



Newsletter

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Message from the Director

In June of this year, the Child Advocates report was released. The report 'summarizes the findings of a systemic review of the quality of care provided to children and youth who received residential services while in the care of three provincially mandated Children's Aid Societies. The report identified that 278 young people were spoken with about their 'lived experiences' in residential settings.

The report makes 26 recommendations in the hopes that we re-examine the response we make to the quality of care to children and youth in care as well as how we embrace children in care.

Unfortunately Outside Paid Resources are more often viewed as institutions in philosophy and practice. It is viewed as being like custody, intolerant, disrespectful, rigid, and intrusive. Staffing is seen as insufficient and unqualified. We need to understand that each of us has the ability to change this method of care. As CYW's, we have the ability to challenge group home culture, to challenge beliefs in why the operation is what it is. Child and Youth Workers are making pathways into all facets of social services. I find that we are seeing more and more CYW's in Children's Aid Societies, school settings and in mental health. We are a specialized profession. We need to have the confidence to understand that it is Child and Youth Workers who can address and meet all 26 of the recommendations on the OCFSR Report.

Jennifer Foster- Director of Service

What's New at Jen's Place?

We would like to welcome Alexandra Cowie. Alix is our newest staff member, joining our newly created semi-independence program as a Parent Counsellor.

We would also like to welcome Michael Bacchus to our team. He is joining our team of Relief Residential Counsellors ☺

We have recently had the sad departure of two of our full time staff. We will sadly miss Ken Dutka, the Coordinator of the REAL Program and Stephanie Scales, one of our Residential Counsellors. We wish the both of you great success in your future endeavors.

Bed Availability

We accept youth ages 11-18 years.

We currently do not have any (0) beds available. Please contact Jen Foster or Jennifer Dymont for more information

The REAL Program

We are currently hiring for our Day Program Coordinator. If you are a Child and Youth Workers with educational experience and are interested in this position, please contact Jennifer Dymont for more information at (705)435-3080.



CYW Views

As our current population of residents is growing older, thus moving closer to the age of 18 and independence, we have been looking at the most important factors of skill building for this population. Certain independent living skills are obvious but we find as we go along that are other skills that are just as important but not so apparent.

The Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment- Youth Level 3 provides a great outline of skills to consider when guiding a semi-independence plan. The following are some of the items on the assessment that can often be forgotten when we examine necessary skills;

Communication

- I know where to get help if my feelings are bothering me
- I can ask for help if I need it
- I ask questions to make sure I understand something someone has said

Daily Living

- I store food so it doesn't spoil or go bad
- I prevent or minimize roaches, ants, mice, mold, mildew, etc.
- I can fix my clothes when they need it, like sewing on a button
- I follow the basic fire prevention and safety rules for where I live

Housing and Money Management

- I have 2 ways to save money on things I buy
- I can interpret pay stub information
- I can understand and respond to ads for housing

Self Care

- I can take care of minor injuries and illnesses
- I can identify when I need to shower, use deodorant, etc.
- I can make appointments with my doctor, dentist or clinic when needed
- I know where to go to get a replacement for my birth certificate or SIN Card

Social Relationships

- I show appreciation for things others do for me
- I deal with my anger without violence

Work and Study Skills

- I use the library, newspaper, computer or other resources to get information

We are currently looking for mature and responsible CYW for

- Day Program Coordinator
- Full time Overnight Residential Counsellor
- One to one contract work
- Relief positions.

If you are interested, please forward a resume to Jennifer Dymant at fax number (705)435-6109 or jdymant@jens-place.org

Quote of the Month:

*Love makes your soul crawl
out from its hiding place*
Pearl Bailey

Stats

- Jen's Place has not had a single restraint in 24 months- yes two years!
- The majority of our Serious Occurrence's this year (4 out of 5) have been for missing children. In actuality only one of those were missing. The other three were residents who never made it home for curfew

Services Provided

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

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

