

# President/CEO Report

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

## ***Family Treatment Program Growing***

Since its inception in the fall of 2006, the Ranch Ehrlo Society Family Treatment Program (FTP) has continued to grow and develop to provide innovative treatment options for youth and families at-risk.

In September 2006, with financial assistance from the National Homelessness Initiative and through a partnership with Gabriel Housing, the agency launched the program to assist young people to reunify with their families. The voluntary program works with families experiencing various problems including addiction recovery, inadequate housing, child behaviour management, and poor parenting skills. "The goal of the program is to improve family functioning and well-being as families reunify after having a child in care," said Patti Patrucka, clinical manager of the program. "Families entering the program must be fully committed to addressing personal issues and not have any active addictions or outstanding legal issues."

The first family entered the program on November 1, 2006. The program has recently expanded to seven families with the opening of two new units on April 1, 2009 to assist in the assessment and stabilization of families who have children with a suspected fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD).

Since the program began, there has been a strong focus on staff training and development. A three-day intensive

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(core) training program for FTP staff was held from February 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. The workshop was facilitated by Mary Fischer, associate director of the Institute for Family Development in Federal Way, Washington, who was so intrigued by the Ranch's program that she agreed to conduct the workshops herself rather than sending out one of her trainers.

Fischer also agreed to supervise the in-home services provided by the staff. "She provided detailed evaluation and feedback to members of the team," said Patrucka. "It was incredibly beneficial to have hands-on experience from someone with this extensive amount of knowledge and experience in the area."

Further intensive training on motivational interviewing for program staff took place on March 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Both the February and March training sessions were funded by a grant from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, which has also provided a \$20,000 grant to furnish the two new programs for families with children suspected of a FASD.

Notwithstanding her fear of small airplanes, Petrucka accompanied by Sharon Achtemichuk, family treatment worker, flew up to Stony Rapids to present on the Family Treatment Program at the community's Family Conference on March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

A Family Treatment Program video can be viewed at [www.ehrlo.com](http://www.ehrlo.com).

*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

## ***Blasting Through Stereotypes***

Ranch Ehrlo students from the Regina elementary classrooms had a rare opportunity to witness how one child can make a difference in the lives of others. Hosted by the Regina Public Board of Education, middle-year students from across the city were invited to hear Craig Kilberger, at the Conexus Arts Centre on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

“Not only did he empower the students to make a difference in the lives of others, he also exposed them to a number of harsh realities facing children around the world.”

Kristen Endicott

to stand up and have their voices heard.

“It was great for our students to hear Craig’s message,” said Kristen Endicott, a teacher at Rosemont School whose classroom attended the event. “Not only did he empower the students to make a difference in the lives of others, he also exposed them to a number of harsh realities facing children around the world.”

Since its inception, the foundation, through Action Groups, has built 500 schools throughout Asia, Africa, and Latin America providing daily education to more than 50,000 children.

## ***Computers for Schools***

The Ranch Ehrlo Society has received 37 computers, in excellent condition, from the Computers for Schools program. This program is supported by both the federal and provincial government and receives significant corporate support from SaskTel, SaskPower, and ISM Canada. Ted Reed, senior systems administrator, estimates that since the program’s inception, the agency has benefitted by approximately 250 computers which are being utilized in the education program classrooms.

Kilberger, who currently lives in Toronto, chairs Free the Children, a unique international development and youth empowerment organization that he founded at 12 years of age. Since its formation in 1995, Free the Children has become the world’s leading youth-driven charity, inspiring an entire generation of young people

## ***Ehrlo Daycare Raises Funds***

The children at Ehrlo Daycare recently held two fundraising events. The first was their annual bake sale to support the Z99 radio-a-thon for the Regina Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Regina General Hospital. The bake sale, that this year raised \$877.05, has become a tradition at the daycare. Over the past six years approximately \$4600 from the proceeds of these sales has been donated to purchase new equipment at the unit. The second fundraiser, a popcorn sale at the school, raised \$103 which was turned over to the SRC for the purchase of equipment. For more information on Ehrlo Daycare, located at W.F. Ready School, contact Karin Duff, director, at 751-2722 or [karin.duff@ranchehrlo.ca](mailto:karin.duff@ranchehrlo.ca).

## ***Ranch Ehrlo Opens its Doors***

Carmel Kleisinger, director of the recently established Ranch Ehrlo Society Clinical Assessment and Resource Services, has welcomed Mahmonir ‘Moni’ Hasani to the team following a contact from the Open Door Society.

“She is truly a ‘gem’ and a wonderful addition to our newly developed team.”

Carmel  
Kleisinger

Hasani has been volunteering her time at the assessment unit since mid-January. Originally from Iran where she worked as a psychologist, Hasani has been in Regina for two years. She was looking for an opportunity to work on improving her English within a professional setting. When the agency was approached by the Open Door Society to assist Hasani, it willingly agreed.

“Since she’s been with the assessment team, she has been assisting with the establishment of the filing system and will also be assisting with the scoring of psychological tests,” said Kleisinger. “She is truly a ‘gem’ and a wonderful addition to our newly developed team.”

The Clinical Assessment and Resource Services is located at 1812 Victoria Avenue in Regina.

## ***Stay in School Program***

Seventeen excited Ranch Ehrlo students are the proud recipients of the Scotia Capital Stay in School awards. The program was extended to include Saskatchewan students through the Ranch Ehrlo Society in the fall of 2008. It recognizes elementary and high school “at-risk” students who are doing exceptionally well in school given their personal circumstances. The awards are also intended to encourage these same students to complete their high school.

“It’s a great program that will encourage our youth to stay in school, regardless of the obstacles they face.”

Brenda Fiddler

“Students are nominated according to a number of set criteria,” said Marion MacIver, executive vice-president and director of education who oversees the program. “Students who overcome significant academic challenges, demonstrate academic excellence, are extremely

well-rounded, or have overcome a particularly challenging experience, are all eligible for the award.”

Six students in Programs North and 11 students in the Regina/Pilot Butte programs received awards in the amount of \$100, following completion of the first school semester. “We had a party to celebrate the awards, including pictures, and cake,” reports Brenda Fiddler, principal of Programs North. “I think it’s a great program that will encourage our youth to stay in school, regardless of the obstacles they face.”

Each award recipient is eligible for up to \$300 per school year. Public recognition of all the award winners for the 2008-2009 school year will occur at the Ranch Ehrlo Society’s annual Awards Nights held in June.

For more information on the Scotia Capital Stay in School Award Program contact Marion MacIver at 781-1814 or [marion.maciver@ranchehrlo.ca](mailto:marion.maciver@ranchehrlo.ca).

## ***Successful Winter Festivals***

The second annual combined Corman Park/Buckland Winterfest, held on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, was a resounding success. Youth and staff from Corman Park travelled to the Buckland campus for a fun-filled day of activities including the banner contest, horse marshmallow race, ice sculpturing, and a shinny tournament. “I think the highlight of the day for many of the youth was their victory over the staff members in a tug-of-war,” reports Jason Kotyk, director of programs in Corman Park. “The Buckland staff and youth did an excellent job in hosting the event,” added Kotyk.

Although the weather was a bit cooler, a successful festival was also held at the Pilot Butte campus on February 28<sup>th</sup> which started out with a pancake breakfast. There were many events throughout the day including jam-can curling, egg relay, bell-kick, and hockey showdowns.

## ***Literacy Partnership***

The Ranch Ehrlo Society has entered into a unique partnership with the University of Regina, Faculty of Education, to pilot a literacy program at the Schaller Education Centre. From the beginning of February to April, fourth year education students in their final semester of ERDG (Education Reading) class come into Schaller classrooms for two afternoons a week.

“The university students work one-on-one with our students helping them to improve their reading skills,” reports Hayley Maurer, Schaller principal. “The students are greatly assisted by the individualized attention and they always look forward to the visits from the education students.”

*The Downtowners Optimist Club visited the Pilot Butte campus on the evening of February 23<sup>rd</sup> for a presentation and tour of the campus. The visit was part of the agency’s community relations program initiated in the fall of 2008. For more information or to arrange a tour contact Carole Bryant at 781-1825 or [carole.bryant@ranchehrlo.ca](mailto:carole.bryant@ranchehrlo.ca)*

## ***Soup Cook-off***

What better way to warm up during a long, cold winter than with a bowl of hot soup. This comforting notion inspired Tara Yanyk, teacher at McLurg School, to organize the first annual Soup Cook-off.

“The students always look forward to getting together and interacting with Ranch students in other classrooms.”

Tara Yanyk

Wonderful aromas wafted through the Liski Gym on the afternoon of February 25<sup>th</sup> as Ranch Ehrlo students from the Regina elementary classrooms and Schaller Education Centre participated in the Soup Cook-off.

“The students always look forward to getting together and interacting with Ranch students in other classrooms,” explains

Yanyk. “They love doing activities with other students and the competitive aspect of the event helped to add to the excitement.”

Congratulations to the students from Rosemont School who were this year’s winners with their dill-pickle soup. A copy of the recipe is available upon request.

## ***Student Representative Councils***

After a period of hiatus, student representative councils are up-and-running at the Pilot Butte campus, in Regina, at Corman Park campus, and in Prince Albert/Buckland.

Representatives from each program meet in smaller groups to plan activities and provide a forum to discuss any student concerns. “They’re going very well with some good issues being raised,” reports Karrie Derbyshire, director of programs who assisted in the re-establishment of the groups. “They also provide us with another forum to share information about the agency with the young people as well as providing a feedback mechanism to respond to issues raised by the youth.”

## ***Peterson House Supports Family***

A Burmese family that fled Myanmar (formerly Burma) because of Karin ethnic persecution has found support in Regina thanks to a brain-child of Jae-Koo Kwak, a youth care worker at Peterson House. Kwak, through a contact at the Open Door Society, facilitated connecting the family with the staff and youth at Peterson House.

The family, consisting of a mother, father, four children, and extended family, were warmly welcomed into the unit. In addition to providing used clothing and other supports, the youth at Peterson are fully involved in planning weekly activities with the family. “I’m just so impressed with how our youth have assumed responsibility for the family members,” said Greg Ruud, unit manager. “They’re very warm and caring towards the family, especially the kids—when the family is visiting, the youth put everything else aside.”

The youth have had a number of work projects to raise funds to buy food gift certificates for the family and discussions are underway to provide the family with half of all funds raised through future work projects.

In addition to regular weekly activities, the family is invited to attend all special events, including the unit’s Christmas Party where beautiful Burmese gifts were distributed by the family to the youth.

## ***Science Fair***

On the afternoon of March 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 the school year. This year’s fair focused on the senses and sensory integration with many of the displays relating to taste, sight, and sound. This annual event is also an opportunity for these students to teach others and raise their overall interest in scientific learning.

# ***Ehrlo Community Services<sup>1</sup>***

## ***Commitment to Affordable Housing Benefits Ehrlo Project***

On March 30, 2009, the Government of Saskatchewan announced \$10 million of new funding for affordable housing projects. The funding will support groups including low-income families and those most vulnerable within the province.

Habitat for Humanity was awarded \$1 million of the funding, to be distributed to its provincial chapters and its partners, including Ehrlo Community Services Inc. In its goal to create

quality and affordable housing, the funding will support twenty lower-income Saskatchewan families to own their own homes.

As part of the funding program, a commitment of \$180,000 has been allocated to fund the Habitat Regina Youth Build Project. The program will provide Habitat \$60,000 a year for three years. The project will train young adults for careers in the construction trades.

"In partnership with the province, as well as the North Central Community Association, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology, and Ehrlo Community Services, we're hoping to recruit and train approximately 40 young adults over the next three years,"

Dennis Coutts,  
Habitat for Humanity  
(Regina) CEO

Ehrlo Community Services, in partnership with Youth Build, is developing a skills development program in pre-trades construction designed to prepare youth for entry level employment in construction.

"In partnership with the province, as well as the North Central Community Association, the

Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology, and Ehrlo Community Services, we're hoping to recruit and train approximately 40 young adults over the next three years," Habitat for Humanity CEO (Regina) Dennis Coutts said.

"The construction trades in Regina have a shortage of trained workers, and young adults, especially in Regina's inner city, need better access to good-paying jobs, so this project is definitely a win-win. We greatly appreciate the Province's commitment to this worthy initiative." Coutts added.

### ***2009 Avant-Garde High Fashion & Hair Show*** **Saturday, April 18, 2009** **Conexus Arts Centre** **Doors open at 6:30pm**

Tickets \$40.00 each, available at:  
Avant-Garde College--1033 8th Avenue  
Call Lori Pawson at (306) 522-5900

This event will feature fashions by local designers, a trade show, and *Fantasy Competition*. Students from Avant-Garde College will be demonstrating their skills in hair styling and make-up application.

Funds raised from this event will go toward two full bursaries for cosmetology and esthetic programs offered at Avant-Garde.

### ***OHL 2008-09 Coca-Cola Cup***

The 2008-09 OHL season came to an end with the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Coca-Cola Cup held in Pense on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Eight atom and six bantam teams competed over the weekend. Teams from Standing Buffalo First Nation took home the top prize in both the atom and bantam divisions.

The first annual Kellen Cavanagh Memorial Awards were presented to Collin Wesaquate (Imperial Rink), Joey Stalthanee (Core Ritchie

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

Rink), and Liam Avison-St-George (Cathedral Rink).

Kim Langston, manager of the Ehrlo Sports Venture Programs, wishes to acknowledge Conexus and True Sport Community Fund as the major OHL sponsors, and the National Hockey League Players Association as the equipment sponsor. Many thanks as well to the Optimist Clubs of Regina who have provided the sticks for the league every year, as well as other valuable support.

And finally, a very special thank you to the numerous volunteers who have made another successful year of OHL possible.

### ***3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ehrlo Golf Classic***

**Monday, June 1, 2009**

**Royal Regina Golf Club**

**1:00 pm Shotgun Start**

Player registration and sponsorship information is available at [www.ehrlo.com/golf](http://www.ehrlo.com/golf).

Golfer registration is \$175.00 per player and includes green fees, golf cart, prime rib dinner, and souvenir gift. Tickets for the dinner and banquet are available for \$40.00 per person.

The committee of the Golf Classic is pleased to announce Harvard Broadcasting and the *Leader Post* have both signed on as Platinum Sponsors for the 2009 edition of the tournament.

For more information call Kim Langston at 306-751-2411 or Shea Haverstock at 306-751-5684.

### ***Therapeutic Day Camp***

The Cognitive Disability consultants at Ehrlo Counselling Services are developing a plan to facilitate a therapeutic day camp program during the 2009 summer school-break.

The program will target children that struggle with the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol. The project is designed to provide

appropriate programming to help fill the gaps during the summer months when there is a shortage of programs available.

### ***Fantasy Food 2009***

The Fantasy Food 2009 Gala took place on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Saskatchewan Science Centre, with a part of the proceeds going to Ehrlo Sport Venture Programs.

Kim Langston, manager of Ehrlo Sport Venture Programs, works annually with the event's planning committee to organize the live and silent auctions held during the evening. The event has become known as one of Regina's premier culinary events, with tasting booths from over 30 local restaurants, microbreweries, wine merchants, and live entertainment.

### ***A New Addition to Ehrlo Counselling Services***

Ehrlo Counselling Services is pleased to announce that Natashia Schoenroth has joined its team of counsellors in March 2009. Schoenroth, a registered psychologist, is a welcome addition to the counselling team with experience that includes nine years at Ranch Ehrlo Society; her most recent position was that of caseworker at Rorison House on the Pilot Butte campus. Schoenroth has started counselling clients, helping to reduce wait-times for services for families and individuals.

### ***Ehrlo Basketball League***

#### ***Welcomes KidSport Sponsorship***

Ehrlo Sport Venture Programs is proud to welcome Regina KidSport on board as the league sponsor for the 2009 Ehrlo Basketball season. KidSport is a children's charity dedicated to assisting children of families facing financial obstacles to participate in community sport programs.

Ehrlo Basketball League will be kicking off its next season beginning May 4<sup>th</sup> with a skills camp taking place at Scott Collegiate. The season will stretch over six weeks, concluding with a wrap-up tournament at the University of Regina.