



# APPROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES



## SPECIAL DOUBLE EDITION

### DARE TO DREAM: FINAL OUTCOME

*Margaret Douek, Executive Director*

As promised in the last edition of Apropos here are the final results of the Dare to Dream initiative. We received 25 innovative projects in all. They were each carefully reviewed by a committee chaired by Judy Martin, our Board President, Jennifer Dupuis, a youth Liaison worker, Chris a youth representative, Madeleine Bérard, Director of Youth Protection, Linda Corbeil, Director of Financial and Administrative Services who costed out the projects and gave guidelines on permissible expenses, and myself.

Funding through the Dare to Dream project was attributed to proposals which were benefiting the greatest number of clients and support the organization in fulfilling its mandate to prepare youth and families to become autonomous in the community or better assume their parental capacity.

Through Dare to Dream, forty thousand dollars will be spent to cover the costs of the fourteen projects unanimously retained by the committee. Here are those 14 initiatives:

- Graffiti Club – Prévost Campus
- Creating kites as a therapeutic project – Dorval Campus
- Educational DVD, *Juvenile Fire Setting*, to teach safety to children
- DVD players and DVD to entertain young children during waiting periods at the courthouse
- Skates and snow shoes for Crossroad
- Pool table – Lindsay
- iPad for therapeutic activities – Group Homes and Living units
- Educational tools to aid families to further develop social and parental skills – AM Services
- Batshaw Centres Resource room to provide an area that youth can come to seek help and info about job search, school, independent living and community resources
- Ping pong table – Bridges
- Intercultural Hub to gain more insight and knowledge of Inuit culture
- Multi media project – Dorval Campus
- Youth Lounge decorated by youths – Dorval Campus
- Translation of stories for therapeutic use

I would like to thank the committee for their difficult but great work and to all the staff who submitted so creative suggestions to benefit our client and make dreams a reality.

### BATSHAW CENTRES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Marie-Thérèse Rostaing, Chair of Election*

The election process for the Board of Directors put in place by the Ministry of Health and Social Services has started on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 and ended on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. The new members of our Board of Directors

were either elected, designated, nominated or co-opted into their new positions on the Board and have officially assumed on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, their duties as board members for Batshaw Youth and Family Centres.

I would like to seize this opportunity to thank all my collaborators in this process, Pascale Bérardino as the officer in charge and our Executive Director, Ms. Margaret Douek, for her guidance and support. I would also like to thank all the staff for their record voting participation in this election.

As Chair of Election, it has been a privilege for me to take part in this process at Batshaw Centres.

**Noel Alexander** – Coopted (representative for community organization)

**Clayton Borden** – Coopted (under 35 years of age representative)

**Pierre Brien** – Coopted

**Ermina Codjoe** – Coopted

**Maureen Daley** – Non-clinical staff

**John Dalzell** – Agence

**Valerie Duncan** – Multidisciplinary Council

**Leon Essing** – Users

**Anna Grafton** – Agence

**Louise Jessop** – Foundation

**Kees Maas** – Multidisciplinary Council

**Stephanie Margolese** – Coopted

**Judy Martin** – Population

**Jacques Monfette** – Coopted

**Karen Peters** – Population

**Linh-Suong Pham** – Council of Nurses

### Black History Month 2012

#### YOUNG BLACK ACHIEVERS AWARDS

At the Talent Extravaganza on February 9<sup>th</sup>, five 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.*

**Cassandra:** Cassandra, a talented young lady who is very creative and enjoys reading, participated in the Youth Art Project in 2011. At the Voices conference, her artwork was chosen as one of the winning pieces. It was used for Batshaw Centres' Holiday cards. Taking active part in the Baillie program, she cooperates with her EQUIP worker in preparing for independent living. Cassandra's goal after high school is to move enrol in the *Préposé(e) aux bénéficiaires* program. A determined individual, Cassandra can attain anything that she sets her mind on.

**Derek:** In the last year Derek has achieved huge overall gains in his life. He asked verbally to be considered for a foster home. He graduated from elementary school at the top of his class and started high school. Derek got an honorable mention the first term and received an award of recognition for great leadership. He is presently on his high school wrestling team. He won a gold medal and made the front page of the Gazette! Derek is responsible and trustworthy and always willing to give a helping hand.



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## SPECIAL DOUBLE EDITION (cont'd)

**Desiree:** An intelligent young lady, Desiree knows what she wants in life and has been working hard to achieve it. She is attending Adult Ed to complete high school. Since Desiree found one of her true callings, Church, she has been involved in several related activities. In her eyes, God has no bias and welcomes every individual independently of race, religion, sexual orientation, etc. Desiree continues to support her mother in baby-sitting her little sisters, and she takes them to church too. Desiree does not wait for things to happen: She makes them happen.

**Dylan:** Dylan is a youth who represents the word resiliency. He has been in foster care since birth and although he has faced different obstacles and challenges in his life he is a very successful youth today. Recently he became involved in the EQUIP Program and is participating actively in gaining and strengthening his independent skills. Dylan always has a smile on his face and is warm, engaging and shows genuine care about others. Dylan had overcome the difficulties in his life with pride and respect from his peers, school personnel, foster parents and Batshaw Centres staff who have known and worked with him.

**Michaela:** With Michaela soon becoming a young adult and making a transition to independent living, she has shown much improvement in her overall behaviour and attitude, especially in acknowledging her anxiety about leaving placement and becoming independent. Showing determination, Michaela has worked towards finishing high school and is now one course away from doing so. Over the summer, Michaela has taken up crocheting. She took the opportunity to teach other clients so that they can help the less fortunate in our community. Michaela created many beautiful scarves and blankets for the homeless.

### **Black History Month 2012** **DOCUMENTARY: COLOR ME**

*Courtney Sewell, Information Agent, Volunteer Services, Executive Director's Office*

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the first of a series of Black History Month events organized was the presentation of an insightful documentary by motivational speaker Anthony Mclean as he explored the meaning of "being Black" with a group of high school students in Brampton Ontario. *Color me* was followed by a group discussion which proved to be rich full experience of sharing. Since the viewing of the documentary, many staff members have expressed a feeling of gained knowledge and insight to the issues facing Black youth.

If you did not get the opportunity to attend this event and would like to view the documentary, please contact Janet Sand at the Batshaw Centres library.

### **BRIDGING THE GAP**

*Kerry-Ann Carty, Educator, DR TSA*

In the spirit of generosity and belonging to a community, the ladies at The G.A.P. (Girls' Apartment Program) got up bright and early on a Saturday morning to take part in The NDG Food Depot Drive. The young ladies went door to door on Addington Street collecting food and money donations for those who use the food bank services. They were surprised to learn that over 140 000 Montrealers turn to food banks every month. They were even more surprised

at the end of the day when their collections were brought in and combined with the efforts of the other volunteers to see how much food was donated. Both young ladies said that they felt that they had made a difference and despite the fact that they did not want to initially get up early on a cold Saturday morning, it was well worth it.

A big thank you and congratulations goes out to our young ladies and our volunteer Daphnay for their hard work. All this would not have been possible without the support of Ray Coney in transport who has graciously allowed us to use on the vans

For the past three years we have had the privilege of having Daphnay as our volunteer at The G.A.P. She has mentored, guides and supported our young ladies during their preparation of getting ready to live on their own. We appreciate all that Daphnay has done over the years, we will miss her and we wish her luck in her new adventures.

The G.A.P. is presently seeking a new female, live-in volunteer who is willing to commit to a minimum of a one year stay. For more information, please contact Marie-Josée Roy at ext. 1112 or Kerry-Ann Carty, ext. 1102.

### **DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT**

*Ola Dupelycz, Administrative Technician, DCFS*

On November 2, 2011, four of our youngsters spent a magical day at the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida, sponsored by "Dreams Take Flight", a national 100% volunteer, non-profit organization made up of Volunteers from the Air Canada family. This is the second year that Batshaw Centres was approached by this organization who offers this trip of a lifetime to physically, mentally, or social challenged children. Certain criteria need to be met in order for children to be selected, such as age restriction, and children who have never and most probably will never be able to go to Disney. Batshaw Centres children were selected based on these criteria, and once these four were selected, the magical ride began. Workers were given the numerous forms that Dreams Take Flight needed from each child and parent. I worked closely with the workers and managers to ensure that everything was submitted and certain deadlines needed to be met. Parents and children had to attend an information session.

The big day began at 4 a.m. at the Air Canada Hanger in St. Laurent. The children had been sized beforehand and were outfitted with new clothing, shoes, hat, bag, camera, pillow, etc. The 181 children are divided into groups of 8, with one and three volunteers per group. The flight left at 5:30 a.m. and returned at around midnight. It was a sunshine day filled with lots of fun, laughter, souvenirs (money provided by Dreams take Flight) and a parade to end the day.

In December, the children and parents were invited to a Christmas party where they were met with Santa and were given gifts and their pictures. The 4 children were asked to provide a little thank you which we sent to the Dreams Take Flight Organization. Thanks to Dreams Take Flight who made our youngsters very happy and with memories to last a lifetime.