

# President/CEO Report

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

## ***Performance Outcome Report Positive***

issue 50, September 2009

In general, 75% to 85% of the youth discharged from the Ranch Ehrlo Society in 2008 demonstrated improvements while in a Ranch program.

In educational programming an individual plan is developed for each student that identifies areas for improvement including academic and behavioural items. Approximately 81% of the students improved in attaining their goals, which is above the average of 58.6% for the previous three years. The improvement is due in part to the setting of more specific and measurable goals.

The fourth annual *Ranch Ehrlo Society Performance Outcome Report* summarizes the outcomes for discharged residents and students in service planning and goal achievement, in the severity of their issues, and in changes to their functioning and school performance.

Notable highlights from the six-month follow-up information include:

- 62% of former residents were living with family or extended family, a 6% increase over the past year;
- 73% of former residents were neither charged nor convicted of any criminal offence, a 13% increase from the previous year.
- 64% of former residents were not abusing substances, an 11% increase from 2007;
- 69% of the residents under the age of 16 were still enrolled in school

“The structure of the outcomes evaluation system is such that each Ranch program is treated as a distinct entity,” said David Rivers, program director, who is responsible for the creation of the report. “This allows for more detail and greater precision in evaluating the effectiveness of our interventions.”

In 2008, 74% of the residents who discharged from programs showed improvements in the primary issues that brought them to the Ranch, including behavioural problems, family functioning, and substance abuse.

In commenting on the follow-up results, Rivers noted that the increased efforts by the agency in recent years to involve families in treatment plans and to develop aftercare and transitional plans in the community are starting to show results.

In terms of goal achievement, approximately 89% of the youth showed improved goal ratings, which is above the three-year average of 81%. The most commonly set goals for Ranch youth focused on the development of relationships, interpersonal skills, problem-solving, and coping skills.

A copy of the complete report is located on the Ranch Ehrlo website at [www.ehlo.com](http://www.ehlo.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

## ***New Staff Welcomed to Agency***

As the programs and services of the Ranch Ehrlo Society continue to expand and diversify, a number of new faces have joined the agency to assist staff in developing and delivering high-quality programming.

Carmel Kleisinger, director of clinical assessment and resource services, welcomed ***Lisa Brownstone***, a full-time occupational therapist to her team located at 1812 Victoria Avenue. In addition to her work with the assessment team, Brownstone will be working with residents at the agency with developmental disabilities.

“Lisa comes to us with a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy, and a Master of Science degree in Community Health and Epidemiology, years of clinical experience, and a wealth of knowledge in working with a variety of clinical disorders including fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) and sensory integration processing difficulties,” said Kleisinger.

Also joining the agency as its new cultural co-ordinator is ***Nick Crighton***, whose office is located at Schaller Education Centre. Crighton, who grew up on the Waterhen Lake First Nation, completed his Bachelor’s Degree in Kinesiology with a major in adapted physical activity. He has held positions as a youth intervention program leader and sports co-ordinator in Meadow Lake, as a student ambassador with the U of R Aboriginal Student Centre, and has coached various sports including midget boys’ soccer at the 2007 Saskatchewan First Nation Summer Games.

***Justin Waldrop*** joins the administration staff at the agency as a communication assistant. This one-year term position will allow Waldrop to assist in the development and implementation of communication and marketing initiatives at the agency as well as work with units to report internal agency news and events. Waldrop holds a business degree with a marketing major and is currently working towards an honours B.A. in psychology. His previous work experience includes positions in promotions and product development with Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation and SGI.

## ***Community Helping Hands***

In June of 2009, Kruzeniski (Kruzer) House embarked on a year-long fundraising project entitled *Project: Community Helping Hands*. Over the next year, Kruzer youth and staff will host and/or participate in a variety of community-based events in order to raise money. Funds raised will either go directly to a charity or back into their community via community-based programs and organizations.

“The Kruzer youth will be responsible for organizing and executing these fundraising events,” said Lisa Neill, unit manager. “The goal is for the youth to develop leadership skills and self-esteem while giving back to their community which has given so generously to them.”

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Lisa Neill

As part of the project the youth and staff hosted a community carnival on August 20<sup>th</sup> with over 100 neighbours in attendance to play games, blow bubbles and enjoy hot dogs and popcorn.

The following week the group hosted the ‘Loonie Toonie Dayz’ yard sale. The event was organized by

Kruzer youth Helen and Emilio and was a huge success, raising over \$300 for the project. Those who came by to check out the yard sale were treated to free face painting and candy kabobs.

Kruzer youth and staff organized and ran a craft program at the North Central Community Carnival on September 12<sup>th</sup> and will be participating in the North Central Community Clean-up Day on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

For more information on *Project: Community Helping Hands* contact Lisa Neill, unit manager, at 751-2738.

## ***Summer Activities***

Linda Meyer, vice-president programs, reports on a very busy and rewarding summer for Ranch Ehrlo youth.

A number of youth had camping experiences outside the province, which included trips to Drumheller, Kananaskis, Jasper, and Waterton National Park in Alberta and the Enchanted Forest and Barkersville in British Columbia. Within the province, youth traveled to Maple Creek, Cypress Hills, La Ronge, Duck Mountain Provincial Park, Jan Lake, Meadow Lake, Kenosee, Greenwater Lake, Pelican Narrows, and Waskesiu.

Due to the bear situation, conservation officers closed down the fly-in camps at Norbert and Dryer Lake in early July. "Several programs had to change their plans on very short notice and performed an admirable job in doing so," said Meyer. "The ability of the managers, youth and staff to assess and create alternative camps and then implement each says a lot about the calibre of people we work with."

## ***Celebrating Success***

The light horse 4H club at the Buckland campus celebrated a successful first year of programming. Five youth and four volunteers participated in the club, which number one goal is to incorporate the culture of the First Nation youth into every aspect of the club and its activities.

In addition to regular weekly rides, the group performed a musical ride at the agency's annual Awards Night, and participated in an Achievement Day. Randy O'Shaughnessy, senior director of programs served as guest judge for events that included keyhole races, barrel races, and demonstrations of a walk- trot class. Prizes for the winners were all donated by local Prince Albert businesses and community supporters.

To end the year club members enjoyed a dinner and movie night. The members are looking forward to their second year with the continued development of the program which will include the involvement of a local elder and the use of the new indoor riding arena on the Buckland campus.

## ***Food Bank Volunteers***

Andrea MacKay, caseworker at Woodward house, reports that the youth and staff at Rever house and Woodward have teamed up to do a variety of volunteer work at the Regina and District Food Bank.

"The food bank is in desperate need of volunteers and this is a way for our youth to give back to the community," said MacKay. "And they've done a ton of work!"

"it sparked a great deal of excitement and the folks at the food bank are very appreciative of all their help."

Andrea MacKay

The youth started their volunteer experience by touring the food bank and seeing how the food is sorted and distributed. They have maintained the lawn and grounds in front of the building throughout the summer.

They volunteered at a recent car show-and- shine by emptying full hampers and cleaning up the grounds after the event.

The next big undertaking will be the annual food drive in October where the youth and staff will be picking up bags of food and helping to sort the items.

"It's been a really great experience for the youth; it sparked a great deal of excitement and the folks at the food bank are very appreciative of all their help," said MacKay.

## ***Sharing Information***

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, two individuals from Knowles Centre, a Manitoba-based centre that works with young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties, visited the Ranch Ehrlo Society. Lauren Hershfield and Dave Purpur toured the clinical assessment unit, group homes at the Pilot Butte campus, and Schaller School. In addition to an exchange of information and ideas, the two agencies are exploring a partnership to further employee training. A return visit is being planned to Winnipeg this fall.

## ***Visiting the Far North***

Linda Meyer, vice-president of programs and Danny Wilson, senior director of finance journeyed to the far north to visit with government officials in Iqualuit, Nunavut on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Given the limited services and programming available in Nunavut, the government has been referring young people to the Ranch Ehrlo Society for a number of years.

“It was very helpful to get a better understanding of how government services are provided in the north.”

Linda Meyer

Wilson and Meyer met with territorial directors and assistant deputy ministers from Health and Social Services and Child and Family Services. “We thought it was important that we meet face-to-face with officials to determine if we are meeting their needs and to try and streamline the administrative processes,” said Meyer. “It was very

helpful to get a better understanding of how government services are provided in the north.”

In addition to better understanding the system in the north, the visit also provided insight into where the young people from the area return to after they leave Ranch Ehrlo. “This is critical information in developing their aftercare and transitional plans,” added Meyer.

## ***Visit by the Deputy Minister***

Dr. Geoff Pawson, president and CEO welcomed Marion Zerr, deputy minister of the Ministry of Social Services to the Pilot Butte campus for a presentation and tour on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Zerr, who was appointed to her position in June 2009, was accompanied by Andrea Brittin, executive director of Child and Family Services Division and Cheryl Senecal, assistant deputy minister (ADM). Pawson, along with the four vice-presidents provided an overview of the Ranch’s programs and some of the new initiatives being developed. The deputy shared some of the organizational changes being contemplated in the ministry, including expanding the ADM’s scope of responsibility.

## ***Transition Program Opens***

The newest addition to the Ranch Ehrlo Society education program opened its doors on August 27<sup>th</sup>. The official and permanent name of the program will be determined via a naming competition with its current students; in the interim the program is referred to as the “transition centre”. Located at 240 Argyle Street in Regina, the centre provides an additional option for students who are transitioning from Schaller to an in-town school placement.

“We have students who do not require the structure of Schaller School but who are not quite ready for an in-town school placement,” said Corinna Hayden-Fidler, director of vocational and

“The centre gives these students the opportunity to adjust and prepare for an in-town school placement.”

Corinna  
Hayden-Fidler

secondary programs. “The centre gives these students the opportunity to adjust and prepare for an in-town school placement.” The centre will also be utilized for currently in-town school students that may need to return to a more structured environment for stabilization but do not need to return to Schaller School.

The centre contains one high school classroom and one elementary classroom as well as a classroom for all the former Ranch students at Scott Collegiate. In addition to a shop and a multi-purpose room, the centre also boasts a fully equipped kitchen facility where the students can learn a variety of cooking skills.

For more information on the Transition Centre contact Corinna Hayden-Fidler at 751-5696.

## ***Annual General Meeting***

The 43<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the Ranch Ehrlo Society was held at a luncheon meeting on Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at the West Harvest Inn.

A copy of the 2008-2009 annual report can be viewed at [www.ehrlo.com](http://www.ehrlo.com).

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

## *Washington Park Place in U of R Community Research Project*

The University of Regina's Community Research Unit is conducting a research project in partnership with Washington Park Place (WPP) tenants beginning in September.

PhD candidate and lecturer at the U of R Women's and Gender Studies, Amber Fletcher, will be working with Shelley Sayer at WPP to interview

tenants to identify the needs and issues of single mothers.

“(The research) will examine the everyday barriers faced by the women in regard to improving their lives and the lives of their children”.

Shelley Sayer

“The purpose is to investigate the socio-economic needs of 12 single mothers living in Washington Park Place, a low-income housing complex located in Regina's North Central neighbourhood and operated by Ehrlo Community Services” said Sayer. “The research, which will be guided by a

Participatory Action Research (PAR) methodology, will examine the everyday barriers faced by the women in regard to improving their lives and the lives of their children.”

The goal is to identify and establish practical and concrete means through which the women can overcome these barriers, and be better able to participate in community-level education and support groups.

## *Sport Venture Summer Camps*

Sport Venture hosted a series of four, week-long day camps throughout July. Approximately 40 children with chronic mental health disorders

attended the camps, which were extremely well-received by the children in attendance, their parents and the funders at the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region – Child & Youth Services.

Sport Venture also partnered with the Cognitive Disability Strategy (affiliated with Ehrlo Counselling Services) to provide four, one-week day camps for children and youth with FASD. This was the first time this camp was run, and was also well received. A special thanks to Krista Rainville for her hard work in organizing these day camps.

## *ECS 'Pauses' for International FASD Awareness Day*

Over the noon hour on September 9<sup>th</sup>, staff from Ehrlo Counselling Services participated in the 'Pregnant Pause' as part of International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day.

The event, organized by the Regina FASD Community Network, took place at the F.W. Hill Mall; approximately a dozen people participated, wearing t-shirts with the slogan “I have the Power to Prevent FASD” and balloons under the t-shirts. Participants walked through the mall and periodically froze in position for one minute, signifying the pause from alcohol during pregnancy.

## *Pre-Trades Construction Training Crew*

Ten young adults embarked on a journey to become carpenters on June 15<sup>th</sup> as they became members of the Ehrlo Pre-Trades Construction Training crew. Crew members have been in full swing since then and well on their way to finishing the first steps of their journey. Partnerships with Habitat for Humanity, Ehrlo Day Care, Silver Sage Housing, Witness to All Nations, and Cloud 9 are providing valuable training opportunities for the crew through community projects that are helping others along the way.

In addition to on-site carpentry work, the crew has received training and certification in first aid, CPR, WHMIS, and construction safety training. In

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

September crew members received training in skid steer and fork lift operation as well as fall protection.

Ehrlo is contracted by the provincial and federal governments to deliver training to 30 youth by June 2010.

### ***ECS Welcomes Walter Leckett and Carla Kembel***

Upon moving to Regina in 1979, Walter Leckett began his work with a team of psychologists assessing and treating troubled youth. He then became involved in a preventative Infant Mental Health Early Intervention program for parents and their children, and over the past 16 years he has worked in employee and family assistance program counselling services. Leckett will be providing counselling services at ECS for the individual adult population and couples.

Carla Kembel is a clinical social worker with over 13 years of experience. She has worked with children, youth, adults and families in the areas of grief and loss, trauma and abuse, and mental health issues, within/alongside child welfare, criminal justice, and non-profit systems. Kembel has experience in individual, family and group counselling, and clinical supervision. Her work reflects a passion for social justice and advocacy, holistic counselling and healing practices, and building and sustaining strong community partnerships.

### ***Suicide Intervention Training***

Dave Wiebe, special service co-ordinator, and two other Saskatchewan ASIST trainers were in Iqaluit, Nunavut, where they joined with local trainers to provide the ASIST suicide intervention workshop for 150 teachers from across the eastern arctic. The sessions took place on September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Avant-Garde Set To Compete In Allied Beauty Association Show***

Avant-Garde College will have three students competing in the "New Talent" category at the ABA (Allied Beauty Association) Showcase on

September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at Evraz Place in Regina. Last year Avant-Garde placed third in the competition and was the only college to place.

### ***Dr. Tim Feeney Conference***

November 16-18, 2009

Conexus Arts Centre

Registration Fee: \$75.00+GST

Tim Feeney is executive director of School and Community Support Services Inc. in Latham, NY, and specializes in developing supports for individuals with complex needs. He is co-author, with Mark Ylvisaker, of *Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation - Children and Adolescents and Collaborative Brain Injury Intervention: Positive Everyday Routines*.

The conference is co-hosted by Ehrlo Community Services and Regina Child & Youth Services. It is funded by the Sask. Ministry of Health. For more information or to register call 751-2730.

### ***Third Annual Ehrlo Golf Classic Raises over \$22,000***

The final numbers are in following the third annual Ehrlo Golf Classic and over \$22,000 were raised in support of Ehrlo Sport Venture Programs. Thank you to the 136 golfers who took part in the tournament and to all of the sponsors who made the event such a success!

### ***Ehrlo Monday Night Football***

Ehrlo Monday Night Football kicked off the 2009 season on August 31<sup>st</sup> at Mosaic Stadium. Members of the Regina Thunder and the Saskatchewan Roughriders, along with the MNF volunteer coaches, instructed skills stations for the approximately 100 children and youth in attendance. Regular league play started September 7<sup>th</sup> and continues through to the wrap-up tournament on October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Credit Union EventPlex.

Thank you to league sponsor Crown Investments Corporation (CIC) and to wrap-up tournament sponsor Evraz Place.