



Appropos

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

HOLIDAY PARTY FUN!

About 150 Batshaw staff and guests gathered at the Queen Elizabeth hotel Saturday December 17th to wine, dine, and dance the night away. Showtime Entertainment got everyone on their feet. The Batshaw Information Systems guys provided big screen displays of the special events of the year. Well after midnight the dance floor was still a hazardous zone. We owe thanks to Louise Jessop, Henri Derome, Ola Dupelycz, France Lespérance, Francis Sergeri and Yves Provençal for the months of hard work they put into the preparations for our benefit.

YOUTH PROTECTION ACT TO BE REVISED

(Contributed by Michael Godman, Director of Youth Protection)

The Ministry of Health and Social Services (MSSS) decided in 2001 to revise the Youth Protection Act and created a committee of experts to prepare recommendations. In November 2003 the committee deposited their report. The MSSS then conducted extensive consultations on the 57 recommendations. Over 900 individuals representing diverse groups throughout Quebec expressed their point of view. On October 20, 2005, An Act to Amend the Youth Protection Act was tabled in the National Assembly. The Bill will be reviewed by a Parliamentary Commission beginning January 24, 2006, and could be voted on by spring. In parallel, the Ministry of Justice undertook a review of judicial proceedings related to youth protection cases to modernize the court process.

Major changes include revision of section 38 to bring greater clarity on what situations require youth protection intervention. The motives for intervention have been grouped under six headings: abandonment, neglect, psychological ill-treatment, sexual abuse, physical abuse, and serious behavioral disturbance.

The Bill affirms that children should remain with their families. When this is not possible placement, with extended family members should be considered. To facilitate this, the Bill proposes a new placement option called subsidized tutorship.

To provide greater stability for children who are in placement, the Bill requires development of a permanency plan after 12 months of placement for children under two years of age; after 18 months of placement for children between two and five; and after 24 months of placement for children six years and older. This plan must be sanctioned by the Court.

The Bill favors a consensual approach to decision-making with families and reserves access to court for the most difficult cases. It provides for interim agreements; greater use of *intervention terminale*; and extension of urgent measures to 48 hours. Lastly the Bill provides for greater access to information on children held by other establishments; enhanced ability for protection workers to share information with others; revised rules extending conservation of protection dossiers and the creation of a provincial register that would permit the DYP to know if a child had ever been signaled before in any part of the Province. We will keep you posted on the legislative process as it unfolds.

SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

(Contributed by Wendy Lewis and Claude Laurendeau, Division of Professional Services)

The Suicide Prevention Protocol has been in application in residential programs since September 2002. First-level

interveners were trained to use the screening checklist and implement the procedures. We are in the process of expanding application to the Social Emergency Service; Reception and Treatment of Signalements; *Vérification sur terrain*, and Foster Care over the next year.

The protocol enhances communication between interveners to reduce the isolation felt by clients who manifest suicidal behavior and of the staff dealing with it. The second-level team is in place to consult as needed: Kees Maas, 937-9581, #236, Wendy Lewis 937-9581, #210, Edelgard Dussault, 932-7722.

HOLIDAY KINDNESS

(Contributed by Kim Kurtz, Volunteer Services)

Our thanks go to many staff, volunteers and individuals from the community generously gave their time and support to the youth and families of Batshaw during the holiday season.

- The Montreal Gazette assisted 100 Batshaw families with \$125 Gazette Christmas Fund cheques.
- Sun Youth contributed 52 food baskets.
- Anne and Ron Di Gennaro, volunteers, purchased and wrapped individual gifts for young people in preadolescent homes, in memory of Ron's father, Carmen.
- CHOM donated 90 new toys for the Foster Family Children's Holiday Party.
- Fléchère Ferland from VIA Rail coordinated a donation of gifts for each student at Mountainview School in Côte St-Luc.
- Generations Foundation organized a special dinner and toys for all the children in preadolescent homes.
- Reitman's and St. Thomas Church in NDG provided toys and gifts.

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

Our Christmas Basket Drive resulted in over 70 additional baskets. Each contribution is significant--from the collection of non-perishable goods, donations of money, turkeys and toys, gift-wrapping and all other tasks necessary to provide a significant basket to families. Special thanks to those who played major roles: Maria Zanti, co-organizer, Ola Dupelycz, internal operations; my Santa's helpers: Manon, Serge, Phyllis, Lynne, Karen, Sheryl; the little elves: Anthony, Andy, Janina and Jordan. Thank you to Access/OT for the proceeds from their raffle, to Ray and the transport guys for literally bailing me out during the snowstorm, and to the private donors who gave money or sponsored a family. Best wishes to all for 2006!

The Lasalle/Pte-St-Charles Application of Measures team thanks everyone who helped them raise \$352.42 last month to help their clients during the holiday season.

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

BATSHAW CALENDAR

January 30: Board meeting. (for info: Thérèse Gauthier, 989-1885, #202)

February 1-28: Black History month: see posters on Bulletin Boards, or the Intranet, look at the Calendar, under Events

February 6-12: Suicide Prevention Week (for info: Ed Potter-Mâl, 932-7161, #461)