

# President/CEO Report

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

## ***New Intensive Family Preservation Services***

A Service Agreement between the Ranch Ehrlo Society and the Ministry of Social Services will help parents to keep their children at home. The agreement, which was signed on December 1<sup>st</sup>, enables the Ranch's Intensive Family Preservation Services program to work with up to four families in the Regina area.

"We help parents keep their children at home when they would otherwise be placed in outside, protective care," said Patti Petrucka, clinical manager of the program. "We do this by enabling families to function so that the needs of the children may be met at home."

Service is provided by family preservation therapists who provide intensive home-based services. Each therapist works with two families, providing intense but short-term treatment for six to eight weeks. Therapists are available to families 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Follow-up is dependent on the needs of each family.

Family preservation therapists provide counselling in child development, effective parenting, mood management skills, communication, assertiveness, and other problem-solving methods. Therapists also teach families basic life skills, such as using the transportation system, budgeting, making child care arrangements, and utilizing other services agencies.

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Treatment in the program is based on psycho-educational and cognitive behavioural approaches and the therapists have been trained in the HOMEBUILDERS program, one of the best documented intensive family preservation programs in North America.

All referrals to the program are made by the Ministry of Social Services child protection workers, who determine that a child is in need of protection according to the *Child and Family Services Act*, that alternative out-of-home placement is imminent, and that other services in the community would not prevent placement or provide supports suited to the family's needs.

"The primary objective of this voluntary program is to help families acquire the skills necessary to eliminate referral problems and, thereby prevent alternative placement," said David Rivers, senior director of programs, who has oversight for the program. "We work with families experiencing various problems including child neglect, physical or sexual abuse, mental illness, family violence, children out of parental control, and parent-teen conflict."

The referring child protection worker is advised of the family's progress weekly and a detailed report of progress is provided at the end of the involvement with recommendations for further service to sustain positive change.

For more information on the program contact Patti Petrucka at 757-0581.

*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

## ***Strengths and needs***

Over the past 18 months, Vance Heaney, director of clinical programs for programs north, has been spearheading an initiative to better assess the mental health needs of children in the province. In partnership with Dr. Declan Quinn, head, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Saskatchewan, and the Ministry of Social Services, among other agencies, Heaney arranged to have Dr. John Lyons, endowed chair, Child and Youth Mental Health Research at the University of Ottawa come to Saskatoon on two occasions to share with participants information on the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool.

“Our group is particularly focused on identifying the mental health needs of children in the province through strong assessment and providing the appropriate services based on this assessment,” said Heaney.

*“Our group is particularly focused on identifying the mental health needs of children in the province”*

*Vance Heaney*

CANS is a multi-purpose tool developed for children’s services to support decision-making, including the level of care and service planning. It facilitates the linkage between the assessment process and the design of individual service plans. It also facilitates quality improvement initiatives and allows for the monitoring of outcome of services.

For more information on this initiative contact Vance Heaney at 765-2814 or at [vance.heaney@ranchehrlo.ca](mailto:vance.heaney@ranchehrlo.ca).

## ***Daughters of Africa***

Staff at the Ranch Ehrlo Family Treatment Program will be supporting the Daughters of Africa (DOA) to assist in successfully integrating African immigrant women and families into Canadian society.

Staff will share parenting information, conduct workshops on parenting youth at-risk, and assist DOA in the development of a parenting curriculum.

## ***Success stories in action***

Recreation is one of the cornerstones of the Ranch Ehrlo Society’s holistic treatment model. The importance of recreation in the lives of young people is reinforced on a daily basis.

*“It has taught me patience, the importance of dedication and how much fun it is being a member of a good team.”*

*Tanya Mitchell House*

This past season, three youth from MacKay House played for the Johnson Wildcats Football team. Randy, the only ninth grader who had a starting position on the team, honed his skills at safety, halfback, and line back while Barry played numerous positions including halfback, running back and defensive

halfback. Tony took on spot duty along the defensive line.

When asked how playing on the team helped his program development one youth replied, “It helps me get out of the house, it helps me to get to know other people and it helps me stay physically fit.” Wally Botkin, unit manager, added that “all three are benefiting from the camaraderie that is formed by working hard as a group towards a common goal.”

Tanya, a 15 year old from Mitchell House who has been at the Ranch for 18 months, had no formal hockey training beyond her participation in Ehrlo’s Outdoor Hockey League. This did not deter her from trying out this year for the Johnson Wildcats Hockey Team. Tanya, one of only two females on the team, was delighted to make the cut on her first try.

“It has taught me patience, the importance of dedication and how much fun it is being a member of a good team,” said Tanya when asked about her experience. “Tanya is fearless as back-up goalie and has already proven herself to be quite an asset to the team,” adds Colin Folk, unit manager. “In the last year she has learned how to persevere. She has this confidence that is determined yet humble.”

## ***Art from the Heart***

On Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> the sixth annual *Art from the Heart* calendar was unveiled at Schaller School. The calendar showcases the work of 13 Ranch Ehrlo youth who have their original works of art included in the calendar. Students, staff, and special guests were on hand to congratulate the young artists and have their calendars personally autographed by the student artists in attendance.

*“We realized that there were a number of talented and artistic young people at the Ranch.”*

*Hayley Maurer*

Special guests included Darren McKee, assistant deputy minister of Education, who graciously had his picture taken with all the artists. Other guests included Donna Welke, past chair, and Barb Ryan, a current member of the Ranch board of directors.

“We realized that there were a lot of talented artistic young

people at the Ranch,” said Hayley Maurer, principal in her opening remarks. “We came up with a way to showcase this talent through this annual contest and it has been an outstanding success.”

## ***Cultural programming***

Nick Crighton, cultural coordinator, has had a busy fall creating a cultural room at Schaller School that will serve as both his office and a cultural space for students. Crighton is passionate about incorporating aboriginal content into curricula and into the classrooms. He has been working with a number of classrooms on First Nation’s culture, including the pipe ceremony protocol and sweat lodge ceremonies. He is working with youth at the Learning Centre and Jillings to develop adaptive cultural events for clients with developmental disabilities.

In December Crighton introduced an “Act of Kindness” contest for students and staff to nominate individuals who they have witnessed demonstrating kindness to others. Congratulations to Bruce Thompson’s class at Schaller School who was the winner by a narrow two-vote margin.

For more information on cultural programs at the Ranch Ehrlo Society contact Nick Crighton at [nick.crighton@ranchehrlo.ca](mailto:nick.crighton@ranchehrlo.ca).

## ***New spaces at Ehrlo Early Learning Centre (EELC)***

The Ehrlo Early Learning Centre (formerly called Ehrlo Daycare) has received confirmation of funding for an additional 125 child care spaces. Plans are well underway for four new sites at Gladys MacDonald, Ruth Pawson, Imperial, and Wilfred Walker schools in Regina. It is expected that the centres will all be in operation by the fall of 2010.

For more information on the Ehrlo Early Learning Centre contact Karin Duff, director, at 757-0581.

## ***Community Christmas***

On Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> the youth and staff at Kruzeniski House hosted a Christmas party for the children in the community. Fifteen children, ranging in age from nine months to 12 years of age, along with their parents and grandparents, enjoyed an afternoon of games, treats, singing, and a special visit from Santa.

Each youth from Kruzeniski House was paired with one or two children from the community. The youth used money from their work fund to purchase gifts and create Christmas stockings for each child. One memorable moment was a grandmother sharing her happiness at her granddaughter’s excitement with her new toys, saying that this would be her only Christmas.

“The youth continue to develop their many unique qualities and skills through organizing and hosting these types of events,” said Lisa Neill, unit manager. “It is truly amazing to see their level of enthusiasm and commitment to helping our community become a stronger and happier place to live in.”

Community Christmas is part of Kruzeniski House’s “Community Helping Hands” project.

## ***Corman Park Christmas celebration***

The Ellen Gunn Education Centre was the scene of a great Christmas celebration on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Approximately 50 people were in attendance including youth, teachers, program staff, family members, and a representative from the board of directors. The festive day consisted of Christmas skits, songs, a great meal, and a visit from Santa Claus.

## ***True Colours***

An art exhibition featuring the work of youth at Ranch Ehrlo will be displayed in Regina's Eight Track Gallery, located at 2431 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. An opening reception was held on January 31<sup>st</sup> for the general public followed by classroom and unit receptions on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

"In this exhibition, youth painted wooden human figures according to how they view their internal self," explained Amanda Scandrett, therapeutic arts facilitator (formerly the artist-in-residence). "They used colours to depict different emotions, experiences, and hopes for the future."

The show runs from January 31<sup>st</sup> to March 26<sup>th</sup>. More information on the exhibition is available on the gallery's website  
<http://theeighttrack.blogspot.com/>

## ***True Colours artists' statement***

*"We could show you who we are by painting what you see when you look at us—the way each of us styles our hair, how each of us dresses, or our individual skin colour. Instead we choose to show you who we are on the inside—not our bones, tissue or veins, but by showing you who each of us really is at the core.*

*We are the youth of right now. We are products of the past and creators of the future. We come from all over Canada to share each of our experiences with you. We have each painted a figure to tell you about ourselves through colour. Each colour represents something different to each of us, whether it be an emotion, a past experience, or our*

*hopes for the future. We hope you enjoy our work, and anticipate that the next time you look at someone, you see through to their true colours."*

*Ranch Ehrlo Youth*

## ***Haitian relief fundraiser***

The youth and staff at Hilsden House are coming together to help in the massive endeavour to provide relief to Haiti. The youth have decided to donate some of their hard-earned work fund money as well as collect donations through a Jelly Bean Jar Count fundraiser. All monies collected will be donated to the Canadian Red Cross.

The youth at Buckland campus have also been busy raising funds for Haitian relief. To date over \$300 has been collected through a variety of activities including bottle returns and canvassing for donations.

## ***CIBC World Markets Fund***

Ranch Ehrlo Society received confirmation in January of an additional \$10,000 available for distribution to at-risk youth and families in the Regina area in 2010. To date approximately \$50,000 has been distributed in the Regina area through a partnership with the Children's Aid Foundation in Toronto. A maximum \$250 grant is available for a variety of purposes including community events and lessons.

For more information on the fund contact Karin Duff at 757-0581.

## ***Off to the "big apple"***

*Rick Norick, program director, is being given an opportunity of a life-time. Norick will be living in New York City, volunteering his time with the Committee of Hispanic Children & Families. This committee is hosting the 2010 World Forum on behalf of the International Forum for Child Welfare (IFCW). IFCW is a world body dedicated to the rights and wellbeing of children. Norick will be leaving for New York in February. The 2010 World Forum will be held in New York on November 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>.*

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

## ***Ehrlo Counselling employees to present at national conference***

Denise Swallow and Jaclyn East, cognitive disability consultants with Ehrlo Counselling Services, will be presenting at the Fourth National Biennial Conference on Adolescents and Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: *Facing the Future Together Where Do We Go From Here?*

*“Continued awareness and education for professionals as well as community members in both prevention and intervention areas, need to be at the forefront of our advocacy efforts.”*

*Bree Fiissel*

The conference, being held in Vancouver from April 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, will bring together a diverse group of professionals and families to share research, experience and practice in order to sustain and enhance the lives of adolescents and adults with FASD, their families, service providers, and communities.

The topic of Swallow and East’s joint presentation will be: “Building a Balance between individuals with FASD who have Cognitive Disabilities and their Communities through Collaboration.”

“Denise and Jaclyn have obtained a wealth of knowledge and experience in working with individuals and families impacted by FASD,” said Bree Fiissel, director of Ehrlo Counselling Services. “Continued awareness and education for professionals as well as community members in both prevention and intervention areas, need to be at the forefront of our advocacy efforts. This

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

conference will be a good opportunity to continue our work in this area.”

For more information, please contact Swallow or East at 751-2467 or visit the website at [www.interprofessional.ubc.ca](http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca).

## ***Staffing announcement***

Shelley Sayer has recently been appointed to the newly created role of assistant director of housing for Ehrlo Community Services.

Sayer has worked at the Ranch Ehrlo Society and Ehrlo Community Services for over 25 years, the last eight as the manager of the Young Parents Program at Washington Park Place. Sayer has also recently completed a secondment as the executive director of Red Ribbon Place, where she led a process of rehabilitation in the 12 unit mixed-use project.

## ***New partnership brings the OHL indoors***

On December 17, 2009 the Ehrlo Outdoor Hockey League (OHL) kicked off its 17<sup>th</sup> season with a media conference announcing a new partnership with The Co-operators. This partnership will provide OHL players with the experience of playing on the brand new indoor rinks at The Co-operators Centre with free ice time for the months of January and February 2010.

The first official skate on the new indoor ice rinks was enjoyed by enthusiastic group of OHL players, coaches, and volunteers following the media conference.

Glen Bohay, of The Co-operators, was in attendance to speak about the partnership with the OHL and introduce the new facility located at Evraz Place which features six regulation size ice surfaces. Bohay also presented Laura Logan, Sport Venture manager, with 100 tickets for the World Junior Hockey Championship games in Regina to distribute to OHL players.

## ***Annual chocolate fundraiser to benefit Ehrlo Community***

### ***Services***

David Loblaw, owner of Chocolates by Bernard Callebaut, named Ehrlo Community Services as the 2009 beneficiary of its annual in-store fundraiser draw which sent one lucky customer home with a 30-pound chocolate Santa.

Every year, Bernard Callebaut creates a giant chocolate Santa for all of its store owners who, in turn, raise money for a local charity by holding a draw. For the second time since 2007, the Regina store raised money for Ehrlo Community Services to provide counselling through Ehrlo Counselling Services.

*“We chose Ehrlo again this year as we received many positive comments for our support of this organization during the 2007 contest.”*

*David Loblaw*

“We chose Ehrlo again this year as we received many positive comments for our support of this organization during the 2007 contest,” explains Loblaw.

The draw was free to enter with all voluntary donations going to Ehrlo. David Loblaw plans to make a cheque

presentation to Ehrlo Counselling Services in the near future.

## ***ECS announces housing division changes***

The housing division of Ehrlo Community Services will be amalgamating offices into the commercial space at Washington Park Place, 2910 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, effective February 1, 2010. This amalgamation will allow for another unit at Lakeshore Village being available for affordable housing.

Ehrlo has also hired site supervisor, Robert Leslie, to co-ordinate operations at Red Ribbon Place, under the supervision of Shelley Sayer.

## ***OHL season on the go***

Seven OHL rinks are operative once again for the 2009/2010 season and registrations are still rolling in. The players are excited and are eagerly anticipating the opportunity to play on the new Co-operators Centre indoor rinks at the end of January and throughout February.

The OHL would like to acknowledge and thank the following dedicated volunteers and coaching staff:

- Dennis Todd, Hector Richard and Jim Bright (Eastview)
- Sean St. George, Liam Avison St. George and Susan Lytle (Cathedral)
- Lorne Mitchell, Caleb Taylor and Devin Varga (Imperial)
- Derek Wollbaum, Dan Ripplinger and Rick Kullman (Core Ritchie)
- Trent Wotherspoon, Jared Kleisinger, Curtis Dorosch, Kris Parker, Ryan Howard, Joe Jordan and Clint Kleisinger (Rosemont)
- Curt Fayant, Troy Spanier and Mike Aisaican (Glen Elm)
- Rob Nixon, AJ Renneberg and Dennis Hackewich (Grassick)

## ***Shooting Stars Foundation receives donation for Puckmasters***

Ticia Heward of the Shooting Stars Foundation has facilitated approximately 32 hours of specialized hockey training for the OHL youth for the 2009/2010 season. This training is being provided by Regina’s Puckmasters Hockey Training Centre at 645 Angus Street.

Each Saturday, two groups of OHL players spend one hour working with coaches at Puckmasters improving their skating and hockey skills.

Special thanks to the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Foundation that provided the \$6050 to cover the costs of the training from Puckmasters.