



Newsletter

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Message from the Director

The city of Toronto in all its splendor and/or misery is something of great debate right now. From my perspective, I grew up in the city and left a decade ago. It is a city of splendor, opportunity and most importance inclusion. It invites us to events, parades, cultural celebrations and we have found the experience to be extremely positive for our youth and have given us limitless opportunities to celebrate diversity. We had two occasions recently to look to the city to support our youth in their self-identification and diversity issues.

The first includes the wonderful Aboriginal festivities and celebrations held throughout the city in June. This has provided our youth, in particular our Native youth, an opportunity to be proud of and to put at the centre of attention (for all the good and healthy reasons) her culture, traditions and rituals, something we will attempt to continue to foster. The second is Gay Pride week at the end of June. This event is personally very close to my heart and an incredible opportunity for some of our youth to experience the beauty and support of the Gay Community in the GTA. Many of our youth question and/or struggle with the developmentally normal issue of sexual orientation. They question 'where do I fit, who am I and am I alone?' In attending, an event during Gay Pride Week our youth are provided the opportunity to really see that they can really be whoever they really are.

Thanks again to the city of Toronto and the opportunities you provide to all of us in the Golden Horseshoe. I will celebrate with you on June 29th and invite all of you to join us in the celebration.

Jenn Dymont – Director of Programming

Quote of the Month:

Human beings, by changing the inner attitudes of their minds, can change the outer aspects of their lives

William James

What's New at Jen's Place?

We would like to welcome Angie Banks, who joins our relief team for the summer. Angie was with the REAL Program for the semester and will be joining the residential program for the summer before she moves out to Alberta in September.

Happy birthday this month to Wendy Neely our weekend part time staff member.

Marie Gross, our full time overnight staff has left Jen's Place this month. We wish Marie well in all her future endeavors.

We have also recently had to say good-bye to Johnny Canning, our CYW Assistant at the REAL Program. The school year has ended and Johnny moves on to other endeavors. Good luck!

This month, Jennifer Foster and Ann Madill were able to attend the two-day 'Girls are Different 2009' conference sponsored by MCYC.

Alana Bell and Jennifer Foster were able to participate in the PRIDE Module 2 training for foster care. This was provided through Simcoe CAS.

The end of May and so far in June has brought about many different opportunities for novel experiences to our residents. A few of them were able to participate in a taping of the CBC show 'The Hour'. A few got a chance to play 'Guitar Hero' with George Stroumboulopoulos and were able to see Mike Holmes from Holmes on Homes. Afterwards, everyone was able to experience Toronto 'Street Meat' (Hotdogs), and then we went over to across from Pearson Airport to experience the planes landing overhead. It was a fabulous first time experience for some of the girls!

The REAL Program

The R.E.A.L. Program ends their 2007/2008 school year with a bang! We are incredibly proud of all of our students who worked so hard this year. We are also thrilled to announce that each student that has been with us since the beginning earned at least one high school credit, some even earned three!!! The students that attended the program this year were an absolute delightful and inspiring group of individuals, who proved you could achieve great things if you work hard and believe in yourself! They will all be sadly missed, as they descend into a new venture in their lives. Some will be going back to mainstream high school, others will be moving onto independence. We wish them the best of luck and success! Special thanks to this year's college students, Jennifer Burke and Angie Banks from the Addictions/Substance Abuse Counselling Program through Everest College. We could not have done it without their dedication and kindness!

If you have any questions regarding the program or registration for the fall, contact Theresa Tonon at 169 Dufferin Street South, Unit 2. The direct number to the REAL Program is 705-241-8079.

Bed Availability

We accept female youth ages 11-18 years.

We currently have zero (0) beds available.

Please contact Jen Foster or Jennifer

Dymert for more information

Employment Opportunities

We are currently looking for individuals for the following position:

- **We currently have no positions available**

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

One of the more popular theories in adolescent resiliency is the '40 Developmental Assets'. These are concrete, common sense, positive experiences & qualities essential to raising successful young people. They have the power during critical adolescent years to influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults.

EXTERNAL ASSETS

Support	Family Support Positive Family Communication Other Adult Relationships Caring Neighbourhood Caring School Climate Parent Involvement in Schooling
Empowerment	Community Values – Youth Youth as resources Services to others Safety
Boundaries and Expectations	Family Boundaries School boundaries Neighbourhood Boundaries Adult Role Models Positive peer Influences High Expectations
Constructive Use Of Time	Creative Activities Youth Programs Religious Community Time at Home

INTERNAL ASSETS

Commitment to Learning	Achievement motivation School Engagement Homework Bonding to School Reading for Pleasure
Positive Values	Caring Equality and Social Justice Integrity Honesty Responsibility Restraint
Social Competencies	Planning and decision-making Interpersonal Competence Cultural Competence Resistance Skills Peaceful Conflict Resolution
Positive Identity	Personal Power Self-esteem Sense of purpose Positive view of Personal future