

President/CEO *Report*

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

Sixth annual Performance Outcome Report

issue 58, April 2011

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

In general, 63% to 86% of the youth discharged from the Ranch Ehrlo Society in 2010 demonstrated improvements while in a Ranch program.

The sixth 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.

In 2010, 210 residents discharged from the Ranch, a 5% increase from the previous year. The average length of stay for discharged residents increased from 15.5 months in 2009 to 18 months in 2010.

“The structure of the outcomes evaluation system is such that each Ranch program is treated as a distinct entity,” said David Rivers, senior director of programs, 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 2010, 75% of the residents who left the agency showed improvements in the main issues that brought them to the Ranch, including behavioural problems, family functioning, and substance abuse.

When it comes to achieving goals, 86% of the young people showed improvement. The most commonly set goals for Ranch youth are the development of relationships, interpersonal skills, problem-solving, and coping skills.

In the classroom an individual plan is developed for each student that identifies areas for improvement, including academic and behavioural items. Approximately 82% of the students improved in attaining their goals, which is above the average of 68% for the previous five years.

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

- 68% of former residents were living with family or extended family;
- 72% of former residents were neither charged nor convicted of any criminal offence;
- 84% of the residents under the age of 16 were still enrolled in school;
- 36% of the former residents were moderately or highly involved in recreational activities.

The positive follow-up results are due in part to the greater involvement of families in the development of treatment, aftercare, and transitional plans in the community.

A copy of the complete report is located on the Ranch Ehrlo website at www.ehrlo.com.

Positive stakeholder feedback

Three different feedback surveys were distributed to Ranch Ehrlo stakeholders in February and March 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 surveys are one way that the agency ensures that those individuals and groups most impacted by our work have an opportunity to provide input"

Carole Bryant

The overall feedback from the 131 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.

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.

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 contact Carole Bryant at 781-1825 or email carole.bryant@ranchehrlo.ca.

Winterfests

On Friday, March 11th, 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.

The ability to utilize the new outdoor hockey rink and riding arena allowed for additional activities. For example, lunch was held in the arena with bison burgers as the feature menu item.

A very successful winterfest was also held on March 4th 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 despite the chilly weather.

Ehrlo Early Learning

The staff and children from 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 at W.F. Ready School, which raised \$1073.50, has become a tradition at the centre. This year the other four sites supported the cause by setting out empty baby bottles to collect donations from their families, which cumulatively added another \$504.07 to the total. Over the past seven years approximately \$7200 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.

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.”

Dr. Marion MacIver

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.

Eighteen students in programs north and 50 students in the Regina/Pilot Butte programs received awards following completion of the first school semester.

“It’s a great program that encourages our youth to stay in school, regardless of the obstacles they face,” said Dr. Marion MacIver, executive vice-president and director of education.

In addition to administering the *Stay-in-School* program, the agency has been given a \$5000 *Leap-to-Learn* grant from the Children’s Aid Society in Toronto. This grant is being used to provide drop-in noon-hour tutoring sessions at the Ranch classroom at City Park High School in Saskatoon.

New website launched

The Ranch Ehrlo Society has recently launched a new webpage. The site provides up-to-date information on the agency’s services and programs. It also contains the current and past issues of the newsletter, along with annual reports and performance outcomes reports. Stakeholder feedback is encouraged on all services and programs (see the “Quality Improvement” tab under “About Us”). A blog is currently being

created that will feature a variety of writers from the Ranch with different backgrounds, sharing their thoughts about the agency. Check us out at www.ehrlo.com.

Evraz donation

Evraz Regina Steel has donated over \$1000 worth of steel to make two garbage burning bins for the agency’s northern fly-in camps at Dryer and Norbert Lake. The steel bins are being built into three sections so they can be transported to the camps. These burning bins are a requirement of the Ministry of the Environment regulations pertaining to waste and wildfire management.

Buckland riding arena

The Buckland Centre riding arena was officially opened in October 2010. This state-of-the-art riding arena is home to the Ranch Ehrlo Society equine assisted therapy (EAT) program, western riding program, English riding program, and the 4-H club. In addition to focussing on general horse care, safety, and proper riding techniques, the programs help participants develop many life-enhancing skills. These include improved communication, better problem-solving, and the development of healthy relationships based on mutual trust and respect.

“We offer horseback riding, riding lessons, horse training, and equine assisted therapy.”

Heather Chow

The riding programs and arena are now available to the general public. “We offer horseback riding, riding lessons, horse training, and equine assisted therapy,” reports Heather Chow, arena manager. The arena is also available to the public for different functions. “Groups hosting events such as horse and rider training, horse competitions, dog shows, and archery competitions would find this facility very accommodating,” added Chow. The mezzanine area can accommodate meetings of up to 50 people and the kitchen is equipped to provide banquet meals or canteen services.

For more information, bookings and rental information contact Heather Chow at 765-1406.

Cree language program

Twenty Ranch Ehrlo students from elementary and high schools are participating in an eight-week pilot program to learn the Cree language. The students meet once a week at the First Nations University to participate in the class which includes two instructors from the university.

“Many of the youth at Ranch Ehrlo Society speak Cree and the program gives the youth an opportunity to both learn and retain the language,” said Nick Crighton, cultural coordinator.

“Many of the youth at Ranch Ehrlo Society speak Cree and the program gives the youth an opportunity to both learn and retain the language.”

Nick Crighton

The teaching method for the Cree language program is termed Total Physical Response (TPR). “This method of teaching is less curriculum based and more practical, interactive, and conversational,” said Crighton. “The course is very participatory and each word taught is matched to a body movement such as walking and dancing.”

Crighton is also spearheading an *Aboriginal Role Model Series*, to profile successful aboriginal individuals. This ongoing forum provides healthy role

models for the students at the Ranch Ehrlo Society. Guest speakers at the April 18th forum were Lisa Francis, a grad nurse from the Piapot First Nation and Michelle Hugli Brass, a reporter, editor, and talk show host, from Yellow Quill First Nation.

For more information contact Nick Crighton at 781-1828 or nick.crighton@ranchehrlo.ca.

In support of one of the residents in the program who has been diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, residents and staff from the SLP-A program will be participating in the “Cystic Fibrosis Walk with Us” on May 29th. For more information or to pledge support, contact Daren Haygarth at daren.haygarth@ranchehrlo.ca.

Soup Cook-off

What better way to warm up after a long, cold winter than with a bowl (or many bowls) of hot soup. Wonderful aromas wafted through the Liski Gym on the afternoon of February 18th as Ranch Ehrlo students from the Regina elementary classrooms and Schaller Education Centre participated in the third annual Soup Cook-off.

Congratulations to the students from Rosemont School who were this year’s winners with their aptly named El Ganador Sopa which is Spanish for the “winning soup”. El Ganaodor Sopa is a tasty blend of beans, corn, salsa, corn chips, and cheese that was a hit with the judges.

For the recipe of this award winning soup contact kirsten.endicott@ranchehrlo.ca.

Community Helping Hands

Since the inception of *Project: Community Helping Hands* two years ago, the youth and staff at Krutzeniski House have given an enormous amount back to their north central neighbourhood. Just some of their many accomplishments include:

- Raised over \$6000 for their community;
- Hosted two community garage sales;
- Hosted four community carnivals with attendance between 100-150 at each;
- Adopted 24 community youth for Christmas and provided food hampers for the families worth over \$250 each;
- Hosted a three-day summer camp for the community youth which included sporting activities and crafts; and
- Provide meals for two community families on a regular basis.

Amalgamation set to proceed

The amalgamation of the Ranch Ehrlo Society and Ehrlo Community Services will be confirmed at an extraordinary meeting of the membership of both agencies on June 15th at the West Harvest Inn in Regina. Following the two membership meetings, the members of the amalgamated agency will meet to elect its new directors and approve its bylaws.

Ehrlo Community Services

Ehrlo Housing programs experience increased demand

Occupancy at Washington Park Place and Lakeshore Village has been at 100 per cent and the waiting list grows daily. Ehrlo Housing is experiencing a very high demand for housing, which is a result of the lack of affordable housing for young families in the community.

In an effort to find solutions to the lack of affordable housing, Ehrlo Housing is working closely with local women's shelters to prioritize young women and children who are homeless, and in the greatest need of its programs.

Ehrlo Housing has also undertaken renovations to its properties. Bathroom renovations at Lakeshore Village are 80 per cent complete. Additionally, roof replacements, grading, parking lot upgrades, and playground enhancements are planned for the spring/summer of 2011.

Ehrlo Housing would like to thank the youth and staff from the Community Vocational Education Program (CVEP) for their hard work this winter. They shovelled snow from sidewalks and walkways at the Lakeshore Village, Washington Park Place, and Red Ribbon Place properties. Thanks also to everyone at ESP Construction for their commitment and hard work provided to Ehrlo Housing during its renovations.

Sport Venture enters into unique partnership with new sponsors

In 2010, Laura Logan, manager of Sport Venture programs, identified the need to sanitize all the equipment in the Sport Venture lending library. Not only is it socially responsible, it enhances the services offered by the lending library. Logan is quite passionate about this initiative. "We have an obligation as a community-based organization to ensure the health and safety of everyone who uses our equipment."

In January, Sport Venture secured a \$5000 donation from the Kiwanis Club to cover the cost of equipment cleaning and sanitizing.

JP Farago, owner of Defense Sport Cleaning and Sanitizing, approached Sport Venture last year and offered his services. His company uses the Sani Sport system, which is the industry leader for sanitizing and cleaning sports equipment. Farago

"We have an obligation as a community-based organization to ensure the health and safety of everyone who uses our equipment."

Laura Logan

explained that this machine would be vital to ensuring that Sport Venture's staff and clients are kept safe from harmful bacteria.

While the \$5000 donation from the Kiwanis Club is extremely generous, it did not fully cover the cost to clean all equipment in the lending library. Fortunately,

Defense Sport Cleaning and Sanitizing has agreed to provide in-kind services to cover the cost of equipment cleaning above the \$5000 donation. This will ensure all equipment is cleaned and sanitized.

Sport Venture thanks Defense Sport Cleaning and Sanitizing and the Kiwanis Club for their support.

Social Connections

Ehrlo Sport Venture programs has entered into a partnership with the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region to provide children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) with a variety of rich experiences. The program, which is being called *Social Connections*, will promote social development, healthy living, and improve motor skills through sports, recreation, and numerous art-related activities.

For more information on *Social Connections* contact Laura Logan, manager of Sport Venture at laura.logan@ranchehrlo.ca or 751-2411.

Ehrlo Sport Venture wraps up very successful 18th OHL season

The OHL faced challenges this season due to the large amount of snowfall, which continued into March. The City of Regina only budgeted for eight weeks of rink maintenance resulting in volunteers and youth doing the snow removal for the majority of their scheduled practice time or resorting to good old 'boot hockey.'

The OHL season concluded with the annual year-end tournament held at the Lumsden Community Sports Centre. The Lumsden Sport Association warmly welcomed all players and volunteers. The tournament hosted over 180 participants throughout the weekend along with their family and friends who came to cheer them on.

An award ceremony was held for the Kellen Cavanagh Memorial Spirit Award. Kellen's family proudly presented Justin Fernell and Abigail DeLong with this award for emanating the spirit of hockey.

Plans are already underway for the 2012 OHL wrap-up tournament which will be held on March 3rd and 4th at the Lumsden Community Sports Centre.

Avant-Garde College offers its services to help the community

Avant-Garde's partnership with Albert Community School is going strong. The school continues to bring students in for free haircuts on a monthly basis. In June, the Avant-Garde students will volunteer to style hair for the grade eight graduation. This is sure to be a fun and creative experience for all involved while providing Avant-Garde students the opportunity to practice their theory.

Avant-Garde students have also been busy volunteering their services elsewhere in the community. Students have volunteered for the White City library fundraiser, at Henry Janzen elementary school, and entered into a two-year partnership with Shoppers Drug Mart. Shoppers Drug Mart uses Avant-Garde students at least once

a month for the shoppers gala where they offer their clients manicures and makeup consultation.

"Following the mandate of Ranch Ehrlo provides us with the motivation to give back to the community, help fundraise for community projects, and raise awareness of self-worth," said Lori Pawson, principal of the college.

"As our community involvement continues to expand, so too does the interest from the community in Avant-Garde."

Lori Pawson

Avant-Garde will also have two Balfour Collegiate students joining them this fall as full-time students. Pawson noted that this is encouraging, because Avant-Garde's volunteer presence at Balfour has allowed the college to attract other students at Balfour outside of the tutorial program at which it volunteers.

"I think this speaks highly of Avant-Garde College's community involvement, said Pawson. "As our community involvement continues to expand, so too does the interest from the community in Avant-Garde."

Ehrlo Counselling welcomes new administration assistant

Alison Mentiplay has joined Ehrlo Counselling Services as the new office assistant. Mentiplay brings many years of experience from the Co-operators and PrintWest. She is certified by the Insurance Institute of Canada and has achieved various computer course certifications.

Mentiplay has been a Regina resident most of her life, preferring to remain close to her friends and family. She loves Regina and has a vested interest in anything related to making Regina a better place to live. Her passion is volunteering.

Mentiplay learned about Ranch Ehrlo from friends who work for the organization. She says she feels blessed to be working for an organization that does so much to help others in the community.