

He changed child welfare in Quebec forever and left an indelible mark on each of us who knew him.

Remembering Manny Batshaw.

We were deeply saddened to learn that Manny Batshaw had passed away on the morning of July 18th at the age of 101.

Manny Batshaw's career began as a social worker in the Canadian Armed Forces during WW II. A Montrealer by birth, after the war he was an executive in Jewish Community organizations in various cities in the US, assuming that role at Allied Jewish Community Services in Montreal, where he was Executive Director until 1980. Subsequently he was an advisor at Claridge, a philanthropic organization initiated and funded by Charles Bronfman. This is the Manny we heard about, we want to tell you about the Manny we came to know.

the only Anglophone to have had this kind of impact in Quebec. As a result, in 1993 Manny was asked, by the leadership of what became Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, if he would consider letting the organization name itself after him. Manny wanted to be sure that interventions were based on knowledge about best practices elsewhere. He wanted Batshaw to form a partnership with a university that could evaluate the results of Batshaw's interventions. The aim was to answer the question: is Batshaw helping its clients?

These discussions lead to a partnership between Batshaw and the Centre for Research on Children and Families (CRCF) at McGill

imagine that he really existed and that he was 100 years old. He never disappointed them, coming into the room with HIS blue eyes sparkling, his smile a mile wide with the same excitement as the kids who had come to visit him! He listened intently, didn't judge, showed an interest in their lives and usually challenged them to grow and reach for the stars. His manner was so gentle that they'd sit in awe, because this "old man" got them! They felt his love! It WAS magic watching them together.



In the mid 1970's Manny led a provincial committee, mandated by the Minister of Social Affairs of the day that examined all of the many institutions in Quebec in which children were placed at that time. Publicly reported examples of mistreatment sparked this scrutiny. Known as the Batshaw Committee, the group of professionals Manny led produced a report with approximately 175 recommendations. These recommendations form the foundation of what became the mandate and the practices of Quebec's Youth Centres.

They were aimed at respecting the rights of children and youth, maintaining their links with their families, assuring that the people who worked with them are properly trained, and that the work is carried out based on an assessment and an integrated plan tailored to the situation of each child. Today this might sound like common sense. But it was not the prevailing framework in 1975. Manny, and his committee, laid the foundation for the biggest reframe in child welfare in Quebec in decades, the results of which continue to be felt today. Everyone, francophone or anglophone, working in the field at the time knew about the Batshaw Committee and its recommendations. He is

University. The Centre carried out evaluations using the client data Batshaw was already collecting. The results of this work, as it became available, sparked an interest among the staff and managers about research and evaluation, an appetite to use knowledge and to contribute to it. Gradually this way of working was shared with other youth centres, and after a few years CRCF was conducting this type of research and evaluation with all of the youth centres in Quebec. We are very proud that it started at Batshaw, and it was Manny who pushed us to go in that direction.

Manny not only influenced those of us who had leadership and administrative responsibilities; he sought and welcomed contact with the staff and with the youth served at Batshaw. At Batshaw, we'd argue that Manny's greatest contribution was that he had strong moral values and UNDERSTOOD and LIKED children, a combination which guided the work at hand. Many of us were privileged to watch Manny interact with children on many occasions. In the past few years, his activities limited by age, we'd bring kids to visit him at his home; they'd be giddy with excitement that they were about to meet 'MR' Batshaw, they couldn't

Prepared by Judy Martin and Michael Udy. Judy Martin was the President of the Board of Directors of Batshaw Youth and Family Centres from 1993-2015. Michael Udy was Executive Director of Batshaw from 1996 to 2008.



The new Batshaw Foundation Logo was inspired by the above drawing, completed by the art therapist and a number of clients as part of a Batshaw Youth and Family Centres youth conference presentation. The drawing illustrates to us the importance of community and support in everything that we strive to accomplish for Montreal youth and their families.

Our core values, our core programs.

Help us continue Manny Batshaw's Lifelong Mission

Cooking Program

Since 2009 Batshaw Centres has offered cooking workshops to teach children aged 6-18 years how to prepare healthy and simple meals. These classes allow youth to learn skills that will help them to be more self-sufficient, eat better, and save money - all the while promoting healthier lifestyles.

Camp Weredale

Many children and youth in Batshaw programs have behaviour problems and will be refused admission or rejected by summer camps. The Batshaw Foundation supports Camp Weredale's specialized camping programs, developed with Batshaw youth in mind. The camp is located on Lac L'Achigan in the Laurentians.

Emergency Assistance

Many Batshaw families are single parent led and live under the poverty line. This fund helps Batshaw workers respond to immediate family material needs (e.g. help with electricity, appliances, back rent, beds), enabling children to stay at home under safe circumstances, and experiencing contact with Batshaw as a supportive experience.



Feature: The kitchen at the Dorval campus, entirely funded by the Batshaw Foundation.

Scholarships

As a group, Batshaw youth face more obstacles to educational achievement than the rest of the population. Scholarships help current or former Batshaw youth, as they mature, to acquire post-secondary education or job training.

Specialized Services

Many Batshaw youth have therapeutic and stimulation needs. Tutoring, therapy, participation in sports and social activities can help support positive development.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE INDEPENDENT LIVING AND LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM

Youth who are in care prior to their 18th birthday are less ready for independence and have less in the way of supportive social networks. Life skills development and financial support programs help older adolescents prepare for adulthood and independent living. Examples are programs about cooking, work skills, health issues, budgeting and banking, apartment seeking and understanding a lease, and a first-month start-up package (e.g. bus pass, pots and pans).

Introducing ASPIRE, a Supervised Housing Pilot Project

There is a growing recognition and an emerging sense of urgency to improve and expand on the service offer to youth transitioning from care to independent living. Legally declared adults, upon their 18th birthday, a youth is no longer eligible to receive youth protection services and since many have few, if any options but to abruptly launch into independent living, they are often left unprepared and ill equipped to do so.

The housing resource will operate in one dwelling already owned by the organization. The resource will accommodate 5 youth and a live-in mentor, each with their individual bedroom and sharing all other common areas in the house

In partnership with community partners, families and other key actors, youth 17-25 years old who are or have been in care, will be supported to be safe, to lead a healthy lifestyle and to become

positive, successful, contributing citizens in society by providing them with safe and stable transition housing and support services.

Goals:

1. To prevent youth homelessness
2. To attain self-sufficiency and permanent housing
3. To establish a network of supportive permanent connections
4. To attain social/emotional wellbeing
5. To achieve desired education or employment

The Youth from the Batshaw Youth Empowerment Group have named this project ASPIRE.

ACHIEVING SUCCESS PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE RESTORING EMPOWERMENT

The start-up budget for this project has been evaluated at \$25,000 in year one. The budget covers everything from furniture, kitchen accessories, bedding and more. While half of this budget has already been identified, we are counting on our donors to help raise the remainder. In year two, the projected budget is \$13,000 which includes on-going expenses such as transport, some food purchases (youth will be responsible for the bulk of food purchases), internet, electricity, cable and a small financial compensation to the live-in mentor.



2017 Défi Canapé

Stay tuned for information regarding The Batshaw Foundation Signature Event Défi Canapé, taking place early Spring 2017. To discuss sponsorship opportunities, please contact judith@batshawfoundation.ca or call 514-989-1885, extension 1011.