

President/CEO Report

..... A monthly report on Ranch Ehrlo Society's activities

Ranch Ehrlo Society Making a Difference in Children's Lives

issue 38, April 2007

A team from Ranch Ehrlo Society was featured at the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers (SASW) annual luncheon held on March 20th as part of National Social Work week.

“Making a Difference in Children’s Lives” was this year’s theme for National Social Work week and SASW felt that the Ranch Ehrlo Society epitomized this concept. The Ranch team was lead by Dr. Geoff Pawson, President and CEO. Pawson’s presentation focused on what was critical to the successful development of the agency—quality programs, the retention of well-trained staff and quality facilities. He defined the Ranch’s system of caring for youth, built not only on the employees’ relationships with young people, but also from a wider organizational perspective, stressing the interconnectedness of quality youth care to staff, programs and facilities.

“Since inception, it has been the collective passion of the agency to develop services of high standard, based on cutting-edge technology, and dedicated to the well being of the youth we serve,” Pawson told the 55 guests in attendance at the Regina Inn. “The culture, its vision and its growing expertise make the Ranch a dynamic place to work.”

Pawson’s presentation was followed by David Rivers, Director of Programs at Ranch Ehrlo who spoke about clinical and family services at the agency, including the recently introduced Family Treatment Program that works to improve family functioning and well being as families reunify after a child has been in care.

Marion MacIver, Vice President and Director of Education presented an overview of the educational services provided to the 230 students who attend daily programs at Ranch Ehrlo. These educational programs include classes at Schaller School on the Pilot Butte campus, programs in leased classrooms in Regina and Prince Albert, as well as a number of vocational programs. A new four-classroom school is nearing completion at the Corman Park campus.

Malcolm Neill, Vice President of Ehrlo Community Services spoke about that agency’s work in the community including the services and programs delivered in the areas of recreation, affordable housing, counselling and vocational training.

National Social Work week started out as an initiative of the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW). Pawson chaired the CASW Public Relations Committee that spearheaded this designation across Canada.

During the course of any month, there are a number of activities which occur at the Ranch which go unreported to board members, our Senate and senior management. This monthly newsletter will attempt to capture some of that activity and give you a broader perspective on Ranch Ehrlo and Ehrlo Community Services.

Dr. Geoff Pawson
President/CEO

Residential Treatment Conference to Feature World Renowned Speakers

Kim Skinner is “seriously excited”. The Unit Manager at Woodward House is one of many Ranch Ehrlo employees involved in planning the Residential Treatment Conference “Residential Care: *An Integral Part of the Child Welfare Continuum*” to be held at the Delta Hotel in Regina on May 22nd-25th. “The momentum is building and everything is falling into place”, said Skinner. “The calibre of speakers is outstanding.”

“The momentum is building and everything is falling into place.”

Kim Skinner
Unit Manager

The first keynote speaker, Dr. Larry Bendtro, President of Reclaiming Youth International, works worldwide in the fields of education, mental health, juvenile justice and faith-based youth programs. Bendtro provides alternatives for building powerful environments where kids can thrive.

Dr. Martin Brokenleg, the second keynote speaker, is Director of

Native Ministries and Professor of First Nations Theology at the Vancouver School of Theology. For over 30 years, Brokenleg has consulted and led training groups on multi-cultural strategies for individuals who work with youth at risk.

Described as the primary force in reconfiguring the profession of child and youth care work, Dr. Mark Krueger is the final keynote speaker. The Director of Youth Work Learning Centre at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, Krueger has done much to internationalize child and youth care, to include families as central to this work and to establish a positive youth development framework as the ethical base for the field.

Another highlight of the conference will be a presentation by two speakers from the Cuban Women’s Federation who will be discussing the role of the Federation in the provision of services to children and families in Cuba and how service

providers work together to deliver programs in that country.

The other Committee members are Deacon Skinner, Mike Deis, Randy O’Shaughnessy and Rick Norick. A number of other Ranch employees will be leading breakout sessions throughout the conference.

For more information or to register for the conference check the Ranch Ehrlo website at www.ehrlo.com

Benefit Concert

A benefit concert, featuring Jeff Straker, singer-songwriter-pianist, will be held at the **Regina Performing Arts Centre at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 7th**. All proceeds from the event will go directly to the *Heart of the City Piano Program (HCPP)*.

The Ranch Ehrlo Society Volunteer Program has had a long-standing partnership with HCPP. Currently six youth from the Ranch take lessons from volunteer piano teachers through this program. The year-end recital will be held on April 24th at Rosemont School. Two of the youth will be performing at the Regina Music Festival on May 4th.

For benefit concert tickets or for more information on the *Heart of the City Piano Program* contact Lee Donnelly, Coordinator of Volunteer Services at Ranch Ehrlo Society at 781-1805.

Celebrity Golf Classic

Plans are well underway for the 16th Annual Ranch Ehrlo Celebrity Golf Classic. Keith Rever, past Board Chair, has once again agreed to serve as Chair of the Golf Committee. This popular event will be held at the Royal Regina Golf Course on Monday, June 4th. Gordon Currie, who was inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame in 2006, will be this year’s celebrity golfer. For more information or to register for the event contact Malcolm Neill at 781-1812.

Ranch Ehrlo Employee Wins Healthcare Excellence Award

“Her generosity, gentle efficiency, dedication, patience, insightfulness, community leadership, positive attitude and commitment are exceptional.”

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SHEA Program

This was the description of Linda Meyer, Vice President, Programs South in the program at the Saskatchewan Healthcare Excellence Awards (SHEA) that were held on Saturday February 24th at Qucensbury Downs. Meyer, who was nominated while still in her former position as Senior Director at Ehrlo Counselling Services,

received the award for the category of Community Leadership.

“I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Dr. Geoff Pawson for his vision eight years ago in establishing a counselling service in our community to address gaps in service for children, adolescents and their families,” Meyer said in accepting her award. “As a psychologist, I have been afforded an opportunity to not only develop direct practice skills but also to create programs and to work collaboratively with an amazing range of community partners.”

Meyer paid special tribute to her former colleagues at Ehrlo Counselling Services--Dave Wiebe, Ryan Labatt, Denise Swallow, Sherry Elek, Tricia Racette, Rob Popp, Kate Langen, Bree Fiissel and especially to Shelley Tamaki who spearheaded the nomination.

The Saskatchewan Health Care Awards provide a venue to promote success in Saskatchewan healthcare and profile those individuals demonstrating excellence in their field. Nominations for next year’s awards will open on August 15th.

G.A.S.P. Baskets

Assembling special occasion baskets is one of the work initiatives of Girls Achieving Success Program (G.A.S.P.), a special Schaller education program. This project helps female youth at the Ranch raise funds and gain valuable employment and life skills. Baskets are available in any size, type and price range.

For more information or to order your basket, contact Cathie Nemeth at 751-2719.

Host Families Needed

Rob Heidt is a teacher at the Ranch Ehrlo classroom at Sheldon-Williams Collegiate in Regina. Heidt is known for his community support and involvement. That’s why when the International Student Program, which is housed next door to the Ranch Ehrlo classroom at Sheldon-Williams, requested help in locating host families, Heidt sent out a call for assistance.

The international program hosts students from Japan, Thailand, South Korea and China. “The students require a ‘Home Stay’ family to aid in the transition to Canada and to support them in their language skill development,” says Heidt. Host families receive \$600 /month for each student they host.

For more information or if you are able to host a student contact Rob Heidt at 751-2716.

Ranch Ehrlo Accounting Office Moved to New Location

Rapid growth in the agency has necessitated the relocation of the accounting department from the Hudson Building on the Pilot Butte campus. The accounting team (Chris Parisien, Kirby Klapatiuk, Mavis Goebel, Judy Smibert, Janet Lacell and Veronica Robison) are now located at 1809 MacKay Street in Regina. The telephone number is 757-0581; fax number is 522-2393.

Super Science Activity Day

“The event was a huge success and we are looking forward to next year’s science activity day.”

Shanna Andrews
Educational Assistant

All of the Schaller and Regina elementary classes participated in the annual Super Science Activity Day held on February 23rd. Each class set up an interactive, hands-on science booth where students were able to explore and ask questions about the experiments. “Participants were able to excite their senses with visual and tactical items such as weighted blankets, pressure vests, optical illusions, taste-testing, sound wave can phones and much more,” said Shanna Andrews, Educational Assistant and one of

the day’s organizers. To enhance the learning experience each student was given a passport to the event and was encouraged to ask at least one question at every booth. Once they listened to the answer to their question they were given a stamp or sticker in that booth’s designated square on the passport. Students with completed passports entered a draw for one of three door prizes (created by G.A.S.P.) “The event was a huge success and we are looking forward to next year’s science activity day,” added Andrews.

Family Treatment Program Continues to Grow

Patti Petrucka, Clinical Manager of the Ranch Ehrlo Family Treatment Program is a very busy individual. “The Family Program has been extremely active since its inception in September 2006; the program has a full complement of four families in housing units rented through a partnership with Gabriel Housing,” said Petrucka. At present, the families in the program are from various locations in Saskatchewan with one family from the Maritimes.

Once a family is settled into its new facility, a treatment program is devised. A Family Treatment worker is assigned to each family and is available

to the family on a daily basis as extensively as required. Services are provided to ensure that the family is able to reach staff when required, including an on-call service 24 hours a day/seven days per week.

“The Family Program has been extremely active since its inception in September 2006.”

Patti Petrucka
Clinical Manager

Services include counselling to youth, siblings and parents, a weekly parent psycho-educational support group, weekly recreational programming, equine assisted therapy program and in-home family treatment and support.

Once families begin the transition back to their homes, the program staff assists in networking the family into resources in their communities.

The program is in the process of development and delivery of the next stage of the program, the

“After Care Services” component.

The program offices and the family counselling centre are located at 1817 MacKay Street. For more information on the Family Treatment Program contact Patti Petrucka at 757-0581.

New Units Nearing Completion

By the end of June 2007, the Ranch Ehrlo Society’s residential treatment capacity will have increased by 30 beds. With two units in Corman Park and one unit at the Pilot Butte campus nearing completion, there has been a flurry of activity to ensure that staff is hired, programs in place and the units are furnished. Classes will start in the Ellen Gunn School on the Corman Park campus in September. Additional classroom space will be secured in Regina to accommodate educational programming.

Youth from Saskatoon and area who would benefit from increased family involvement will be transferred to the Corman Park units from Regina. The Pilot Butte unit will be another intake unit.

Ehrlo Community Services¹

Ehrlo Employee Leads Regina Homelessness Planning Session

Helen Finucane, Director Ehrlo Housing and Chair of the Regina Homelessness Committee welcomed participants to a planning session on April 17th to address homelessness in Regina.

“We need to put a face on homelessness so people understand that the people who are homeless can be your daughter, your uncle, your aunt”

Helen
Finucane

The Regina Homelessness Committee, comprised of 25 members from the city, province, health region and community-based organizations as well as aboriginal youth, hosted the event.

The Regina Homelessness Committee is in the process of developing a new community plan on homelessness and the planning session was a key part of the process. “The purpose of today’s session is to hear directly from you about the areas that we need to focus on over the next few years and the key

actions that are needed to address the needs of those who are homeless or who are in very precarious circumstances,” Finucane explained in her opening remarks at the session.

Participants at the session were advised that Regina is home to the hidden homeless. Research shows that there are over 7000 households in the city with significant housing needs.

Finucane outlined three groups that are at greater risk for becoming homeless. These are transient youth, young people with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and individuals with mental illness. “We need to put a face on homelessness so that people understand that the people who are homeless can be your daughter, your uncle, your aunt,” said Finucane. “People even though they are poor or have mental

¹ ECS was established as a non-profit organization in 1995 with a mandate to provide community-based prevention and intervention services.

health issues still deserve to live in affordable, quality houses.”

Bringing Home the Gold

Congratulations to Avant-Garde College cosmetology student, Alex Stone on winning the gold metal in the “young protégé consumer fashion” competition at the Wella Competition in Toronto held on April 1st and 2nd.

Plans for Fashion Show Well Underway

Lori Pawson, Principal, along with the students and staff of Avant-Garde College are busy with the final arrangements for the third annual *High Fashion and Hair Show*. This popular event is being held at the Convention Hall, at Conexus Arts Centre on Saturday, May 5th.

This year seven designers will be showcasing their work. There will also be a special feature highlighting the work and achievements of Avant-Garde students and staff. Tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased at the Collage. Proceeds from the event go toward the Esthetics and Cosmetology Bursary Program.

New Counsellor at Ehrlo

Bree Fiissel, Director of Ehrlo Counselling Services is pleased to announce the appointment of Kate Langen to the position of counsellor, effective April 23rd.

“Kate brings a strong clinical approach and will be a great asset to the program,” said Fiissel. “Demand for our counselling services has surpassed our capacity for some time and we’re lucky to have Kate on board to continue to provide the high level of service our clients have come to expect.”

Langen joined the Ranch Ehrlo Society as a clinical caseworker in September 1991. She

received a Masters Degree in Clinical Social Work from the University of Calgary and is a registered social worker.

Successful Conference on Executive Function Deficits

Ehrlo Counselling Services assisted in the development of an intensive four-day workshop on supporting youth and adults with FASD and executive function deficits. Nearly 200 participants attended the event that was sponsored by the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. "This was an intensive session where skills were taught and practiced to help people work with individuals who have difficulty with behavioural self-regulation, socially appropriate interactions and meaningful engagements in the workforce," said Bree Fiissel, one of the conference organizers. The presenters were Dr. Ylvisaker and Dr. Feeney from School and Community Support Services in New York.

Suicide Intervention

Dave Wiebe, Special Services Coordinator at Ehrlo Counselling Services has recently completed his training and is working on his certification as a suicide intervention trainer. Ehrlo Counselling Services has been offering suicide intervention training to community groups and Ranch Ehrlo employees for the past seven years.

Ehrlo Basketball and Soccer Leagues set to go for the Season

Kim Langston, Coordinator, Sport Venture Program has been busy getting plans in place for both the Ehrlo Basketball League and the Ehrlo Soccer League.

On May 5th the Ehrlo Basketball League (EBL) has its kick-off camp at Scott Collegiate. Regular season play will run from May 7th to June 6th, with a wind-up tournament at the University of Regina on June 9th.

The Ehrlo Soccer League (ESL) has its kick-off camp scheduled for June 23rd, with regular season play running from June 23rd to July 26th. The ESL wind-up tournament will be held at the University of Regina on July 28th.

The Jon Ryan Football camp has been set for June 29th.

SGI Canada New Sponsor

Malcolm Neill, Vice President of Ehrlo Community Services is pleased to announce that SGI Canada will be the new sponsor for the Ehrlo Sport Venture Library, committing \$25,000 per year for the next three years.

Note of Thanks

Malcolm Neill, Vice President would like to thank all of the 2006-2007 Outdoor Hockey League (OHL) Sponsors. Conexus is the presenting sponsor of the League, along with ongoing significant support from SaskSport and Optimists International.

Other sponsors this year were:

- The Wickenheiser Family
- Coca-cola Bottling Company
- City of Regina
- Kiwanis International
- Elks Lodge No. 9
- The Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Regina)
- Regina Pats Hockey Club
- The Matrix Gaming Centre
- Crown Investments Corporation

"The generous support of all of our sponsors has enabled over 300 young people to participate in weekly league play at seven city zone rinks," said Neill. "This has made a tremendous impact on our community."

conexus

