



# Newsletter

Volume 4

Issue 1

[www.jens-place.org](http://www.jens-place.org)

January 2008

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## Message from the Director

As we strive to improve and meet the growing needs of our residence, we have developed two main goals for the year. Our first goal is to move back toward staff stability. Both Jenn and I feel like parents whose children have grown within our walls for many good years but are now moving out and moving on. Our second goal is to expose the residents to more culture within our home. We are developing a program that introduces a new culture in the home every month. We will keep you posted. Jen Foster, Dir. of Service

## The REAL Program

As most are aware, we have moved our REAL Program location from the Lions Club on Boyne St. to a much larger location at 169 Dufferin Street South. The space will afford us the opportunity to address the current over crowding, to provide separate space for youth who need it and to expand not only our numbers but also the methods in which we choose to educate the youth in the program.

Jen's Place will gradually be moving the administrative office out of the residence and over to the new location as well. We have always discussed this as an eventual option but when the OACYC Chronicle came out in Dec. with an article that discussed the presence of a staff office in a residence we decided to make some changes. The article states 'we have come to unconditionally accept the need for a staff office in the group home, and yet this is by far the most institutional feature of the place... staff offices contradict the very essence of child and youth work, and their presence undermines the very ethos of the profession' (K. Gharabaghi). Although we acknowledge the requirement to have a separate locked space for files etc, the locked office space will be more of a Resource Room for the staff.

If you would like to check out our new space, stop by and we will give you a tour. The new space is located 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?

We would like to welcome Rosean McAneney to our team of Relief workers. Rosean comes to us with a background in Social Services from Sir Sanford Flemming and many years experience. Welcome Rosean, we look forward to your contribution to our group.

We would like to welcome our new students Keri Mason, a CYW student from Humber College and Jennifer Burke, from the Addictions Program at CDI. Welcome to our staff team.

Happy birthday this month to Carole Sylvain

Rachael Greenland-Smith will be temporarily increasing her hours to full time while we wait for Karen Mabey to return from her maternity leave. Rachael will be taking on full time and primary worker responsibilities during this interim.

We would also like to congratulate Rachael on receiving a CYW Faculty Award from Humber College in the fall! ☺

## Bed Availability

We accept youth ages 11-18 years.

We currently have two (2) beds available for females. Please contact Jen Foster or Jennifer Dymont for more information



## CYW Views

In the field of Child and Youth Work, there is always the emphasis on 'life skills'. Recently, we began looking at it differently and saw that there are at least two groups of life skills that need separate attention. You see, with *Life Skills*, there is the element of being able to have the knowledge and skill of being able to physically and emotionally function in areas such as independence, personal safety, decision-making & social skills. However, there is also a domain identified as '*Character Building*' that so many of our kids have challenges with, as it is an area that is definitely taught, usually without much formality, early in life. It is character that endears us upon others and that facilitates relationships now and in the future.

Character is defined as 'the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual; the strength and originality in a person's nature'. As Cyw's, this teaching is typically done through the way we talk, the behaviours that we model, the behaviours that we tolerate and the actions we reward and reinforce. We need to ensure that our youth not only develop and enhance their moral principles and ethics; we may even need to transform and recreate moral philosophies. Our youth need to be able to judge, care about and believe what is right, and to be able to do it regardless of the external pressures.  
([www.goodcharacter.com](http://www.goodcharacter.com))

Character building should be a teaching requirement, separate from life skills. It is an area in which we should focus on, formally and intensely. Some ideas for character building topics can include:

- Trustworthiness
- Citizenship
- Respect/Self-Respect
- Honesty
- Tact
- Responsibility
- Courage
- Fairness/Justice
- Diligence
- Caring
- Integrity
- Doing the Right Thing
- Dealing with Pressures
- Values
- Friendship

We would like to thank Ken Ryan for providing us with a teacher substitution at the REAL Program for the beginning of this year. Ken is awaiting his teaching certification so that he may begin his full time career as a teacher. He has provided us with some valuable insight into the operation of The REAL Program and will temporarily assist us with more course development that will aid us in our move toward private school licensing.

## Employment Opportunities

We are currently looking for individuals for the following position:

- **Full Time (Contract) Child and Youth Worker/Residential Counsellor**

## Quote of the Month:

Don't knock the weather. If it didn't change once in a while, nine out of ten people couldn't start a conversation. *Ken Hubbard*

## 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

Carole Sylvain and Rachael Greenland-Smith

