

President/CEO Report

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

Annual Reviews Assess Programs Performance

issue 43, April 2008

During the course of any month, there are a number of activities which occur that go unreported to Board Members, our Senate, key Stakeholders and staff. This bi-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

As part of the Ranch Ehrlo Society's ongoing performance and quality improvement initiative, every residential program reviews the results of its outcome information on an annual basis. In the fall of 2007, teams from 20 agency programs participated in a review process which examined the results of the goals established within each team the previous year, and set new goals for the upcoming year.

Based on program goals from the previous year, program staff reported success in a number of areas including, decreased medication errors, decreased AWOLs, more cultural programming and opportunities, advanced training and education for staff, improved life skills and vocational training for residents.

"The *Program Reviews Report* is different from the *Performance Outcome Report*," explains David Rivers, one of the program directors at the agency. "The outcome report is a summary of all the resident outcomes at the agency while the program reviews report sets out demographic and outcomes information specific to each program."¹

"The review helps the team focus on the program's strengths and weaknesses," adds Colin Bechard, unit manager for one of the supported living programs. "It assists us in centering our program goals around the needs of our clients."

¹ A copy of the *Performance Outcome Report* is located on the Ranch Ehrlo Web site at www.ehrlo.com.

Based on observation and a review of the demographic data for their units, 85% of program staff identified the need to increase First Nations cultural, spiritual and language programming and training; 25% identified the need to improve handling and programming for residents based on special needs such as development delays, mental health issues, and age.

Program staff identified behavioural issues and impulsive behaviour patterns as the most common referral issue impacting resident progress or outcome at the Ranch; other issues impacting the youth's progress include their previous experience with abuse, academic problems, ongoing family issues, substance abuse and addictions, and grief and loss.

With respect to resident service planning, 85% of the programs determined that the service plans consistently address the resident issues for service. The remainder of the programs felt that their service plans need to improve to directly address all the reasons for a young person needing service at the Ranch.

Areas identified for continued improvement include the reduction in primary critical incidents and increased training and education of staff.

For more information on the *Program Reviews Report* contact David Rivers at 781-1802.

Ehrlo Child and Family Foundation Established

The Ehrlo Child and Family Foundation has been established to further the work of both the Ranch Ehrlo Society (Ranch) and Ehrlo Community Services (ECS). “Although both the Ranch and Ehrlo Community Services have their own charitable numbers, it was felt that a separate foundation would raise the profile of the work of both agencies,” said Danny Wilson, senior director of finance. “The establishment of a foundation allows the Ranch board and that of Ehrlo Community Services to focus on the operations instead of fundraising.”

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Danny Wilson

Ehrlo Child and Family Foundation was incorporated under the *Non-profit Corporations Act* in 2006 and became a registered charitable foundation under Canada Revenue Agency in May 2007. It has its own board of directors, bylaws, policies and procedures.

Kent Fitch is chair of the board and Marilyn Pollock is secretary.

Other board members are Dr. Alex Guy, Gerry Liski, Frank May, Audrey Price, Sharon McKay, and Bob Gawley.

For more information or to make a charitable contribution to the Ehrlo Child and Family Foundation contact Danny Wilson at 781-1840 or at danny.wilson@ranchehrlo.ca.

Computers from MLT

The Ranch Ehrlo Society has received 40 computers, in excellent condition, from the law firm of MacPherson Leslie & Tyerman. The donation was facilitated by Joey Shaw, unit manager at Hilsden House. Ten of the computers will be shipped to Argentina to young people in the Che Recové project near the Argentina-Paraguay border. The remainder will be distributed throughout the residential units and classrooms.

Youth Support NICU Fundraiser

Cassie Geiger, teacher at Schaller Education Centre, has personally supported fundraising efforts for the neo-natal infant care unit (NICU) in Regina for a number of years. In March she asked her students if they would be interested in conducting a bottle drive in support of the Z99 radio-a-thon for the NICU. “I was amazed at how enthusiastic the students were to give something back to the community,” said Geiger. “Responses from the students included ‘awesome’, ‘great’, ‘I’d love to help’.”

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Cassie Geiger

On March 13th Geiger and her class collected cans, bottles and juice boxes from the Schaller classrooms, Pilot Butte units and the Hudson Building to return to SARCAN for refund.

In total \$61.83 was presented to the Z99 radio-a-thon by some very enthusiastic students.

Ehrlo Daycare Raises Funds

The children at Ehrlo Daycare held their own fundraiser to support the Z99 radio-a-thon for the NICU. A bake sale at the daycare earned an amazing \$960. The bake sale has become a tradition at the daycare and over the past five years approximately \$3700 from the proceeds of these sales has been donated to purchase new equipment for the NICU.

Boucher Hosts Easter Lunch

Over 25 guests enjoyed a turkey dinner with all the trimmings at a special Easter lunch held on March 19th at Boucher School in Prince Albert. “The students were involved in every way,” reports Tamara Nicolas, educational resource teacher. “They helped whip up the delightful feast, said grace, gave a blessing in Cree, and served the desserts--chocolate nests filled with Easter eggs.” Special guests included employees from the Ranch Ehrlo residential programs in Buckland and Prince Albert and staff from the Apostolic church.

Plans in Place for On-site Visit

The Council on Accreditation (COA) will be conducting its on-site review of the Ranch Ehrlo Society from Sunday, April 13th to Wednesday, April 16th. Over the course of the four-day review, the COA peer review team, headed by Dr. Jane Swanson, Professor of Grand Valley State University, Traverse City, MI, will conduct on-site file reviews at the agency's three campuses, tour various programs and conduct one-to-one interviews with staff, youth, and board members. Swanson will be accompanied by three other peer reviewers, Justeen Schusteff (Libertyville, IL), Linda Stacey (Tampa, FL), and Ralph Cordes (Portland, ME).

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Jane Powell

“COA uses a four-year accreditation cycle and in 2007 released its 8th Canadian edition standards,” explains Jane Powell, director of special projects who has overseen the re-accreditation process. “These standards are at the heart of the process; they are evidence-informed, field-driven,

outcomes-oriented and based on current best-practices.”

The Ranch Ehrlo Society was first accredited in 1971 and has successfully maintained COA accreditation since that time. Many agency program directors and one vice-president serve as peer reviewers for COA. The Ranch Ehrlo Society is the only residential treatment program in Saskatchewan that is accredited by COA.

Successful Winter Festival

The first annual combined Corman Park/ Buckland Winterfest, held on Friday, February 22nd, was a resounding success. Youth and staff from Corman Park travelled to the Buckland campus for a fun-filled day of relay races, bell-kick, egg toss, a shinny tournament and a wiener-roast. The weather was great and the campus welcomed a number of neighbours and community members to the event.

Many activities at Kruzeniski

Lisa Neill, unit manager at Kruzeniski House (Kruzer), is a strong believer in one of the agency's core values that children and youth respond to programs of high energy that create interest and subsequently reduce impulsive behaviour.

The young people at Kruzer have established their own volunteer program. Once a week the youth visit Sunset Extencicare Home to play games and bingo with the residents and even participate with the residents in a monthly dance. With the assistance of Cam Huberdeau, youth care leader, the youth have also become very involved with the Special Olympics; the youth work directly with the young people in the Special Olympics' craft program, swimming program, and the gymnastics program.

The staff and youth at the unit have also introduced “culture month”, where they will adopt a country for a month. “We try to incorporate guest speakers, crafts, sports, cooking, and a general history of the country,” explains Neill. “We also make that country's flag and dress up in costumes to depict its heritage.” The youth adopted Ireland for the month of March and will adopt China for the month of April.

New Program Director at Corman Park

Jason Kotyk has been appointed the new program director at Corman Park effective May 1st. Kotyk started his career as a child care worker at the agency 13 years ago. He has been a unit manager in Regina and at the Pilot Butte campus for nine years. Kotyk replaces Vance Heaney who will assume the new position of director of clinical services, programs north.

Equine Assisted Therapy Starts

After months of preparation the staff and youth at the Buckland campus are excited about beginning the Equine Assisted Therapy program (EAT) in April. The program moves away from the previous trail-ride program to a more therapeutic model.

Culture Awareness Workshops

Two aboriginal awareness workshops were held on March 26th and 28th at the Schaller Education Centre. Approximately 60 employees attended the one-day session which examined social issues in the aboriginal community and explored a series of historical events. Facilitators Darcy Tourangeu and Bill Anderson lead participants through a series of interactive exercises on the topics of power relations, terminology, residential schools and a representative workforce strategy. The sessions also included opening and closing prayers by elder Harold Lavallee.

“We need to correct misconceptions of First Nations people by providing opportunities for employees to gain an accurate understanding of contemporary issues in the aboriginal community,” said Ranch Ehrlo’s cultural program co-ordinator Sonia Roy, who helped organize the workshops.

Feedback from the sessions was very positive, with those in attendance noting the ability of the facilitators to keep the sessions entertaining and interactive. More workshops are scheduled for April and May and the information will become part of the induction training for all new employees this fall.

CD Release Event planned

Amanda Scandrett, Ranch Ehrlo’s artist in residence, has been working with youth from the Ranch Ehrlo education program and hip hop recording artists to conduct workshops and create hip hop compositions. These new compositions are now on a CD and a CD release party is being planned for the artists and youth on Sunday, May 4th at 2:00 p.m. at the Exchange.

Scandrett is also beginning to plan for summer festival programming where Ranch Ehrlo youth will have an opportunity to share art, based on positive expression, with the community. Arrangements are currently being made to participate in the Regina Folk Festival, August 8th to 10th. For more information contact Scandrett at 751-2489 or amanda.scandrett@ranchehrlo.ca.

Celebrating Multiculturalism

Plans are well underway for the 5th annual Multiculturalism Day to be held at Schaller Education Centre on Saturday, May 24th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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April Fike

“It’s like a mini-mosaic”, report April Fike, house mother at Peterson, who is responsible for organizing the day’s activities. “We’re working with the Regina Multiculturalism Society to get as many different cultural performances as possible.” In addition, the young people from each unit select a culture that they study and portray in

whatever manner they choose. There will be display booths with background information on different countries, costumes, and great food samples prepared by the house mothers.

For more information on the Ranch Ehrlo Multiculturalism Day contact April Fike at 751-5668.

Science Fair Celebrates Learning

On the afternoon of March 12th, the Liski gym at the Schaller Education Centre was filled with laughter and squeals of delight as students shared the wonders of science.

“This was an opportunity for students from five Schaller classrooms and five in-town elementary classrooms to demonstrate the knowledge they have acquired in the area of science over this school year,” said Marion MacIver, executive vice-president and director of education. “It is also an opportunity for these students to teach others and raise their overall interest in scientific learning.”

Students Artwork on Display

An exhibit of personal self-expression, created by Ranch Ehrlo youth, will be on display at the Kelowna Art show from April 11th to May 16th.

Ehrlo Community Services¹

OHL Season Wraps Up-- Sponsorship Search Begins

The Outdoor Hockey League (OHL) wrapped up its 15th season of play on Saturday, March 8th and Sunday, March 9th at the ninth annual *Coca-Cola Cup* held in Pense. Over 200 of the 400 registered season-players came out for a great weekend of hockey, food, and fun. The Grassick Park team won the atom division title while Carry the Kettle First Nation took the honours in the bantam division.

The OHL season will officially wind-up with a volunteer get-together on Friday, April 4th for the 30-45 volunteers who worked so hard to make the league a success.

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Kim Langston,
Sport Venture
co-ordinator

“This has been one of the best OHL seasons ever”, said Sport Venture co-ordinator, Kim Langston. “From the 15th anniversary celebrations to the visit by Ken Dryden, it was a very successful season with many memorable highlights.”

The closing of this OHL season also brings to an end Conexus’ three-year sponsorship. “We’ve had an outstanding partnership with Conexus that has enabled many young people to enjoy the sport of hockey and we thank the organization and its many employees for their support,” said Langston.

Discussions are now under way to find a new major three-year sponsor for the league.

For more information on the Outdoor Hockey League or for details regarding potential sponsorship opportunities contact Kim Langston at 751-2411.

New Look to Golf Classic

Plans for the 2008 Ehrlo Golf Classic (formerly the Ranch Ehrlo Golf Classic) are now in “full-swing” with the tournament committee taking some new and innovative approaches to this year’s tournament. The classic will be held at the Royal Regina Golf course on Monday, June 2nd.

One of the major goals of the committee is to attract a media sponsor that will help heighten public awareness of the enormous benefit that Sport Venture programming brings to our community.

Registrants for the tournament will be pleased that the cost to participate has been set at \$125.00, which is \$50.00 less than last year. The entrance fee will cover green fees, cart rental, a souvenir and a roast beef dinner.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in being involved in this event contact Kim Langston at 751-2411 or Shea Haverstock at 751-5684.

Block-by-Block Housing Project

Vocational co-ordinator Monica Rivers has accepted a one-year term position, funded by the United Way, to co-ordinate a “block-by-block” housing renewal initiative. Rivers will be working with the Core Community Association, along with several other stakeholders, including the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, the City of Regina, and Habitat for Humanity. The purpose of the project is neighbourhood renewal that includes home improvement, new construction and block clean-up. Ehrlo Community Services is examining a variety of options regarding its participation in this renewal project.

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

Avant-Garde Fashion Show

The 4th annual Avant-Garde High Fashion & Hair Show is set for April 26, 2008 at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina. In addition to the fashion show featuring designs by Danila Wright, Geoff Landry, Dean Renwick, Deanna Tanner and Becky King, the evening also features a fantasy competition, entertainment, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$35.00 each and are available at Avant-Garde College, 1033 8th Avenue.

All funds raised from this event will go towards two bursaries for cosmetology and esthetics.

Dave Wiebe's Guatemala

As winner of this year's Operation Sunshine, Dave Wiebe chose Guatemala as his destination for escaping the Saskatchewan winter. Wiebe, along with two of his sisters, had a busy two weeks: he visited Antigua, which is the old Colonial capital of Central America; the resort community of Montericco on the Pacific Coast; and the communities of Panajachel and Santiago in the Lake Atitlan region.

"It was an amazing cultural experience, and we had a great time hanging out with the Mayan folks," said Wiebe, "I highly recommend visiting Guatemala--just don't drink the water!"

Ehrlo Basketball League

As the OHL comes to an end, the Ehrlo Basketball League (EBL) is about to launch its new season. League action begins with a skills camp on Saturday, May 3rd at the University of Regina. In addition to the camp, the youth will have an opportunity to register for the season on that day.

The league is active in three locations:

- North Central - Scott Collegiate
- East view - Community Centre
- Core Ritchie - Thomson School

The EBL season runs until June 14th and winds-up with a league tournament and wrap-up event.

The major league sponsor for the Ehrlo Basketball League's 2008 season is Access Communications.

New Face at Ehrlo Counselling

Ehrlo Counselling Services is pleased to announce Jodie Alecxe has been hired to fill the role of office assistant at the 2022 Cornwall St. location. Jodie can be contacted at 751-2467 and will be available during regular office hours.

Cognitive Disability Strategy

Ryan Labatt and Denise Swallow, cognitive disability consultants with Ehrlo Counselling Services, are busy individuals. Labatt and Swallow continue their community work, providing training and behaviour support planning to individuals and families impacted by a cognitive disability. Their mandate is to fill gaps in community services as they are identified. There has been a substantial increase in client activity over the year, which has been acknowledged at the provincial level.

The two-year pilot position of special services coordinator, provided by Dave Wiebe, funded by the United Way and Ministry of Social Services (Cognitive Disability Benefit) will be coming to an end. Wiebe will continue to work with Ehrlo Counselling, offering training to the community and working to co-ordinate service providers for the Independent Treatment Program, as referrals for this recently-introduced program continue to increase.

NHLPA Donates Hockey Gear

The Ehrlo Outdoor Hockey League has once again had the good fortune of receiving 50 complete sets of new hockey gear from the National Hockey League Players' Association (NHLPA). This is a donation valued at approximately \$20,000 and is much needed to replace some aging equipment that is ready to be retired.