates air time to invite the public to contribute. Soon you will receive a letter from Foundation President, Erin O'Brien, summarizing what the Foundation accomplished last year and inviting you to help out.

GARAGE SUCCESS

(Contributed anonymously)

On behalf of the NDG/Metro Team, please accept our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your donations to our "Annual Garage Sale". Because of your generous contributions, the children benefited. We raised \$700. It was truly a huge success. Thank you once again and we'll see you next year.

STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

During the week of October 31st to November 4th the annual Batshaw Staff Recognition celebrations took place. Each division held receptions to award certificates to staff who have reached 7 and 15 years of service. On Thursday, November 3rd, the annual dinner was held for those employees who have reached 20 years of service and more. A warm and festive atmosphere reigned among the 185 staff in attendance at the Centre Mont-Royal. The many e-mails sent to my office over the next few days testified to the extent to which those present enjoyed themselves. The messages are also testimony to the immense amount of work that goes into the organizing of this week each year, in particular by Thérèse Gauthier who works non-stop from mid-August to early November to assure that we enjoy ourselves.

Batshaw enjoys an impressive rate of long service among its staff. This translates into rich experience and stability. The picture of length of service of 1058 employees as of October 31st is as follows:

- 7 years and more: 188 (34.7%)
- 15 years and more: 205 (19.4%)
- 20 years and more: 114 (10.8%)
- 25 years and more: 124 (11.7%)
- 30 years and more: 58 (5.5%)
- 35 years and more: 2 (0.2%)

BATSHAW TURNS THE TABLES ON FOSTER PARENTS

(Contributed by Leigh Johnston, Coordinator of Resources, Division of Child and Family Services)

Each day, approximately 600 children are cared for by 350 Batshaw foster families. Foster families provide an incredible service to our community by taking care of "our kids" 365 days per year, day in and day out. Unlike our staff, they don't get to go home to their family at the end of the day, because they are offering us their home and family.

On Tuesday, November 8th, we had the opportunity to turn the tables and serve our foster families. Through the generous support of the Atwater Club, we were able for the second year to provide a lovely dinner, where foster parents were served their meals by the Batshaw Resource staff. Five foster families were honored for 15 years of service, while one foster parent was honored for 20 years of service. The evening concluded with an event that has become a tradition: our very own Gina Carvalho performing a skit intended to give us all the opportunity to poke a little fun at ourselves. (Thank you, Mooly Meter Maid!)

It was a lovely evening, and the planning committee, as well as the entire Resource Department did a wonderful job of celebrating fostering. Congratulations!

THERAPEUTIC CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING

(Contributed by Kim St-Hilaire, Interim Coordinator, Human Resources Development, Division of Human Resources and Administrative Services)

On October 24th-25th, Batshaw Youth and Family Centres hosted a Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) training for trainers. This was a unique opportunity to have trainers Martha Holden and Tom Endres from Cornell University train and re-certify our 8 in-house TCI trainers: *Marisa DiMeglio, Sherwin Laptiste, Johanne Kralka, Larry Ryan, Wendy Potter, Wayne Kyle, Silvana Scarapicchia and Molly Young*. We also welcomed 10 trainers from youth care agencies in Ontario.

Batshaw has had a long collaboration with Cornell and TCI, and we look forward to hosting them and other professionals from around the country in the future. Thank you again to Margaret Douek for her welcome and opening remarks to the group. Congratulations to Marisa DiMeglio for her efforts in organizing this event and bringing Batshaw and Cornell University together.

BATSHAW YOUTH & STAFF TRAVEL TO OTTAWA

(Contributed by Tony Maciocia and Phil Henry, respectively Program Coordinator and Program Manager in the Division of Residential Treatment Services for Adolescents)

On Saturday, October 29th, youth and staff from Batshaw travelled to Ottawa to watch the Montreal Alouettes play the Ottawa Renegades. Thirty-two youth and staff attended, including a few guests from the Outaouais and Laval youth centres.

This was part of an annual event organized by Gordon Hudson, of Cree Social Services. Gordon is an ex-CFL player and an alumnus of the Ottawa Football Club.

The Renegades hosted over 100 Cree youth and staff in a variety of weekend activities, and all were called to centre field at half-time, where they participated in singing a Native Aboriginal song. We were also treated to some choruses of "Goose Calls" by the Cree youth, whenever a flock of geese flew over the stadium!

The Batshaw people were treated to an excellent day of weather and a great football game, especially since the Alouettes won!

Special thanks to Gordon Hudson and the Ottawa Renegades organization for their commitment to partnerships and community involvement.

BATSHAW CALENDAR

November 28th: Batshaw Board meeting (for info.: Thérèse Gauthier, 989-1885, local 202)

December 1st: World AIDS Day (for info.: Lynn Dion, 636-0910, local 142)

December 1st: Professional Development Groups Information Session for Managers (for info.: Kim St-Hilaire, 989-1885, local 256)

December 17th: Staff holiday party (for info.: France Lespérance, 989-1885, local 204)