



Newsletter

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Message from the Director

Jen Foster and I are taking part in Residential Care and Treatment Providers (RCTP) Business Process working Group. Through this process, the Central East Region hopes to address issues and develop clear consistent protocol to assist in the "Business" end of the service we provide. It is a very exciting road to begin on and the hope is the placing agencies will join in the process shortly. This has given the ministry and the RCTPs 'an incredible opportunity to open up doors and dialogue for a common solution. I will keep you posted as we go. Jenn Dymant

Employment Opportunities

We are currently looking for individuals for the following position:

- **Treatment Foster Care Coordinator**
 - **Residential Counsellors - Occasional Afternoon and Permanent Full Time Overnight**
 - **Therapeutic Foster Parent**
- Please contact Jennifer Foster for more detail regarding the program, applications, training, and timelines*

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

What's New at Jen's Place?

Happy Anniversary this month to Karen Mabee who has been with us for 4 years now (WOW) and Ann Madill who has been with us for one year. Boy time flies!

Happy birthday this month to Jennifer Foster and Shaunacey Hamilton

It is with great sadness that we must announce the resignation of Alana Bell. She has decided to pursue other full time career options but has agreed to stay on with Jen's Place to provide relief work. We wish you all the best in all that you do. We will all miss you terribly! ☹

The residents have had a few unique experiences this month thanks to the efforts of staff. Jenn Burke, Alison Childs, and Wendy Neely were able to take the kids to Kawartha on our annual weekend camping excursion. The kids reported having a great time. Thanks to the three of you for providing that memory for them.

We were also able to take a few of the residents to Buffalo for back to school shopping and to see Niagara Falls. It was the first time 'out of the country' for a few of them and it was a great experience for all of them.

Bed Availability

We accept youth ages 11-18 years. We currently have two (2) beds available immediately for a planned placement. Please contact Jen Foster or Jennifer Dymant for more information

The REAL Program

For the first two years of our residential program, we applied with the Simcoe School Board to operate a Section (23 now?) classroom. We had been told that there was no new funding available for new programs. So one of the ways that we addressed the issues faced by our residents regarding not attending school due to refusal, suspensions, behavioural challenges and academic issues was to create our own day program not only to keep them busy but to move forward so that we could truly consider it an academic program and not wasted time.

During the past two years, we have utilized ILC courses, which we have found still does not address the unique needs of our student and does not allow for maximum success. So as everyone is aware, we moved toward pursuing a private school license. We have chosen not to pursue a Section classroom as it fails to account for all of the other issues that keep kids out of school. We understand that public education system does the best it can with what it has but our kids quickly fall through the cracks because they are assumed to have all these other supports available, when often they do not. Our school will provide services to a broader range of solutions to systemic challenges that youth face. High schools have moved away from managing behaviours. Banting HS alone has over 400 students on IEP'S. Our youth have mental health needs, socialization needs, inadequate coping skills, and unique learning needs that are expressed through behaviour.

In order to address the behaviour, you must address the need. We have committed our program to do that and to give our youth a true opportunity for academic success. The necessity to address the growing issues around completing high school is now. There future depends on

Quote of the Month

Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words;
they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits.
Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your
Character; it becomes your destiny

Unknown

CYW Views

I was recently made aware of a book by Linda Kavelin Popov called 'The Virtues Project. Simple Ways to Create a Culture of Character'. The purpose is to look at alternative pro-active therapeutic method to use with the residents in their day-to-day living. One of our objectives has always been to encourage valued adult characteristics in the youth that we serve. By examining virtues along with values, we are able to include universally valued characteristics that demonstrate purposefulness, caring and respect. Virtues can transcend culture and religion and focus on bringing out a persons innate ability to practice and demonstrate courage, honor and justice. This is done by integrating the culture of virtues into our programming, our behaviour management and disciple practices, our therapeutic moments and our day-to-day living. The Virtues Project identifies five strategies of the Virtues Project to utilize:

1. Speak the Language of the Virtues

Replace shaming and blaming with naming the Virtue. The language of virtues helps us remember what kind of people we want to be

2. Recognize Teachable Moments

View life as an opportunity to learn, recognize our mistakes, and hone our virtues through the challenges we face. Ask 'what can I do differently next time'.

3. Set Clear Boundaries

Clear boundaries create an environment of ground rules, order, unity, and safety. It provides bottom line behaviours and identifies when amends need to be made

4. Honour the Spirit

Spirit illuminates our sense of values and creates celebrations and traditions that make events meaningful. It also provides strategies that help us address the spiritual dimensions in a way that respects our diversity.

5. Offer the Art of Spiritual Companionship

This supports healing, encourages moral choices, the safe expression of feeling, and helps with counselling, conflict resolution, and disciplinary situations. It helps in matters of grief and crisis and involves true presence and listening, clarifying and allowing others to solve their own problems.