



APROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARD

I had the honour of presenting the Young Achiever Award to four outstanding young ladies during the Black History Month Talent Extravaganza – Fashion Show on February 22nd. We have reproduced below the statements submitted by the individuals who nominated these young achievers.

May they be an inspiration to all.

Shanica

Shanica knows first hand about the hardships of separation, immigration and reunification, not to mention the challenges of growing up in a large, close-knit family. Despite the many struggles of the past few years, she has held on to her passion for learning and love of books as well as her commitment to continuing her education. Her teachers describe her as a joy to teach and a pleasure to have in class. Others who have worked with her find her quiet, insightful and poised. The quality, however, that most touched those involved in her care was her profound sense of gratitude and appreciation. Shanica is most deserving of this award as she is a young lady full of promise and potential who proves that it is possible to shine in the face of adversity.

Tanika

Tanika is a young woman who has encountered several obstacles throughout her short life and used them as stepping stones on her way to a brighter future. This young woman has contributed in many ways to her community by volunteering at various community organizations to work with youth and elderly. Her favourite expression speaks to her phenomenal spiritual strength and fortitude: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you". Tanika is presently pursuing studies in cosmetology and hairdressing. On the behalf of BYFC, we would like to wish Tanika success in her future endeavours.

Kayla

Kayla is a young lady who demonstrates her strength of character, personality and natural leadership skills to all who know her. She perseveres in her studies and has a positive attitude toward life. Last fall, Kayla graduated with honours from high school and was selected as the valedictorian of her class. She was involved in football, basketball, badminton and horseback riding and has received awards for her outstanding achievement in the sports. In school, Kayla took initiatives and became the coordinator of social activities and was involved in public speaking. Kayla's outgoing and energetic spirit followed her through her involvement with the church as she attended weekly youth group meetings, organized youth activities and the weekly youth bulletin. Kayla presently attends college and is excelling in the Sports and Leisure Studies Program, and she is aspiring to become a teacher. Kayla's dedication and commitment to being the best she can be deserves recognition! Congratulations Kayla!

Jasmine

When youth in care reach 18 years of age, one of the big challenges that they are facing is to have a safe transition to adulthood. Well, Jasmine passed through in a very successful manner. She is now a young adult who has demonstrated her capacity to make right choices and to nurture relationships developed with the adults that were significant caregivers in her life. Jasmine completed her schooling, integrated the work force successfully, maintains her apartment, pays her bills, and makes the right choices for herself. When in need to try on a new recipe she knows who to call to get good advice! The adults who have seen her grow are all very proud of her. They all knew that Jasmine had the strength of character and the qualities to succeed in life. They are particularly happy that Jasmine stayed far away from drugs which is destroying so many young lives. Congratulations Jasmine!

SO MANY THANKS!

The success of Black History Month relies on many people. Thanks to all volunteers, and in particular: our young achievers, our clients who sang in the choir, and who played the drums, our clients, foster families, and children in the community who performed in the Talent Extravaganza and in the Fashion Show, our clients at Lorien for the programs and the certificates, Jonathan and Majenta Whyte Potter-Mäl, and all the staff noted below in alphabetical order: Felicia Agyekum, Black History Month Planning Committee Members, Dave Brown, Bekaye Dembele, Nicolette DeSmit, FFA, Kim Kurtz, Sherwin Laptiste, MIS, MRMC Committee Members, Hedy Taylor, Technical Services, Transport & Security, Clément Walker.

Finally, a very special thank you to Anna Renda, Chair of MRMC, the maître d'oeuvre behind the BHM activities, and to Denise Bertrand for her invaluable assistance.

TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

(Contributed by Anna Renda, interim Coordinator, Human Resources Development)

We are pleased to inform you of the tuition assistance program for all Batshaw employees. It is run by the Human Resources Development (HRD) Department and is available to employees enrolled in courses associated with a certificate, diploma or degree. Employees are reimbursed 50% of the tuition fees per semester. Claims must be submitted to HRD within six months of completion of the course(s) along with the receipt for tuition paid, attestation of successful completion of the course(s) and the Tuition Assistance form. Please contact us at 514-989-1885, ext. 299, for a copy of the form.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MANNY!

Best wishes to Manny Batshaw, who will be celebrating his 92nd birthday on April 17th.

March 2007

5, rue Weredale Park, Westmount (Québec) H3Z 1Y5