



Newsletter

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Message from the Director

It appears that spring has finally arrived and along with it is our licensing. This year was even better than the last and a lot of the success needs to be attributed to our staff team. I would like to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to our incredible team.

On a daily basis you, our staff give our youth and the program the benefit your professional and therapeutic skills. You do this in a nurturing, strength based, empowering way that really impacts the lives of the youth we serve. You do this while maintaining very high standards and expectations, within Jen's Place, for programming and recording

Three of our current full time staff members have been with us since the beginning and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for the teaching and mentoring they have given our team and the dedication they have to the CYW profession.

As you will read in the CYW views, our team is continually trying to make it even better and challenge there perspectives. Once again, THANK YOU the process of licensing just reinforces the great job you do.
Jenn Dymment - Director of Programming

The REAL Program

As the school year progresses, so do our students in their academics. If you have any questions regarding the program or the progress of the youth in the program, contact Theresa Tonon at 169 Dufferin Street South, Unit 2. The direct number to the REAL Program is 705-241-8079.

What's New at Jen's Place?

Happy Birthday this month to Rachael Greenland Smith!

We would like to welcome Alison Childs to our Full Time staff. Allison comes to us from England where she had graduated from the Essex Youth Service with a Diploma in Youth Service.

We would also like to welcome Angie Banks, an Everett College student, in the Additions Counseling and Social Service program, to the REAL Program. Angie will be with us until June.

With that is the sad departure of Jennifer Burke whose student placement has concluded. We wish Jennifer best of wishes in all future career endeavors.

We will also be saying goodbye this month to Keri Mason, our 3rd year Humber student. Keri has chosen a career path in Child and Youth work that will, without a doubt offer some very rewarding experiences!

UMAB Training was recently completed with the entire REAL program team and all our students. Good Job Everyone.

Ann Madill and Rachael Greenland Smith have completed OnLac Training this month through Simcoe CAS.

Ann Madill also completed Healthy Separations: Death and Dying & Unlocking Mysteries of Challenging Behaviour Training.

Alana Bell and Jennifer Foster completed a training sponsored by the MCSS entitled Professional Communication this month.

CYW Views

Written by Alana Bell – Residential Coordinator
'Healing Spaces' is a book written by Mike Burns and available for purchase through the OACYC.

While reading the book 'Healing Spaces' The Therapeutic Milieu in Child and Youth Work, I came across a section in the introduction that really made me think about how institutionalized a group home can become with the different staff personalities that encompass the environment. The section reads,

"The Concept of a Therapeutic Milieu" is an attempt to assist childcare providers, working within these types of settings, to create a healthy environment in order to prevent institutionalization.

The term institutionalization was used to describe the type of behavioural outcomes that result from children and youth living in setting where all their daily living decisions and choices were made for them by the rules and regulations of the setting or by the individual personalities enforcing the institutional guidelines."

This section basically tells us that even without intentionally attempting to make a group home an institutional environment, the different rules and regulations of the setting as well as the different staff personalities can simply and easily change the environment to one which can be institutionalized rather than nurturing, supportive and offers choices and natural/logical consequences as part of its day to day therapeutic milieu. As Child and Youth Workers, how can we avoid creating this institutionalization, possibly by implementing rules and regulations that all staff can be consistent with.

'Healing Spaces' states that when children are in institutional type environments for extended periods of time, they begin to demonstrate deep behavioural and attitudinal disabilities when attempting to function outside their institutional environment. The environment that has been created for them that has not allowed them the chances to problem solve or make choices in their lives; therefore, they cannot learn how to function in the greater society. Are we providing the children of the future with the essentials of life or are we protecting them from reality by creating these environments, which eventually take away from their learning abilities? By taking away their ability to learn, even from mistakes, we take away their problem solving techniques and the skills of making their own choices. Where does that leave them? Without opportunity to make mistakes, we lose the opportunity to teach.

Bed Availability

We accept youth ages 11-18 years. We currently have zero (0) beds available. Please contact Jen Foster or Jennifer Dymont for more information

Employment Opportunities

We are currently looking for individuals for the following position:

- **Relief Child and Youth Workers for Residential Care**

Quote of the Month:

Feelings of worth can flourish only in an atmosphere where individual differences are appreciated, mistakes are tolerated, communication is open, and rules are flexible – the kind of atmosphere that is found in a nurturing family

unknown

Services Provided

Jen's Place provides the following services to both CAS clients and to community members:

- ⇒ Residential Services for Adolescents
- ⇒ Behavioural Assessments and Programming
- ⇒ Private Supervised Access Arrangements
- ⇒ Home Schooling/Alternative Day Program
- ⇒ Individual Youth and Family Counselling

