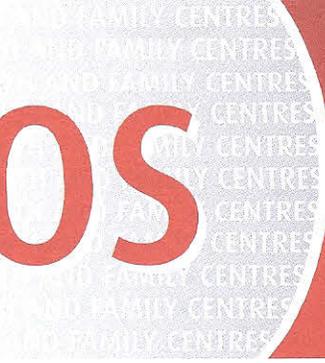




# APROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES



## AS WE ROLL IN THE NEW YEAR...

*Margaret Douek, Executive Director*

As we roll in the New Year, I want to wish you all a healthy, happy and productive year ahead. The fall was especially busy one and I would like to mention just a few of the activities undertaken.

We launched the election, appointment and co-opting of new Board members in September and will be completing the process by the end of January. This process has a rigorous schedule which must be adhered to and we will take the opportunity in our next issue of Apropos to introduce our new Board of Directors.

There were a number of staff appreciation and recognition events which took place over the fall. We were proud to award certificates of recognition to foster families, as well as, to staff in appreciation of number of years of service and in recognition of excellence. These events that highlight the quality of the people who work at Batshaw Centres, their passion and commitment provide us with an opportunity to celebrate together extraordinary men and women.

The pressure of day-to-day work while implementing new programs made the time fly by. Program review to reflect the principles of Circle of Courage is underway. The Neglect Program has been adopted and presented to different segments of the organization. The Civil Security Plan and readiness exercises for implicated staff have taken place.

We completed the year with the Dare to Dream challenge. Once again staff responded by proposing 26 innovative projects. Eleven projects were funded with three more projects pending final decision based on clarifying a few issues. A full description of what was funded and the outcome of the projects will appear in the next Apropos edition.

Best wishes for a fulfilling 2012!

## NEW RECORD FOR FRANK!

*Claire Roy, Manager, Communications and Public Relations*

Exactly a year ago, we reported that Frank Campanile had amassed 462 gifts for our youths. This year, Frank, who works in the archives in the basement of 6 Weredale Park, did even better! Imagine, he sought and received over 600 gifts for 540 kids! A real feat!

This year, gifts were stored in Training Room 2. To see all those carefully wrapped presents was a breath-taking spectacle! Thank you Frank and thank you to all those who helped him!

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HOLIDAY BASKET DRIVE

*Cathy Carroll, Manager, Resources, DCFs*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Batshaw Centres staff for your generous contribution to the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres 2011 Holiday Basket Drive. With the help of many, we were able to prepare and deliver 80 Holiday Baskets to needy families serviced through Batshaw Centres. Families received baskets containing non-perishable foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, meat and turkey and toys for each child in the family. None of this would have been possible without your contribution.

This campaign has become an agency wide event and everyone seems to contribute. Some departments or teams like to sponsor families, some like to purchase specific items for the baskets. One department sponsored all the turkeys, some collected money and forwarded to the overall drive. Some teams bought gifts for adolescents and some bought gifts for kids. Individual workers from across the agency donated their time to wrap, sort, pick up and deliver. Without my posse of

generous Batshaw Centres folk, this would be a much more difficult operation. A special shout out to Ray and Mike Fleming for their support, Kerry-Ann, Monique and Lynn, my second floor colleagues, and to those staff that sacrificed their adolescents for the day. A Thank you to Karen for the meat donation and Maria for the fruits and veggies donation. A big thank you goes out to Ola who keeps the machine running smoothly and efficiently.

It is important to note that each contribution is significant in making the drive successful and it helps us to serve the number of families that we do. From the sponsorship of specific families, the collection of non-perishable goods, the donations of money and turkeys, the wrapping of presents, the donation of toys and all the other tasks that is necessary to provide the families with a significant basket for the holiday season. A special thanks to all our sponsors, donators, volunteers and helpers. Best wishes to all for 2012 and I count on your support for next year's baskets.

## Dare to Dream 2010

### NORTHVIEW KNIGHTS CHESS CLUB

*Jason Vickers, Program Manager, Northview, DRTSA*

Last year Northview was able to launch the Northview Knights Chess Club as a result of Dare to Dream and a proposal from Bruce Riddell (Northview educator) and Kyle Kraaijeveld (Northview teacher).

Six beautiful chess boards were bought, five in wood and one in marble. They are all kept in a special locked cabinet and the youths can sign them out. The wood boards are usually used and the marble one is for the final game in a tournament. Our teacher uses them regularly in class and the boys also play regularly.

We had an internal tournament last year, but this story does not stop here. On Friday December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Northview hosted a chess tournament with some boys from Phoenix Alternative school. All went well starting with a pizza lunch generously paid for by the school and ending with the final game played in the unit between a Northview boy and one of the boys from Phoenix. We gladly crowned one of our own Northview boys as tournament Champion! Prizes, trophies and some great chess games were enjoyed by all.

If you're up for a little jousting over the chess board, the next move is yours!

## YOUTH CENTRE NOW IN THE ACT

*Claire Roy, Manager, Communications and Public Relations*

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, the National Assembly adopted Bill 16, which includes the name *youth centre* in the Act Respecting Health Services and Social Services (*Loi sur les services de santé et des services sociaux* - LSSSS). It goes without saying that all youth centres are very happy because after all these years our name is finally formalized.

Youth centres were created in 1993 from the merger of child and youth protection centres (*centres de protection de l'enfance et de la jeunesse* - CPEJ), rehabilitation centres for young persons with adjustment problems (*centres de réadaptation pour jeunes en difficulté d'adaptation* - CRJDA) and rehabilitation centers for mothers with adjustments problems (*centres de réadaptation pour les mères en difficulté d'adaptation* - CRMMA). Although the name *youth centre* was commonly used since 1993, it had never been integrated into the LSSSS.