

# President/CEO *Report*

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

## ***Positive stakeholder feedback***

Three different feedback surveys were distributed to Ranch Ehrlo stakeholders in February as part of the agency's ongoing commitment to high performance standards and delivery of quality services to clients. Surveys were distributed to case managers from referring agencies, to community stakeholders (individuals who have an interest in the work of the agency), and to independent contractors and consultants.

"The surveys are one way that the agency ensures that those individuals and groups most impacted by our work have an opportunity to provide input into the way we do our business," said Carole Bryant, vice-president of administration and quality improvement.

The overall feedback from the 100 respondents was very positive. For example, the vast majority of case managers from referring agencies found the intake process warm and professional, the quality of programs and services excellent, and the staff friendly and knowledgeable.

Opportunities for improvement include more timely communication regarding incidents and notification of meetings as well as more cultural programming, especially for young people from the far north.

"This feedback is important on a number of levels," said Bryant. "For example over 60% of the case managers from

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referring agencies believe that the waiting period to have a young person referred to the agency is over six weeks. The reality is that young people who are referred to our programs can be accommodated quickly, usually within a number of days."

Similarly, the majority of respondents to the community stakeholder survey stated that the agency's facilities are clean and well-maintained, the programs culturally sensitive, and its reputation in the community favourable. Administrators from the public school system, with Ranch Ehrlo students in their schools, commented very positively about the agency. One principal stated "Ranch Ehrlo in my mind provides the best support of all agencies working with youth. I have seen students before they have gone to the Ranch and see them now and the difference is amazing." Some respondents commented on the need for more cultural sensitivity to youth from the north and the need for the agency to invest more resources in recruiting aboriginal employees.

The feedback will be assessed to determine where changes are required and all respondents will receive a report of the aggregate results.

For more information on these surveys contact Carole Bryant at 781-1825.

*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



## ***“Awesome” winter festivals***

On Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, the Buckland campus hosted the annual winterfest for programs north. The day was filled with events that included jam-can curling, sled relay races, a shinny tournament, and the tallest snowman building contest.

*“Fun was had by all, it was awesome!”*

*Randall*

Highlights of the day included the Powwow performance where the singers and dancers enjoyed three encores and a standing ovation. Another highlight was the “boot” relay, a unique event that had teams work with the horses from the Equine Assisted Learning

program to capture a boot and pass the horse and rider onto another teammate to repeat the task.

Each team had triumphs throughout the day. “This was the best winterfest we’ve ever had,” said Denis Losie, unit manager. “Everybody was a winner.” Randall from SILP boys unit added “Fun was had by all, it was awesome!”

A very successful winterfest was also held on February 26<sup>th</sup> at the Pilot Butte campus, starting with a great breakfast prepared by the unit managers and a lunch prepared by the caseworkers. There were a number of events throughout the day and everyone had a great time and enjoyed the beautiful weather.

## ***Computers to Argentina***

Ted Reed, senior systems administrator, travelled to Argentina in early March to participate in the official opening of the Informatics Course Program, a project supported by the Ranch Ehrlo Society. As an off-shoot of a technical exchange between the Ranch and Estudios y Proyectos agency in Argentina, the Ranch donated 10 computers to a project working with aboriginal adolescents near the Argentina-Chile border.

Approximately 40 students from “deprived” schools are learning computer skills in the program on computers donated by the Ranch. Reed also provided onsite technical support during his seven-day visit.

## ***Resource development manager***

Kim Buchan, formerly the manager of Ehrlo Sport Venture Program, has assumed a new position of resource development manager with the Ranch Ehrlo Society. Buchan, who holds a degree in physical activity studies and is currently working towards her diploma in business administration, was with Ehrlo Sport Venture for four years.

“Kim brings her experience in program planning and fund procurement to this position,” said Marion MacIver, executive vice-president, in an announcement to agency staff. “She will oversee fundraising for special projects as well as provide support for new projects and initiatives.”

Buchan will also assume responsibly as the fund administrator for the CIBC World Markets Children’s Miracle Fund. Through a partnership with the Children’s Aid Foundation, the Ranch Ehrlo Society has been distributing funds to improve the wellbeing of at-risk children and youth in the Regina area since 2004.

Buchan’s office is located at #104-2022 Cornwall Street in Regina. She can be reached at 751-2907 or [kimberley.buchan@ranchehrlo.ca](mailto:kimberley.buchan@ranchehrlo.ca).

## ***Ehrlo Early Learning***

The children at Ehrlo Early Learning Centre (formerly Ehrlo Daycare) recently held two fundraising events in support of the Z99 radio-a-thon for the Regina Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Regina General Hospital. The annual bake sale, which raised \$919, has become a tradition at the centre. This year the proceeds from a popcorn sale in the school (\$91) also went to the radio-a-thon. Over the past seven years approximately \$5600 from the proceeds of these events has been donated to purchase new equipment at the unit.

For more information on Ehrlo Early Learning Centre, contact Karin Duff, director, at 757-0581 (ext#229) or [karin.duff@ranchehrlo.ca](mailto:karin.duff@ranchehrlo.ca).

## ***Stay in School program***

A number of 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 encourages our youth to stay in school, regardless of the obstacles they face.”*

*Brenda Fiddler*

Students are nominated according to a number of set criteria including: overcoming significant academic challenges; demonstrating academic excellence; being well-rounded; and having overcome a particularly challenging experience.

Sixteen students in programs north and 28 students in the Regina/Pilot Butte programs received awards following completion of the first school semester. “We had a party to celebrate the awards and took some great pictures,” said Brenda Fiddler, principal of programs north. “It’s a great program that encourages our youth to stay in school, regardless of the obstacles they face.”

## ***Training with Kim Barthell***

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Kim Barthell, occupational therapist, presented a one-day workshop for Ranch Ehrlo employees who work with clients with developmental challenges. The 110 employees in attendance heard Barthell discuss the relationship between how the brain functions in regard to sensory dysfunction and trauma/pain-based behaviour.

Barthell, who lives in Williams Lake, B.C., is recognized internationally for her work on attachment and sensory processing. In addition to consulting, Barthell serves as a special consultant to the United Nations and has worked with victims of trauma from war, famine, earthquakes and other natural disasters.

## ***In the spotlight***

Amanda Scandrett, therapeutic arts facilitator (and former artist-in-residence) has had an experience of lifetime. Scandrett, who is also a member of the Regina based pop-rock collective Library Voices, performed a set at the Olympic medal ceremony at BC Place on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, following a string of shows at the Saskatchewan Pavilion on February 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>.

“I never thought I would be going to the Olympics, never mind performing at them,” said Scandrett. “It was very exciting!”

Since starting her employment at Ranch Ehrlo in 2007, Scandrett has accomplished numerous projects with the Ranch youth, including two local art shows held in Regina, an art show in Kelowna, B.C. and the recording of two hip-hop CDs.

Scandrett doesn’t hesitate to call on fellow band members to work with Ranch youth on special projects. Projects this past year have included teaching Photoshop, coaching for Awards Night, and instructing poetry classes.

For more information on the therapeutic arts program at the Ranch Ehrlo Society contact Scandrett at 751-2489 or at [amanda.scrandrett@ranchehrlo.ca](mailto:amanda.scrandrett@ranchehrlo.ca).

## ***Literacy partnership***

The Ranch Ehrlo Society has once again entered into a unique partnership with the University of Regina, Faculty of Education, to deliver a literacy program to students in the Schaller Education Program. From the beginning of February through to April, fourth year education students in their final semester of ERDG (Education Reading) class come to the Transition Centre 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. “In addition, the university students from last year had a very positive experience and felt it was a valued program for them as well as our youth.”

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

What better way to warm up after a long, cold winter than with a bowl (or many bowls) of hot soup. This comforting notion inspired Tara Yanyk, teacher at McLurg School, to organize the second 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 March 19<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 helps to add to the excitement.”

Congratulations to the students from McLurg School who were this year’s winners with their St. Patrick’s Day (cabbage) soup. Second prize went to the students from Scott Schutz’s class at Schaller for their Elk Stew. Third prize winners were the students from the Ranch classroom in Rosemont School with Shoa Kai soup (from Laos).

## ***Corman Park SRC hosts event***

The Students Representative Council (SRC) from Corman Park hosted its first annual staff and youth hockey game on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 20 youth and 12 staff attended the event which was held on the recently completed outdoor hockey arena on the campus.

“We were all able to enjoy great weather, good friendly competition and lots of hot chocolate and timbits,” said Jason Kotyk, director of programs at the campus.

The SRC is currently planning to host an Easter dinner at the Ellen Gunn Education Centre along with an Easter egg hunt on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

## ***Cultural coordinator update***

Nick Crighton, cultural coordinator, has had a busy few months working with teachers in the Schaller Education Program to help them incorporate aboriginal content into the classroom. A recent initiative was a webinar presented to teachers by a trainer from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner on how to introduce treaties into course content.

In addition to his work in the classrooms, Crighton has been invited to join many team meetings within the residential units to discuss traditional First Nations protocol and how best to incorporate culture in the lives of the youth.

## ***Powwow club performs***

The Ranch Ehrlo Powwow Club performed at the *Spring Free from Racism* event held on March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Italian Club in Regina. This annual event includes dance performances and presenters from many cultures and ethnic backgrounds in the Regina area.

The Powwow club’s next performance will be for residents of the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre.

For more information on the Powwow club or other cultural activities at Ranch Ehrlo contact Nick Crighton at 781-1828 or at [nick.crighton@ranchehrlo.ca](mailto:nick.crighton@ranchehrlo.ca)

## ***EELC expansion***

Ehrlo Early Learning Centre (EELC), currently operating out of W.F. Ready School, is expanding to four new locations. EELC will be licensed for 30 spaces each at Gladys McDonald, Imperial, and Ruth Pawson Schools, as well as 45 spaces at Wilfred Walker French Immersion School. The programs are expected to open this summer.

For more information on the expansion or to secure space at either W.F. Ready or any of the new locations, contact Karin Duff, director, at 757-0581 (ext. 229) or at [karin.duff@ranchehrlo.ca](mailto:karin.duff@ranchehrlo.ca)

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

## ***Sport Venture to host international student***

Ehrlo Sport Venture Program will host another International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) student from August through to July 2011. Astina Muleya, who is from Zambia, will work with the Sport Venture programs as a community recreation worker.

This is the second year that the agency has sponsored an international student through the “International Volunteer Exchange Program” of the Mennonite Central Committee.

For more information on Ehrlo Sport Venture Program contact Laura Logan, manager, at 751-2411.

## ***Training to Northern Saskatchewan***

Dave Wiebe, special services coordinator for Ehrlo Counselling Services, was invited by the Athabasca Health Authority to facilitate a two-day Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) workshop.

*“It was especially meaningful that they were able to do this in their mother tongue and it was powerful and moving to watch.”*

*David Wiebe*

The workshop, which was held on March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> in Stony Rapids, resulted from a contact Wiebe made with an employee from the Athabasca Health Authority at a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder training workshop earlier in the year.

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

Wiebe, who has conducted ASIST workshops throughout the province, found conducting this workshop a new experience as all the employees of the health region were Dene.

Accordingly, during the role playing session of the training, some of the participants chose to do the exercise in their native Dene language. Wiebe had an interpreter stand beside him and interpret as participants role played.

“It was especially meaningful that they were able to do this in their mother tongue and it was powerful and moving to watch,” said Wiebe. “The suicide rates are much higher across the north so it is particularly important that this training be available in northern communities.”

## ***OHL season wraps up***

The Ehrlo Outdoor Hockey League concluded its 17<sup>th</sup> season with the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Coca-Cola Cup. The tournament included fourteen atom and bantam teams from Regina and the Standing Buffalo First Nation. The Rosemont team won the atom league and Standing Buffalo First Nation won the bantam league.

Laura Logan, manager, extended her appreciation to the Coca-Cola Bottling Company which has supported the tournament with donated ice time and Coke products since 2000. Logan also thanked the Regina Optimist clubs for providing a truck to transport all the hockey equipment.

Logan also paid tribute to all the dedicated volunteers who came out week after week to help regardless of the winter temperature.

## ***KidSport sponsorship***

Regina KidSport will once again become a sponsor of the Ehrlo Outdoor Hockey League with a \$15,000 contribution for the 2010-2011 season. Conexus completed its final season of a three-year title sponsorship in 2009-2010.

## ***Pre-trades project winding down***

Thirty young adults have participated in the Ehrlo Pre-trades Construction Program since June of 2009. Since that time, the youth have completed work for social housing organizations including Silver Sage Housing, Namarind Housing, and Habitat for Humanity. The crew also participated in “Regina’s Extreme Home Makeover.”

Whether it is building wheelchair ramps to enhance accessibility for residents with disabilities, or new construction to help provide a home for a family that has never had one, the pre-trades construction crew has been busy with many residential construction projects.

*“Working with community based projects ... have provided great opportunities for the youth to learn on the job about concrete, demolition, and structural work”*

*Monica Rivers*

“Working with community based projects such as the Oasis Project, the Sifton Fire Hall, and the SIIT Campus have provided great opportunities for the youth to learn on the job about concrete, demolition, and structural work,” observed Monica Rivers, vocational coordinator.

Aside from work based experience, youth spent time in the shop and classroom practicing with

tools and materials, learning about measurement and other math skills required in carpentry.

Participants also received several certifications to add to their resumés including First Aid, CPR, WHMIS, Fall Safety, Skid Steer, Fork Lift and Construction Safety Training.

A project proposal for 2010-2011 has been submitted to the federal and provincial governments. If approved, the project is scheduled to begin on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Staffing announcement***

Adam Huffman was recently appointed to the position of community recreation worker at Ehrlo Sport Venture Program. Huffman will provide respite programming and will assist with the operation of Ehrlo Sport Venture Library, including equipment lending, inventory control, and equipment repair. He will also assist in running the Ehrlo community sports leagues.

Huffman, who holds a degree in sports administration, brings a variety of work experience including coaching the junior Balfour Redmen basketball team. He has recently opened a basketball academy in Regina.

Huffman’s office is located at the Sport Venture Library at 2730 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He can be reached at 751-2411 or [adam.huffman@ranchehrlo.ca](mailto:adam.huffman@ranchehrlo.ca)

## ***Annual Ehrlo Golf Classic***

**Monday, June 7, 2010**

**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 are also available for the dinner and banquet for \$40.00 per person.

The committee of the Golf Classic is pleased to announce Harvard Broadcasting, and the *Leader Post* have signed on as Platinum Sponsors in 2010.

All proceeds will be in support of Ehrlo Sport Venture Program.

For more information contact Shea Haverstock at 306 751-5684.