



Newsletter

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Happy 3rd Anniversary

Message from the Director

September will mark our third year anniversary of operation and boy oh boy has it been a great time. In this time, we have had many successes, changes and additions to the program that we never would have anticipated when we first started.

Our simple six-bed group home program has expanded to include an Alternative Day Program, a Supervised Access Program and now a developing Semi-Independence program and a Treatment Foster Care Program.

Our staffing has been of high quality and extreme dedication to our program and our residents and we thank all of them for their commitment! We have had four (soon to be five) staff get married, three have babies and unfortunately two who have moved on with other directions in their lives. We now have a staff team of 15! So much for the six we felt we would only need!

We have had a few kids come and go and with great pride, we can say that we still hear from most of them. We hear from them in times of success and in times of crisis. They have developed relationships and we are better people from having them touch our lives.

We have created the program we never would have dreamed of. We have been successful in taking a theory and not only making it a practice but also making it successful.

I want to thank everyone who has supported us in the past three years. It is because of your support that we continue to be able to meet the challenges that are presented!! ☺

Jennifer Foster- Director of Service

What's New at Jen's Place?

We would like to welcome Ann Madill to our team of Residential Counsellors. Ann has an SSW diploma from Canadore College and over four years experience in Residential Care. Welcome Ann ☺

Happy Birthday this month to Shaunacey Hamilton and Jennifer Foster



Happy Anniversary this month to Karen Mabee, Alana Bell and Marie Gross. Three whole years to all of you!!

We would like to let everyone know that Alana Bell has moved to the position of Acting Residential Coordinator, a position previously held by Karen Mabee. Congratulations Alana!

Employment Opportunities

We are currently looking for individuals for the following position:

Residential Counsellor – Live In

This position is for an adolescent semi-independent program in Barrie and in Alliston. Accommodation & living expenses provided plus a daily per diem rate. A diploma in human services is a must. Tasks include planned daily living skills, providing for child's needs, and providing therapeutic & behaviour intervention.

If you are interested, please forward a resume to Jennifer Dument at fax number

The REAL Program

We would like to welcome Sheila Croucher to our staff team. Sheila has been an amazing addition to our program both in her qualifications and in her experience. Sheila is a *Certified Teacher* from Queens University. She also has had over 12 years experience as a Child and Youth Worker prior to becoming a teacher. Everyday, we learn more about her exceptional and diverse range of skills. WELCOME SHEILA!!

If you have any questions about the REAL Program, you can contact her at the new phone number (705)241-8079.

CYW Views

On occasion, we tend to get wrapped up in frustrating behaviour that we forget that certain adolescent behaviours are actually 'normal' behaviours and not specific to youth who reside in residential care or have mental health concerns. We need to ensure that we have a good understanding of developmental and situational behaviours and attempt to reduce pathologizing these behaviours. The result of understanding where the behaviours come from thus help us find ways to determine fair and accurate responses and consequences to behaviour.

There are four critical areas of development during adolescents, physical, emotional, cognitive and social. Here are a few areas of cognitive change that are developmentally normal for adolescence

- Abstract thinking
- Formal operations thinking
- Reasoning
- Evaluation
- Systemic problem solving abilities
- Can see dishonesty and hypocrisy
- Like intellectual battles
- Introspection and self analysis
- Egocentric – distortion in thinking that own experiences are completely unique
- Desire for new experiences
- Imaginary audiences
- Feels equal to adults
- Questions where do I belong and what do I believe

Bed Availability

We accept youth ages 11-18 years. We currently have one (1) bed available for a male over the age of fourteen (14). Please contact Jen Foster or Jennifer Dymment for more information

We were able to provide another year of camping experience for the kids at Sauble Beach. Thanks very much to Sandra Small, her partner Daryl, Alana Bell and Paula Nordstrom, our summer student. It was a very memorable experience from what I have heard.

We would like to say a temporary goodbye to Jessica Gastaldi- a Children's Service Worker from York CAS. You have done a fabulous job in your role and we will miss you while you pursue other endeavors. Good luck

Quote of the Month:

Behaviour is the language of adolescence

Meen, 2006

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

