



Newsletter

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Message from the Director

Jen's Place had applied approximately two years ago for a therapeutic foster care program with the Ministry and recently we have been approved to move forward with the process. We are extremely excited about this program and the anticipation of being able to provide an encompassing program to both our existing residents and new youth.

With that, we need to begin the recruitment of therapeutic foster parents (Parent Counsellor's). Our intention is to recruit Parent Counsellors who demonstrate a higher level of skill and/or training and who is able to provide care for youth who present with complex challenges to his or her development and/or behaviour. The Parent Counsellor will be able to care for the youth in a therapeutic as well as nurturing approach that is consistent with the mission and objectives of Jen's Place.

Jen's Place will also offer our residents a number of additional services;

- Comprehensive Plan of Cares incorporating **ONLAC** Key Developmental Dimensions
- Individualized **behaviour management** programs
- Tri-weekly and as needed consultations with a Registered **Psychologist**
- **Child and Family Assessment Scale (CAFAS)**
- Attendance to **The REAL Program** – education program provided to youth who reside at Jen's Place
- On-staff **Social Worker/Therapist**
- Program **Medical Team**
- Qualified and hands-on ownership
- Full time employees mandated Membership to the **Ontario Association of Child and Youth Counsellors**.
- Initial **PRIDE training** completed

For more information about the program or the recruitment of Parent Counsellors, please contact either Jennifer Foster or Jennifer Dymant.

What's New at Jen's Place?

Happy Anniversary this month to Shaunacey Hamilton, our therapist for two (2) years now and Mike Bacchus, one of our fabulous relief workers for one year.

Happy birthday this month to Alison Childs and to Mike Bacchus!

We have started redecorating the girls' rooms thanks to the donations from IKEA. This redecorating includes painting, new bedding (sheets, comforters, and pillows), new curtains, and some creative designing. Thanks again IKEA!

Jen's Place and the OACYC have recently put out the call for papers for our 2009 Conference 'Achieving Gold.' If anyone or agency is interested in opportunities for presentations, exhibits/vendors, poster presentation, volunteering or sponsorship, please contact Jennifer Foster.

Bed Availability

We accept youth ages 11-18 years. We currently have one (1) bed for a female coming available in August. Please contact Jen Foster or Jennifer Dymant for more information

Quote of the Month

So the rare individual who unselfishly tries to serve others has an enormous advantage. He has little competition.

Dale Carnegie

The REAL Program

The summer time brings a quiet time for our school program and therefore an opportunity to diligently work on the process for our move toward licensing for a private school. The Ministry has accepted our application and we are currently working on formalizing our curriculum and the required school documentation and policies. The Ministry review of the program will be held sometime before February 2009

We are currently involved in some students completing their correspondence courses through our program and the ILC. If you are interested in having a youth participate in correspondence courses *with* academic support, contact Theresa for more information.

As well, the REAL Program is relocating to Unit 11. It was determined that the program space was not functional for our program and has been moved to 169 Dufferin St. Unit 11, Alliston.

If you have any questions regarding the program or registration for the fall, contact Theresa Tonon at 169 Dufferin Street South, Unit 11. The direct number to the REAL Program is 705-241-8079.

Employment Opportunities

We are currently looking for individuals for the following position:

• **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

CYW Views

I had an interesting conversation recently that challenged my thinking around the importance of feeling professionals or being competent. The philosopher John Dewey identified that the deepest urge in human nature is the desire to be important. I, like many many people assumed that to achieve his feeling, we must become professionals. However, I recently read a parable that I felt I should share that puts that opinion into perspective.

A group of graduates, well established in their professional careers, was talking at a reunion and decided to go visit their old university professor, now retired. During their visit, the conversation turned to complaints about stress in their work and lives. Offering his guests hot chocolate, the professor went into the kitchen and returned with a large pot of hot chocolate and an assortment of cups - porcelain, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite – telling them to help themselves to the hot chocolate.

When they all had a cup of hot chocolate in hand, the professor said: 'Notice that all the nice looking, expensive cups were taken, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. It is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves. However, the cup that you're drinking from adds nothing to the quality of the hot chocolate. In most cases, it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was hot chocolate, not the cup; but you consciously went for the best cups... And then you began eyeing each other's cups.

Now consider this: Life is the hot chocolate; your job, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools. The cup you have does not define, nor change the quality of life you have. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the hot chocolate.

The most skillful people don't have to be seen as the best. They just make the best of everything that they have.

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly...
And enjoy your hot chocolate.