



Helping break the cycle of neglect, abuse and failure experienced by many youth and their families

We hope you will enjoy reading this brief report on Foundation activities in the recent months.

Message from the Board

(Contributed by Erin O'Brien, member of the Foundation Board)

The Board of the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Foundation would like to thank you and all of its other donors, friends and volunteers for helping to make the 2007-2008 year such a resounding success. Over the course of the past year many new initiatives were begun and we owe a great deal of thanks to our past president, Nicole R. Mikula, for spearheading many of them. Our fundraising efforts were very strong this past year thanks, in large

part, to the ever popular cocktail and silent auction at Parisian Laundry as well as a second event held at the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts to honour Manny Batshaw.

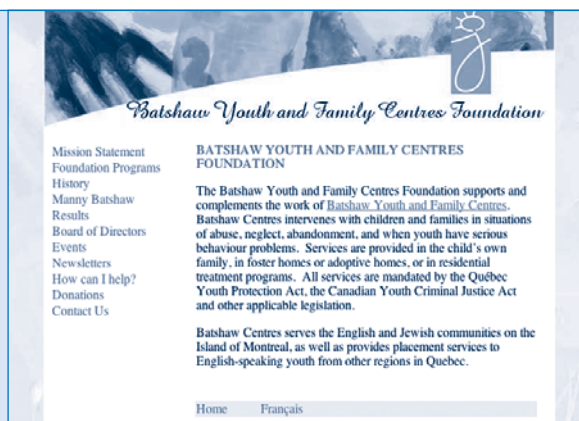
Many of you who attended these events commented that you appreciated the fact that we have begun to give a face to the children we strive to help and protect. We hope to build on this to improve awareness of the type of help we provide and the results we help the children served by Batshaw to achieve. Our annual fundraising campaign is now underway and we would like to encourage each of you to continue to help Batshaw change a child's future.

We have a Website!

Have you seen the Foundation's new web site? It is something we have wanted for a long time. With the help of a generous volunteer designer we tried to imagine what information existing and potential donors and friends would like to have available. With that we were able to proceed to translation, organization of the site, and graphic design. The success of a site depends on the extent to which it is attractive and user-friendly. Then came the testing period for bugs, etc. and the time necessary to obtain rights to use the artwork. Everything is now done and we are very proud of the results! Many thanks to Louis-André Paquette, and to Erin O'Brien for overseeing the project.

Come and visit us at www.batshawfoundation.ca. The first thing you will notice on the home page is the gorgeous artwork created by M.B., one of Batshaw Centres' clients. Surfing will allow you to learn more about many things such as our Mission Statement, our Programs, who is Manny Batshaw, and how to help us among other things.

On the 'Contact Us' page, you'll find the e-mail address where you can send your comments and suggestions. Don't wait any longer, go to www.batshawfoundation.ca and select it as one of your favourite websites!



Three exciting firsts at Camp Weredale

(Contributed by Howard G. Martin, Camp Executive Director)

Camp Weredale is a specialized camp program for children from Batshaw Centres and from the community.

Foster children attending without having to pay any camp fees, infant campers and CJAD broadcasting live were three "firsts" at Camp Weredale this summer.

Seventy (70) foster children referred through Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Camping Services attended camp without having to pay any camp fees, which normally are \$400 per session.

This is the first year of this new program initiated through the Weredale Foundation.

Thanks to a very generous donation from Mr. W.R.S Eakin, a former President of both the Youth Horizons Agency and its Foundation and current Director of Weredale Foundation, a special fund has been established to provide "camperships" to cover the camp fees for all foster children who wish to attend Camp Weredale.

With the announcement of the closure of Camp Chapleau, we reached out to see where we might step in and help those who would be most affected.

Elizabeth House, a program for teenage mothers and mothers-to-be, responded and joined us for 5 days, at the beginning of the third session. We had 4 young mothers with 5 babies ranging in age from 6 weeks to 2 years old and two staff members, also from Elizabeth House.

As reported by Keith Ross, Camp Director, "The girls followed the "Cabin A" schedule and seemed to get along well with each other. Some of our campers also had an opportunity to babysit, while the mothers got some free time. Their overall experience and response was very positive. They are looking forward to next year and extending their stay here by a few days."

On July 17th the Andrew Carter Morning Show on CJAD was broadcast live from the Dining Hall. This generated much excitement throughout the camp, especially when some campers were chosen to speak about their experiences at camp "live on the radio"!

These were certainly three exciting firsts at Camp Weredale.

Of course there were lots of regular program activities as well and we are especially pleased with the camper response to our expanded sailing program now that we have been given two new larger sailboats.

Now if we can only find a way to control the wet weather a little!

The Foundation will hold its annual fundraising event in Spring 2009. Details will be made available in the coming months.



Andrew Carter of CJAD, standing between Keith Ross, Camp Director, and his wife, Lori Dziewirz.

Foundation fund results

In 2007-2008, thanks to the support of the Foundation 519 children, youths and families were assisted. The following summarizes how they benefited from the financial assistance provided. In brackets are the numbers for the previous year.

Specialized services Fund:

- Tutoring for 40 youths. (34)
Subjects included Math, French, English, Science, Hebrew, social skills, reading, homework assistance.
- Therapy for 13 youths and families. (16)
Requests were for anger management, speech, play, art and grief therapy.

Scholarships for 35 students. (31)

Following are the institutions and programs where students who were granted scholarships were enrolled:

- Concordia University (Family Life Education, Arts and Science);
- McGill University (Science, Education, Social Science, Psychology);
- University of Toronto (Social Science);
- Dawson College (Commerce, Science, International Business, Social Science, Psychology, Animal Health);
- Vanier College (Social Science, Psychology, Health Science, Child Care Education)
- John Abbott College (Liberal Arts, Police Technology, Science, Arts & Culture);
- Lasalle College (Aesthetics);
- Cégep St-Laurent (accueil et intégration)
- Vocational training (Industrial Lifts Course, Cooking Course)
- Adult education

The Foundation makes a difference...

(Contributed by Dawn Cady, social worker at Batshaw Centres)

Thank you to Batshaw Foundation and to all donors. As a social worker who makes requests for my clients, you are helping to create miracles for the children and parents involved. Here are two such cases:

A young child is taken into foster care, as his mother, who has serious psychiatric difficulties, has been unable to take care of herself or her son. In fact, the child has learned to survive by feeding himself from garbage and has been the victim of abuse. As this child grows, despite the love and care of the foster family, he shows more and more risk-taking behavior, such as standing in front of oncoming cars, or climbing dangerous places. He shows behavior that threatens the foster home. The psychiatrist recommends play therapy and medication, but the therapy needs to be long-term, and is not covered by medicare or foster care. A request is made to the Foundation, who makes it possible. The child loves the safe and therapeutic environment, the consistent care and encouragement, where he can play and recreate good and bad feelings, learn to trust the therapist and begin to feel he is worthwhile. The professional team works with the foster parent and professionals to better understand how to read and respond to this child's behavior. The child is no longer suicidal, and begins to express his feelings in words. This is a life saved, and a foster parent and worker supported with learning that will be transferred to many other children in the future.

A lovely teenager is very quiet, and it becomes clear that she is afraid her very poor teeth will be seen, if she smiles or talks. The teen's mother has survived serious conjugal violence and is raising her many children alone, on welfare. She avoids dentists herself until the pain is too great. Also, welfare doesn't cover root canals, so the option for many is to have the teeth extracted, as they can't afford work that will save the teeth. A request is made to the Batshaw Foundation. An estimate reveals an expensive plan, involving two root canals for the teen. For the first time in her life, however, this teen feels worthwhile, the centre of care on a regular basis. The dentist

Emergency Family Support Fund for 160 youths and families. (110)

- youths and families received emergency assistance for:
 - utilities (electricity) that were or were about to be disconnected
 - rent to avoid eviction;
 - school (fees, uniforms, lunch programs, outings, supplies, trips, graduation)
 - activities (hockey, football, skating)
 - camps (basketball, church, art & dance, winter & summer)
 - others (day care fees, bus passes, furniture and appliances, furniture storage, dental care, food, clothing, medication, eye glasses, moving expenses, travel expenses for youths to visit their family)

- youth and families benefited from special events organized for them during the year and supported by the Foundation, at the Mountainview School Year-End Ceremonies and the Mountainview School Holiday Celebrations.

Helping Hand enabling older adolescents to move to independent living

- 18 youths received funds to assist them in their move to independent living. (16)

Camp Weredale welcomed 202 children and teenagers from the residential programs and foster homes of Batshaw Centres. (185)

Special projects:

- Youth Employment Skills Program, a special project of the Foundation, involved 43 youths at Prévost campus in a work-study project. (30)
- Wilderness camping, at Northwaters (Langskib) Camp in Northern Ontario, for 8 youths in residential care. (6)

and assistant are wonderful with her. When the front blackened tooth and another painful one are both repaired, she begins to smile and talk with a new confidence and beauty. The parent then brings all her children there for regular dental work, covered by welfare, which prevents future pain. The mother and teen begin to trust the social worker with other crucial information about the family.

(Contributed by Carlos Eduardo DeCastro, social practitioner at Batshaw Centres)

The Foundation has often come through for several of my clients. I particularly remember one client that was being discharged to live on her own. She told me that she could not attend her prom because her mother did not have enough money to buy her a dress. I immediately wrote to the Foundation which promptly provided the necessary funds to buy the dress and the matching shoes. If you could only have witnessed her tears of joy the day I presented her the check. Her eyes were not only filled with tears but there was a positive contagious energy, she was so happy that it is impossible to describe.

BYFC Foundation is for me, as a worker, a very important resource as it provides the necessary funds to pay for services for our clients in need. Thank you!

Collection drive

The Batshaw Foundation operates the Collection Drive project to match Batshaw client needs with household items other people no longer are using. If you are letting go of any of the following:

- Furniture
- Kitchenware
- Baby items

Please contact one of:

- Karma Hallward: khallward@videotron.ca
- Trevor Bishop: trevorbishop33@sympatico.ca

Items must be in good condition.