

President/CEO Report

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

issue 49, June 2009

Celebrating the past

All-agency meetings have played an important role at the Ranch Ehrlo Society since its inception 43 years ago. Twice a year all the employees of the agency have an opportunity to get together and discuss current aspects of the agency's programs and operations, discuss new initiatives, and help set the future direction of the organization.

Organizers at the spring 2009 meetings agreed that it would be important for employees to also hear and understand the history of the agency. "In talking with our employees we realized that a number of them were relatively new to the agency and did not know the incredible history of this agency," said Marion MacIver, executive vice-president who helped organize the meetings. "In addition to hearing about the past we thought these meetings would also be a great opportunity for the staff to discuss the Ranch's philosophy, values, and beliefs."

Linda Meyer, vice-president of programs opened the meetings by describing some of the early work of Dr. Fritz Redl whose writings, which spanned some 50 years, addressed issues at the centre of care and treatment of troubled youth and helped shape the Ranch Ehrlo Society. Meyer also reviewed the agency's philosophy which is based on the concept of "social nourishment."

Dr. Geoff Pawson provided employees with a rare insight into the early days of the Ranch Ehrlo Society, sharing his experiences that led to the creation of the agency, his early struggles in getting the

program off the ground and some of the early challenges faced by him and the first board of directors. He also shared a number of stories, including a visit by Dr. Fritz Redl to Regina, and described many former colleagues who had a lasting impact on him and the agency.

In addition to hearing from the founder about the stories, the early struggles and triumphs at the agency, staff broke into small group sessions to renew their understanding and interpretation of what Ranch Ehrlo exemplifies. "Each of us came to the Ranch Ehrlo Society with our own set of beliefs, values, and principles," Marion MacIver told the group. "Today is an opportunity to think about how we demonstrate Ranch Ehrlo philosophy and practice in our daily lives and interactions."

Employee feedback was very positive on the sessions. Some of the comments from the feedback surveys included:

- "Thank you Geoff for sharing your stories"
- "It's always interesting to hear about the history of Ranch Ehrlo"
- "Great decision to engage us on a discussion of values and culture"
- "Enjoyed the open and inviting environment"
- "Great direction we're going in"
- "It's nice to be able to get together and see other co-workers; we don't do that often enough."

Seven all-agency meetings were held between May 6th and May 29th in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert.

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

Working with traumatized youth

Carmel Kleisinger, director of the Clinical Assessment and Resource Services, along with psychologists Joanne Frederick and Holly Huyghebaert, attended a one-day seminar with Dr. Bruce Perry in Great Falls, Montana. Perry, a neuroscientist and psychiatrist, has integrated his study of the brain into his clinical practice with traumatized youth. His work demonstrates that because children's brains are very vulnerable to external stimuli when they are developing, the child who is exposed to chronic trauma and/or neglect often develops deficits in many domains such as relational ability, anxiety regulation, and behavioural impulsivity.

“Such a high percentage of the residents at Ranch Ehrlo have been exposed to early, interpersonal, and chronic trauma and neglect”

Carmel Kleisinger

“Such a high percentage of the residents at Ranch Ehrlo have been exposed to early, interpersonal, and chronic trauma and neglect and their behaviours can be puzzling, and quite difficult to treat,” said Kleisinger.

“Dr Perry provides an intriguing and exciting framework, based upon

neurological development, to explain the *function* behind these youngster's behaviours and he has some promising brain-based strategies for interventions.”

Kleisinger adds that for those interested, Perry has co-authored an excellent (but heart-wrenching) book entitled *The Boy who was raised as a Dog—and Other Stories from a Child Psychiatrist's Notebook* (2006).

For more information on the Ranch Ehrlo Clinical Assessment and Resource Services contact Carmel Kleisinger at 751-3873.

President-elect

Congratulations to Carole Bryant, vice-president of administration, who was elected president-elect of the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers (SASW) at the association's annual meeting held on April 23rd in Yorkton.

Positive feedback on daycare

Feedback from the 2009 Parent Survey on the services provided by the Ehrlo Daycare was very positive. Parents rated highly the nutritional meals and snacks, the calibre of staff, the programming, and the quality and variety of daycare equipment and games. Some respondents would like to see enhanced written and verbal communication and more notice for events and outings.

Ehrlo Daycare is the only childcare facility in Saskatchewan that is accredited by the Council of Accreditation, headquartered in New York. As a program of the Ranch Ehrlo Society, the daycare had an opportunity to complete a self-study and host on-site peer reviewers who assessed its policies and procedures against best practices. The Ranch Ehrlo Society has been accredited since 1971. The Ehrlo Daycare received its accreditation for the first time in 2008.

Karin Duff, director of the daycare and Jane Powell, director of special projects made a presentation on the accreditation process and the implications for the daycare at the Saskatchewan Early Childhood Association Conference in Saskatoon on May 23rd. Feedback from the 40 participants at the session was very positive.

For more information on Ehrlo Daycare contact Karin Duff, director, at 751-2722.

Spring Community Carnival

Youth and staff at Kruzeniski House hosted their first annual “Community Carnival” on April 18th. Over 100 youth from the North Central community visited the unit for an afternoon of food, face-painting, games, and prizes. “Our youth all took great pride in running their own game stations which ranged from ring toss, can knock-down, and football throw,” said Jenine Baron, youth care leader who helped organize the event. “Youth and staff all felt a great deal of pride in being able to provide this opportunity for the children in our community.”

Due to the enormous success of the event, an “End of the Summer Community Carnival” is being planned for August 20th.

Horsing around

The Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) program resumed at the Buckland campus in the first week of May reports Amanda Snell, a worker with the program. "Although the weather hasn't been that great, the youth at Corman Park and Buckland have been very excited to participate," said Snell. "We have 39 youth receiving EAL certificates throughout the third week in June and I'd like to congratulate each and every one of them." EAL is a therapeutic approach to human development through horsemanship.

"We have 39 youth receiving EAL certificates throughout the third week in June and I'd like to congratulate each and every one of them."

Amanda Snell

Five youth at the Buckland campus have also started a light horse 4H club this year. The young people in the club have created their own club logo and have named their club *Niyanan Mistatimawak* (five horses). The youth put in extra hours each week to practice for their musical ride at Awards Night in Prince Albert on June 10th. They also participated in an

Achievement Day held on June 20th to wrap up the first year in 4H. This special event allowed the youth to showcase what they have accomplished and learned over the past year. Family, friends and staff attended this fun-filled day which included a mini and a regular horse show as well as a BBQ for 4H youth and leaders.

For more information on EAL or the Ranch Ehrlo 4H program contact Amanda Snell at 306 765-2810.

Computers to Argentina

After additional delays, this time with tax services, the Ranch Ehrlo Society has been advised that the 10 computers the agency sent to Mendoza Province near the Argentina-Chile border have finally been installed at the project site. The computers left Regina on September 26, 2008 and incurred one hurdle after another on their destination. Don Bayerle, systems analyst, is assisting with the installation (from Regina) and will provide some technical support to the project.

Grand opening

The grand opening of the Schaller Learning Centre located at 288C Hodsman Road in Regina took place on Tuesday, June 23^d with a come-and-go tea. "The centre opened in early April to provide work skills for students over 15 years of age with severe developmental disabilities," said Corinna Hayden-Fidler, director of secondary and vocational programs. "The centre consolidates programs previously held in three locations and will focus on vocational training for students, most of whom have a multiple diagnosis." The program has seven students with an expected enrollment of 12 in the fall of 2009.

For more information on the Schaller Learning Centre contact Hayden-Fidler, at 781-1250.

Inclement weather delays race

Snow and high winds forced the rescheduling of the second annual three-mile race at Corman Park on Thursday, May 6th. Although there was no snow, there were still high winds on May 28th, the rescheduled date. Ninety participants braved the conditions to complete the race. Linda Meyer, vice-president of programs was on hand to participate and present the awards to the winners.

Staff at Corman Park took advantage of the event to celebrate the Ranch's 43rd anniversary which was on June 1st. A large birthday cake was enjoyed by all.

41th annual three-mile race

Like the race in Programs North, inclement weather on May 13th forced the postponement of the 41st annual three-mile race at Pilot Butte to May 20th. Although the weather on the alternate date was far from ideal, 188 runners, joggers, and walkers participated in the race. A great meal of barbecued beef and the presentation of the awards followed the race. Congratulations to Logan Mathieson who was the overall winner with a time of 19:08. Congratulation also goes out to the Kruzeniski house team that took home eight first place trophies!

Tellin My Story

The youth at Ranch Ehrlo Society, in collaboration with hip hop performers InfoRed and Merky Waters, held a very successful CD release party at *The Exchange* on Thursday, June 4th. The afternoon, which consisted of community hip hop performances and an open mic, was the culmination of a number of workshops and recording sessions which lead to the creation of the *Tellin My Story* CD.

“This was a great opportunity to encourage youth to bring some of their writing, put it to music, and showcase their talents,” said Amanda Scandrett, artist-in-residence.

The project was funded through an ArtsSmarts grant offered through a partnership with Saskatchewan Arts Board, the Ministry of Education, and SaskCulture.

Awards Night in Prince Albert

Approximately 180 guests attended the third annual Awards Night for Programs North held on June 10th at the Prince Albert Exhibition Centre. This year for the second time, students and staff from the Corman Park campus participated in the event.

In bringing greetings on behalf of the board, Lynne Samson, board member from Corman Park, welcomed the students, staff, and families.

The evening opened with a musical ride performed by the Buckland 4H club, followed by a delicious banquet, award presentations, and entertainment.

Recognizing Youth's Achievements

The 43rd Ranch Ehrlo Society (Programs South) Awards Night was held on Thursday, June 18th at the Conexus Arts Centre.

More than 750 attended the annual event that involves the presentation of awards to youth for a variety of accomplishments during the year. This

year there were a total of 330 nominations and 52 awards presented.

“everyone associated with the Ranch Ehrlo Society shares in the pride of your child’s accomplishments.”

Donna Welke

“I’d like to welcome all the family members in attendance and assure you that everyone associated with the Ranch Ehrlo Society shares in the pride of your child’s accomplishments,” said Donna Welke, board chair

in her welcoming remarks. A number of board members, senate members, and Ehrlo Community Services board members were on hand to assist in distributing the awards. The Pow Wow club entertained the crowd, as did the youth from all of the group homes in Regina and at the Pilot Butte campus.

SaskTel once again helped to sponsor the event with a contribution of \$3000.

Community Relations

Linda Meyer, vice-president of programs, Marion MacIver, executive vice-president, along with program directors Rick Norick and Karrie Derbyshire travelled to La Ronge to meet with members of the La Ronge Indian Child and Family Services (ICFS) agency. “We visited the area to get a first-hand view of where the young people from that community go back to after being discharged from our program,” said Marion MacIver. “It really brought home the many challenges faced by communities in ensuring adequate support for their young people.”

Dexter Kinequon and other officials from the La Ronge ICFS visited the Pilot Butte campus on May 1st and extended the invitation to visit at that time.

The Regina Rotary Club visited the Pilot Butte campus for on Monday, June 22nd for a luncheon, 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.

Ehrlo Community Services¹

Ehrlo housing project receives \$3.8 million investment

On June 1st the Government of Saskatchewan announced an investment of \$3.8 million into the development of a supportive housing project sponsored by Ehrlo Community Services in collaboration with the Phoenix Residential Society.

The project located at 2039 Osler Street will consist of a three-storey building with commercial space on the main level and 40 bachelor-style rental units on the two upper stories. The building will serve as affordable housing for people with serious mental illnesses and intellectual disabilities.

“We are helping persons with serious mental illness and people with intellectual disabilities build independent lives and brighter futures.”

Minister
Harpauer

“The strength of this project is based on the partnership between Phoenix Residential Society, which has 30 years of experience providing services and supports to individuals with chronic mental health issues, and Ehrlo Community Services, which has delivered supportive housing programs in Regina for over a decade,” said Malcolm Neill, vice-president of Ehrlo Community Services.

The announcement was made by Social Services Minister Donna Harpauer who was in attendance at the Ehrlo Golf Classic banquet on the evening of June 1st. “The project is an excellent opportunity for the government to join with community partners in delivering quality, affordable, rental housing to those most in need,” said Harpauer.

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

“More importantly, we are helping persons with serious mental illness and people with intellectual disabilities build independent lives and brighter futures.”

For more information on the Ehrlo housing project contact Malcolm Neill at 781-1812.

Pre-apprenticeship Construction Project receives federal funding

Andrew Scheer, Member of Parliament for Regina–Qu’Appelle, announced on June 19th that Ehrlo Community Services will be receiving \$217,159 in federal Skills Link funding in support of the Pre-apprenticeship Construction Project.

The Government of Canada’s Skills Link funding program helps young Canadians facing barriers to employment obtain career information, develop skills, gain work experience, find good jobs, and stay employed. The Ehrlo project will provide opportunities for 30 youth to receive assistance in preparing for jobs through valuable construction experience.

“Through this project, and others like it, we are helping young Canadians facing employment barriers gain the skills, knowledge and work experience they need to reach their full potential.”

Andrew
Scheer MP

“In today’s environment, it is more important than ever that youth develop the skills needed to participate and succeed in the job market,” said Scheer. “Through this project, and others like it, we are helping young Canadians facing employment barriers gain the skills, knowledge and work experience they need to reach their full potential.”

“Through a combination of career development,

employability and skills development activities, youth participating in this project can expect to

secure employment in the construction sector, to be indentured as a carpenter, and to be accepted for level I apprenticeship training,” said Monica Rivers, Project Coordinator. “A partnership with Habitat for Humanity will ensure plenty of suitable training opportunities for youth to develop their skills as they work on building homes for Habitat for Humanity that will, in turn, provide housing for families in the community.”

The Pre-apprenticeship Construction Project will coordinate a 52-week client-centred Skills Link program designed to respond to the individual specific needs of the youth involved. Between June 15, 2009, and June 18, 2010, Ehrlo will provide client assessment and case management services, as well as employability skills, through a work experience intervention.

For more information about the Ehrlo Pre-apprenticeship Project contact Monica Rivers, Vocational Coordinator at 751-2465.

Ehrlo Day Camp Program

The end of June marks the beginning of four weeks of Ehrlo day camp programming, in partnership with the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region - Child & Youth Services.

Sport Venture's Krista Rainville will be supervising the camp activities, and will also be overseeing the delivery of a day camp run through funding from the Cognitive Disabilities Strategy, under the direction of Ryan Labatt and Denise Swallow (Ehrlo Counselling). This will be the first collaborative effort for the two groups.

3rd Annual Ehrlo Golf Classic

In terms of the weather, June 1st may not have been the best day for golf, but for those who braved the conditions to participate in the 2009 Ehrlo Golf Classic, the day proved to be another successful fundraiser for Sport Venture Programs.

The Golf Classic hosted a near-full roster of golfers which included a number of familiar faces who

have supported the event since its inception. This year the tournament also saw an influx of team entries from local businesses.

Special guest speakers at the dinner banquet included Social Services Minister Donna Harpauer and Mayor Pat Fiocco.

Thanks to the 2009 Platinum Sponsors:

- Harvard Broadcasting
- Leader Post
- AON Consulting Inc.

Other major sponsors include: The Co-operators, WestJet, Dewdney/Park St. Drugs, Gene's Ltd., Quorex Construction, Casino Regina, and John Hrycak.

Congratulations to the winning team entered by Quorex Construction of Jeff Markcott, Ken Beres, Gary Leontowicz, and Ken Nichols.

Ehrlo Basketball Wrap-Up

On Sunday, June 14th Ehrlo Basketball League wrapped-up another successful season. Sixty-one junior and senior players from Glencairn, Eastview and North Central gathered at the University of Regina for the year-end tournament which was won by Glencairn in both divisions!

Many thanks to the volunteer coaches, as well as Regina KidSport and the Saskatchewan Science Centre for their support this season.

Avant-Garde and Hawrylak School team up for fundraiser

W.S. Hawrylak elementary school invited a team from Avant-Garde College to take part in a fundraising event for cancer research that took place on Monday, June 22nd.

Four students at Hawrylak School have been raising money with the promise of having their heads shaved when their fundraising goals have been met. The group from Avant-Garde was invited to perform the haircuts.