

SAVE THE DATE!

The Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Foundation presents a unique fund-raising cocktail party featuring a preview of new work by Toronto-based painter Jennifer Lefort who will be present.

WHERE: Parisian Laundry
3550 St. Antoine West, Montreal

WHEN: Tuesday, October 30, 2007

TIME: 6:30 to 9 p.m.

TICKETS: \$ 100 (a portion of which is tax deductible)

All proceeds go to Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Foundation, for scholarships, tutoring and specialized therapeutic services for Batshaw youth.

Tickets are limited and will be available starting September 4. Call 514-989-1885, ext 201.



FOUNDATIONHELPS GROUP HOME

From a letter by Karen Goodhand, Manager of Couvrette group home, caring for adolescents whose ties to their families are minimal, and who face making a life of their own in the next 1-3 years.

"Nicole Mikula (Foundation board member and incoming President) asked if she could donate to, or support our group home.

Before Christmas, Nicole and fellow board members, Kim Dlouhy and Christine Harkness, collected from their community of friends and family bed linens and various household accessories. The duvet cover sets were absolutely beautiful. They also gave movie passes enjoyed as a group home activity, and gifts that we added to "our kids" Christmas presents. Then there were pictures for the house...they look absolutely amazing on our walls. Their enthusiasm was so nice and much appreciated.

They spoke about wanting to be involved in our "making memories" programs, and offered other help. Their generosity was heartfelt.

A former client, now 18, showed up looking for somewhere to live. We gave him a list of places to go and helped him make phone calls, but he had nothing...We gave him a duffle bag with some of the clothes and one of the duvets they gave...that helped him leave that night feeling less hopeless.

I wanted to let you know how much we appreciated Nicole, Kim and Christine's efforts and support. Please pass on to the Foundation how their efforts made a big difference in our group home and even to a former client. Although we said thank you privately, we wanted to say it in a more public way."



YOUTH WHO STAND OUT

The Batshaw Foundation has a number of programs supporting the intellectual and social development of youth such as these four young clients who were honoured with Young Achievers' Awards during Black History Month. All names were changed to respect confidentiality.

SHAUNA

...knows first hand about separation, immigration and reunification. She has been living in a group home after suffering neglect and physical abuse. She kept her passion for learning and her commitment to her education. Teachers describe her as a joy, a pleasure, quiet, insightful and poised. The quality that most touched others was her profound sense of gratitude and appreciation, even buying thank you cards from her small allowance.

TANYA

...has contributed in many ways to her community through volunteer work with youth and the elderly. Her mother died early in her life. She and her sisters were able to stay together in a long-term foster home. Her favourite expression? "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you". Tanya is presently pursuing studies in cosmetology and hairdressing.

KARINE

...demonstrates strength of character and natural leadership skills. Abandoned by her parents and living long term in a foster home, she graduated with honours from high school and was valedictorian of her class. She was involved in football, basketball, badminton and horseback riding, and with her church's youth group meetings, activities and weekly bulletin. Karine attends college, excelling in her program, aspiring to become a teacher.

JACYNTHÉ

...has no parents to guide her and had to cope with sexual exploitation in the past. She faced the challenge of a safe transition from a caring foster home to young adulthood. She demonstrated her capacity to make the right choices and nurture relationships with the significant caregivers in her life. She completed school, works successfully, maintains her apartment, and pays her bills. The adults in her life are very proud of her and her strength of character.



TUTORING...IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The following stories were reported by Batshaw workers. Again all names were changed to respect confidentiality.

Anna, the long-term foster mother, indicates that all four children, neglected by their mother who had an alcohol problem, have benefited from the tutoring program. It was doubtful if any would pass their grade, but they all did! Jeff, Alice, Charlie and Tom increased their marks tremendously and received very good report cards. Anna found the benefit so astounding that she wants the tutoring support to continue. She is very grateful for the financial support from the tutoring program. She has asked to express her thanks.

Bob lives in foster care because he was neglected and his parents are not available to him. He has been greatly helped by his involvement in tutoring both academically and in building self-confidence. The tutoring has also increased his overall interest in school. His marks improved over the year as his confidence and comprehension increased. Bob is now in grade 5 and looking forward to another good year in school.