

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES FOUNDATION

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

NEWSLETTER – FALL 2006

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

FROM THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT, ERIN O'BRIEN, AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MICHAEL UDY

The Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Foundation achieved a great deal in 2005-2006. In this newsletter you will find a summary of the activities we were able to fund for the benefit of the youth and families who are clients of Batshaw. These clients often have needs that go beyond the mandate and budget of Batshaw, and that's where the Foundation makes a difference. Last year we put an emphasis on supporting tutoring services. Tutoring can make a difference between academic failure or success, and can affect self-image and social status. There has been a substantial increase in the number of children receiving this support, and the needs continue to grow. We hope you find this newsletter informative, inspiring you to help the Foundation expand the impact it has in the daily lives of Batshaw clients.

BRAVO TO FOSTER PARENTS!

It is with great pride that we inform you that in June, a Batshaw foster family was awarded the Child Welfare League of Canada 2006 Outstanding Achievement Foster Parent Award. Mrs. Jackie and Mr. Jean-Guy Miron have devoted their life to caring and raising children. Together, they have adopted 13 children, have become legal guardian for one child and are presently fostering 6 children. They consistently open their hearts, their home, and their family to children with special needs, be it with significant developmental delays, chronic medical conditions, and acute emotional and behavioural difficulties. Congratulations to Mrs. Jackie and Mr. Jean-Guy Miron!

RESULTS FROM 2005-2006

In 2005-2006, thanks to the support of the Foundation over 555 children, youths and families, were assisted. The following summarizes how they benefited from the financial assistance provided.

- ▶ Tutoring for 21 youths in Math, French, History, Science, Hebrew, Reading and Homework.
- ▶ Therapy for 18 youths and families, mainly for anger management and speech therapy.
- ▶ Scholarships for 25 students. Following are the institutions and programs where students who were granted scholarships were enrolled:
 - Concordia University (business management, psychology, literature and languages);
 - Université de Montréal (arts & sciences, English literature);
 - McGill University (social work, education);
 - Dawson College (liberal arts, social science, science);
 - Vanier College (special care counselling, business administration, nursing, early childhood education, animal health technique, explorations);
 - John Abbott College (social sciences);
 - Champlain College (literature and languages);
 - Laurier MacDonald Vocational Center (hairdressing);
 - École du routier professionnel (truck driving).

▶ Helping Hand

- 20 youths received funds to assist them in their move to independent living
- 118 youths and families received emergency assistance for:
 - utilities (heating oil, electricity);
 - rent;
 - school expenses;
 - activities, i.e. music and swimming lessons, boys and girls club, hockey, summer and winter camps, pre-school programs;
 - others needs, i.e. day care registration and fees, bus passes, furniture, dental care, eye glasses, food, clothing, medication, etc.
- Over 100 children and families benefited from special events organized for them during the year and supported by the Foundation; they were: the Mountainview School year-end ceremonies, the Mountainview School Holiday Celebrations, the Christmas baskets, the Application of Measures Art Contest.
- ▶ Camp Weredale (summer 2005) welcomed 217 children and teenagers from the residential programs and foster homes of Batshaw. Each of them benefited from a 10-day stay.
- ▶ Youth Employment Skills Program a special project of the Foundation, involved 39 youths at Prévost campus in a work-study project.