



APPROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES



DARE TO DREAM: FINAL OUTCOME

Margaret Douek, Executive Director

The exciting results of the Dare to Dream initiative have been tallied. Individual letters to the authors of the 55 submissions were sent in January announcing the results of the committee review. The committee, chaired by our Board President Judy Martin, reviewed all the projects submitted and earmarked funding that would benefit the greatest number of clients and support our staff in fulfilling their mandate to prepare youths and families to become autonomous in the community and better assume their parental capacity.

With the assistance of Catherine, a young CEGEP student and client of Batshaw Centres, Alessandro Biagioni, a recall staff who works in different units in residential care, Claude Laurendeau, Director of Professional Services, and Linda Corbeil, Director of Financial and Administrative Services who brought clinical and financial expertise respectively to the process, each project was examined on its merit and overall benefit to clients. The committee worked hard and with rigour and arrived at a unanimous conclusion. Through Dare to Dream, forty thousand dollars would be spent to cover the costs of equipment, programming, and educational and therapeutic material. Through our regular budget a number of other project suggestions would be covered. The final outcome is as follows:

Through Dare to Dream

- o 12 chess sets for Northview
- o Information packages for clients, to be used as a resource, clinical tool, is fun, interactive, instructional
- o Art supplies and books for different units and to support programming
- o Clinical assessment tools (part of Dialectical behaviour therapy)
- o Portable recording equipment system to record, edit and produce musical CDs – music media as a therapeutic program
- o Camping equipment for outdoor recreation program
- o Bicycle trailer to support our bicycling program
- o Dance and physical awareness program at Dorval Campus
- o Educational interactive videos and equipment to support supervised visits
- o Writers in the Community 8-week program to support writing skills

Through our regular programming

We will examine how we can actualize some of the other projects which encourage volunteerism in our youth, enhance our living units specifically space to relax in, expand our cooking program, support programs that improve reading, writing and math skills.

Through our operational budget

We will look at some outstanding assessment requests, space allocation for therapeutic programming and renovating the outdoor lifeguard station and picnic areas.

Through Foundations

A number of projects requested the purchase of boating equipment and scholarships. We will explore funding possibilities through various foundations which support our youth.

Overall an impressive array of needs were covered through Dare to Dream and through other budgets. I want to thank the committee for their judicious work and the staff who were so enthusiastic and creative in their suggestions to make dreams a reality.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH MOVIE PRESENTATION

Pina Cassata, Administrative Technician, ED's Office

On February 3rd, the documentary on the McCurdy family was presented as a collaboration with Lunch n' Learn, to kick off this year's Black History Month celebration! The documentary showcased the McCurdy family's prominent positions in the early history of the Black community in southern Ontario as well as the family's legacy of social activism. The event was very well attended and the discussions sparked up many issues about family traditions, dedication and social equality. It is strongly recommended to all Batshaw Centres staff. Generations will be available at the library shortly. Please contact Janet Sand for more information.

"YES HISTORY MADE YOU: NOW GO MAKE HISTORY!"

Howard McCurdy, PhD

YOUNG BLACK ACHIEVERS AWARDS

At the Talent Extravaganza on February 10th, four young Black Achievers were recognized. May they be an inspiration to us all!

The following texts are drawn from the words of those who nominated the recipients.

Jenna: Jenna comes from a tight knit, loving family. She was raised by her mother and her respite foster mother who both gave solid foundation. Jenna had some serious health problems that required her to have weekly medical appointments, eat from a feeding tube, and take medication on a constant basis. She was always upbeat and positive and one would never know the pain she experienced physically. While studying, she worked part-time at a pharmacy and volunteered at the LaSalle Boys and Girls Club. Jenna began Concordia in January 2011. Her ultimate goal is to become a lawyer who will represent children. Jenna is proud of her Black heritage. She is Jewish and has always valued the importance of religion. For Jenna it has not always been easy being a minority, even within her own religion. She has always stood up for who she is and is proud of her Black and Jewish roots. Given her academic performance, her motivation, her work within the community and her pride in her culture and religion, Jenna is a Young Black Achiever.

Heather: Heather has been with us in Batshaw since she was 8 years old. Heather was finally entrusted until her majority to her grandmother who runs a foster home. Regularly Heather helps with its clients who are afflicted with various forms of intellectual differences. She volunteered at a camp especially designed to meet their needs. Moreover, Heather has done volunteer work at a pet grooming store. She enjoys working with animals and strives to become a veterinarian. Heather now works part-time as a cashier at a grocery store. She realizes the importance of her education. Despite challenges she was open to receiving tutoring services along with support services from her school. As a result of all her efforts Heather will be graduating from high school in June. Heather is a resilient adolescent who has overcome many challenges by making good choices. She has grown to understand some of the things she can change and what she cannot in life. She remains invested to make the best of her future and is inspired to achieve some significant goals. Heather is a Young Black Achiever.

Adrian: Adrian has a long history of placement in foster care. Approximately four years ago, Adrian's former foster mother, with whom he had lived for several years passed away and he was devastated. Adrian was placed in another foster home where he remains to date. Adrian attended a high school where he struggled. At 15, he had difficulties reading which made him very unhappy. He then got registered in an Adult Education Program where he is doing extremely well. Recently, Adrian passed his Math, English and Science exams. Adrian works part-time, while attending school. He has also completed a course in hair-dressing. When Adrian moved into his current foster home, he expressed how much he wanted to lose weight. His size was negatively affecting his health as well as his self-esteem. Adrian, with determination and the help of his foster parents and foster brother, went on the treadmill, took up jogging and he has not stopped, as you can all see from his trim and chiselled physique. Adrian is a Young Black Achiever because of his determination in so many areas of his life.

Jeremy: Jeremy is a proud young man, a youth that most regard as being quite serious. When he lets his guard down, he shows his witty and humorous side. Jeremy's achievement in making basketball his positive focus and not wavering from this objective despite the obstacles is remarkable. He has shown perseverance and dedication, 3 to 4 times a week, not to mention 1 ½ hours each way to participate. His summers are reserved for basketball camp. Jeremy's dedication has kept him focused with a goal that is within his power to attain. This is important to him as many aspects of his life are not in his control. Despite some struggles, he has focused on basketball as a positive outlet. Jeremy is a Black Young Achiever because he is truly deserving of positive recognition that he seldom feels for his achievement of being able to dedicate himself whole heartedly in such a positive way. While some of our youths in long-term residential care may fall victim to the bleakness and hopelessness they feel and give in to it, not Jeremy!