



APROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

STAFF RECOGNITION EVENING: THE TRADITION CONTINUES!

(Contributed by Michael Udy, Executive Director)

On Thursday, November 8th, nearly 200 Batshaw staff gathered to celebrate the annual staff recognition dinner. Staff who have reached 20 years of service, or more, are invited to this event each year. Held again at Le Centre Mont-Royal, the evening has become one of the most pleasant in the Batshaw social schedule. Socializing during cocktails and canapés, serenaded by a string quartet, guests eventually sat down to an excellent supper.

Although we are entering a period during which the annual number of retirements is rising, the group of staff with 20+ years of service does not seem to be shrinking. This year 31 staff reached their 20th year of service, of whom 20 were on hand to receive their certificates. Another 26 reached their 25th year; 23 reached 30 years; and 6 reached 35 years. Thirty percent of Batshaw's staff have 20 or more years of service. They provide a solid foundation of experience for all of our services, and examples of perseverance for new staff joining Batshaw.

As she does each year, Thérèse Gauthier provided excellent coordination of the details to see that we enjoyed an elegant evening. This was my last turn at being the host of the staff recognition dinner. I leave it pleased and proud about the tradition that has been established, and the strength of commitment of our staff which it both highlights and celebrates.

SEARCH FOR TALENTS TALENT EXTRAVAGANZA BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(Contributed by Claire Roy, Manager, Communications and Public Relations)

Black History Month 2008 is just around the corner, believe it or not!

This year again, the events will be held on Thursdays in order to increase participation from our clients and our staff. Block the following Thursdays in your agenda: February 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th.

Our famous and unique Talent Extravaganza will start this very important month, on February 7th. We are asking for everyone's participation, on stage and in the audience. Our clients, staff's children and members of the community have so many talents to be discovered!

Please book on my behalf, all the known and unknown artists you know! The number of performers though, is limited, don't waste any time. Get ready... On your mark... Get set... Go!

I'm looking forward to hear all about the results of your quest for talents! You can reach me at 514-989-1885, extension 216.

ANNUAL FOSTER PARENTS APPRECIATION DINNER - October 24, 2007

(Contributed by Rena Rubin, Resources/Recruitment Worker)

In celebration of Foster Family Week, October 21 to 27, the Resources Department invited foster parents to an evening out at the Atwater Club to honour their dedication and commitment to foster children. The possibility of hosting this event at the Atwater Club was due to the fact that the Resource staff provided all of the waitressing for the evening.

This is the fourth year that the Atwater Club has generously opened their doors to offer their wonderful ambience, delicious food and goodwill for the Foster Parents Appreciation Dinner. They also once again demonstrated great patience in guiding the Foster Care Staff who donned their black & white uniforms and showed their thanks by serving the four-course dinner to the over 100 guests who attended.

Certificates were presented to those foster parents who have achieved 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 and up years of fostering. Certificates were also given to foster families who had been nominated in the past years for outstanding achievement awards to the Child Welfare League of Canada.

The highlight of this year's event was the recognition shown to Mrs. Dorothy Delorme, a foster parent for 50 years who has opened her heart and her home to over 300 children. A video of snapshots of many of the children whose lives she touched, and a poem of love by one young girl who calls her Grandma, portrayed the exceptional memories Mrs. Delorme has made for so many youngsters. She clearly embodies the essence of what foster care is all about.

CRIME PREVENTION WEEK PASCAL FLEURY AT PRÉVOST CAMPUS

(Contributed by Lynn Dion – STI/HIV prevention and youth sexuality resource person)

A special activity was organized for the youth from Dorval and Prévost Campus for the Crime Prevention Week of the Montreal Police Service (SPVM). About 60 youth participated in this activity that took place on Thursday, November 8th, at Prévost Campus. We had a guest speaker, Mr. Pascal Fleury, a retired professional basketball player. He is the only Quebecer to have ever played for the Harlem Globetrotters. Mr. Fleury spoke to the kids about his life experience as a pro basketball player, and he delivered an inspiring message about the importance to believe in your dreams and to achieve your goals in life. He also stressed out the importance to become involved in positive activities and choosing to be in the «right gang». This activity was made possible by the support and participation from the Youth Intervention Squad of the Centre Opérationnel Ouest. After Pascal Fleury's presentation, the youth from Prévost Campus participated in a friendly game of basketball against police officers won by the youth. The SPVM gave away over 20 basketballs and other promotional articles with the police logo to the youth.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS ...

... from Michael Udy, Executive Director

We have reached the time of year when we can relax the pace a little and take time to be with family and friends. This year we also have an abundant winter to add to our enjoyment of the outdoors. I wish everyone health and happiness as the New Year approaches and we renew our commitment to the valuable work we do.

...and from Judy Martin, President of the Board

On behalf of my colleagues on the Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy Holiday Season, and to send good wishes to you all for the New Year.