



# APROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

## MDC: CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

*(Contributed by Virginia Kerr, Educator, New Dimensions)*

The MDC is again looking for presentations as its annual Professional Day is set to take place on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Topics relevant to our work with youth, families and the community will be considered and formats may include workshops, interactive exercises and panel discussions. Based on feedback from last year some new topics suggested were: children witnesses of conjugal violence, teaching families how to play, attachment disorder, addiction, themes related to sexual orientation, post traumatic stress syndrome and working with parents who have mental illness.

Attention will be given to all topics as all of our work is important. It is hoped that everyone will consider this opportunity to share their knowledge and experience. Presenters are asked to submit the form that will be made available through the MDC intranet link and email.

## VOLUNTEERS, THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

*(Contributed by Kim Kurtz, Volunteer Services)*

The week of April 27<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup> is **National Volunteer Week**. Our theme this year is *Volunteers, the heart of the community*. As our volunteer numbers continue to grow, 167 this past year, volunteers continue to be an important element in building community partnerships. Our volunteers come from every part of Montreal, as well as the Laurentians, Laval and Montréal. They are a strong voice as they share with their communities, their impressions and knowledge about the important work we do at Batshaw. During the accreditation process this past year, the visiting government accreditation officials met with a half dozen of our volunteers. They were very impressed by their energy and enthusiasm, and their commitment to volunteering at Batshaw.

Volunteers are always impressed upon first interview at the number of services we provide. They become part of our team. But they would not be effective without the support of parents, foster parents and you, our staff team members. I want to thank publicly each and every volunteer for their time and contribution to our organization. As I say to new volunteers, they bring a gift of time, energy and commitment to our services. Selecting Batshaw as the recipient of that gift is appreciated.

Older sister and older brother volunteers provide a long-term commitment and support to young people who are feeling alone. Batshaw volunteers give their support on a weekly basis in a variety of roles. Tutors help young people struggling with school related materials; the most often requested tutors are for mathematics and French. Older brother and older sister volunteers often provide that missing piece for youngsters who require a positive male or female role model. They provide a consistent figure in the lives of often forgotten youngsters. Our volunteer programs with McGill and the Siva program

have groups visiting and doing volunteer activity with seven residential programs throughout the school year.

Volunteers are enriching our services and programs, if you know of a volunteer, thank them for their commitment. I am sure your words will be appreciated.

## CCC & QAE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*(Contributed by Marie-Pierre Ulysse, CCC Liaison Officer)*

CCC and QAE invite you to their Annual Conference on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The theme of this year's half-day forum of exchange is **Understanding, Communicating, & Developing Partnerships: OUR VOICES: In Shaping Quality Services for Children, Youth & Families**. It will provide an opportunity for youth and staff to look at how our voices are shaping the quality of service delivery in a context where the legislation is supporting continuous improvement in this area. Carleen Joseph, Program Director, Aspen Youth Experience, in Aspen, Colorado, and former youth in care, will share with participants her views on how we can use "*Our Voices*" to help develop quality programs/services for children, youth and their families. Margaret Douek, Assistant Executive Director and Elizabeth Pusztai, Local Commissioner, will also share with us many ways in which the new legislation has already improved our daily practice, and will continue to do so. The biggest part of the day will be the unique opportunity to have users and staff exchange on various issues. We hope this event will help develop constructive ideas and will be a fun process. It will, of course, be followed by the traditional CCC-QAE B-B-Q. The day is open to all, registration is limited. Posters and registration information will soon be available.

## NEW ADVERTIZING CAMPAIGN FOR FOSTER FAMILIES

*(Contributed by Josée Mirabella, Coordinator of Resources)*

The Quebec youth centres and the ACJQ are presently organizing a publicity campaign to promote foster families. This is being planned in recognition of the valuable contributions of our present foster families. The purpose is to provide a new vision of the foster family, with the ultimate goal to facilitate the recruitment of new foster homes.

This new campaign will be presented through different mediums such as, posters, pamphlets, media publicity and a Web site. BYFC actively participated in the development of this publicity and was specifically requested to adapt the overall concept from French to English and to meet our cultural diversity.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY MANNY!

Best wishes to Manny Batshaw, who celebrated his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on April 17<sup>th</sup>!