



APROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

BATSHAW WINS AT SOFTBALL!

(Contributed by Michael Udy, Executive Director)

I knew that would get your attention. We won one game. In the generous sportsmanlike tradition of the Batshaw teams, we let the other teams win five. Under the sunny warm skies of Rimouski we played the kind of ball you get from teams that meets once a year, but we had a lot of fun. I can't talk too much about it: it involved a horn, a bow tie and glowing nose, quite a bit of pool, and refreshments, shall we say. Find a team member and ask for more details. The boardwalk beside the river in Rimouski should be declared a national treasure. The salt air, blue skies and the very faint outline of the North Shore made for spectacular scenery. Rimouski provides bikes for free to tourists which some of us used to visit the lighthouse at Pointe-au-Père. I have been going to these tournaments, with a few exceptions, since 1979, in Sherbrooke. It is probably my last, and was definitely one of the most pleasant. It's not about winning games, it's about trying, and having great fun in the process. Thanks again this year to Bob Davies for organizing the chaos, and to all the team members for using their own time and money to represent Batshaw.

HUMAN RESOURCES PLANNING

(Contributed by Human Resources Planning)

We are pleased to announce that as of September 2008, a total of 52 students from various educational programs are currently enrolled to complete their field placements in several divisions at Batshaw. Please join us in giving a warm welcome to all our interns for and according them with the same respect we would our colleagues. We also want to wish a great year to all of you who will be supervising them. Our student placement program is regarded as an important investment because we have a responsibility to transfer our learning to interns who are our future workers and who will provide what we hope will be the best services possible to our children and their families. The following is breakdown of the student field placement distribution by academic category: 26 Educator, 19 Social Work and 3 Nursing students.

FAMILY TIES PROGRAMMING AND RESEARCH PROJECT

(Contributed by Robert Calame, Coordinator of A.R.T., and the Family Ties Research Committee)

A Family ART program began to be offered to families of Batshaw residential clients back in 1993-1994. The idea was to reinforce the learning by youth who participate in Aggression Replacement Training (A.R.T.) by training their parents to become coaches for their children. Today the program, renamed Family TIES, (for Training

In Essential Skills) is being researched with the help of researchers from University of Montreal, University of Sherbrooke at Longueuil and McGill University. In focus groups previously conducted by the researchers with youth, parents, animators and referring workers the results have proven promising. Both youth and parents responded positively to Family ART initiatives. Currently Batshaw is requesting referrals for Batshaw families to assist them in improving communications skills and anger coping skills with the objective of improved family functioning. Currently Family TIES is offered to youth in A.M. as well as Residential treatment for pre-ads and adolescents. Please help to support this programming by referring clients to the program which will provide data to the research initiative.

IT STARTS WITH HELLO

(Contributed by Kim Kurzt, Volunteer Services)

Do you remember when you first started out working or volunteering with kids? The excitement, the challenges and oh yes, the self doubt. Some of the questions you may have been asking yourself were; am I doing OK, am I saying the right things with kids, does anyone notice that I am here besides the kids? Yes, we all need a little reassurance. And as you flashback, you may actually remember some of the people who encouraged you and made you feel like you were part of the team. It's usually a pretty good feeling to be part of a team and feel supported!

A simple hello can make a volunteer feel more welcome. Seems simplistic, but alas it is true. Research suggests that there is a 60 day 'window of opportunity' in which opinions are firmly shaped regarding whether the volunteer establishes a positive or negative relationship with the organization.

Well, it's that time of year again. A new wave of volunteer faces will join us in response to worker, youth and family requests for support. Volunteers will wonder where they stand at times, and do they belong? Returning volunteers may feel the same. Let's continue to make volunteers feel welcome and connected. They are the heart of the community!

THE BATSHAW CALENDAR

October 20th: Board and Annual Public

Information Meetings (info:

Thérèse Gauthier, 989-1885, ext.

1006) **Presentation of The Ruth and Manny Batshaw Award of**

Excellence (info: Claire Roy, 989-1885, ext. 1017)