



Newsletter

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www.jens-place.org

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Message from the Director

Sometimes in the hustle and bustle of our job and the daily tasks of taking care of the youth we work with, we often forget the finer details of what we do.

Recently we received an intake package for a youth that included a wonderful social history. Although it was not lengthy, it gave us great insight into who this youth has been and who is now. It was exciting to see the various important aspects of this youth's life during various snap shots in time.

It is also impressive to see that the people who have traveled this journey with this youth have remained the same and committed. This stability in workers and support systems can only serve to benefit us and ultimately this youth in the upcoming developmental transitions.

Jenn Dymont and I remain in contact with some of our kids in care from our life at CAS over 4

The REAL Program

Once again, we are beginning to plan for our participation in the Alliston Potato Festival. Our intentions are to have the youth involved once again. Ken Dutka and his wife Jennifer have done a great job every year and Ken is looking to expand our involvement into the parade on the Friday evening before the festival. Our goal is to create a positive reputation for our youth in the community and to have the youth feel a part of a community and acceptance in it. Youth who have participated in the face painting in previous years have truly enjoyed the experience.

*FYI- Report cards go home at the end of June"
For information about the REAL Program, please visit our web site at www.jens-place.org or contact Ken Dutka at (705) 716-6778.

What's New at Jen's Place?

Well the biggest news of this month is that Karen and Curtis Mabee had a baby boy on May 9th. Scott Daniel is his name and he looks like his dad. Congratulations Karen and Curtis and all the best for the next year!!



Just an FYI to Resource Departments, we will be going through Licensing with the Ministry on May 31st for the Group Home Program.

A number of our staff will be away from June 12th to the 15th to attend the Ontario Association of Child and Youth Counsellors Conference in Sudbury. For more information on this conference, please visit the website at www.oacyc.org

Happy Birthday this month to Alana Bell. Alana will also be returning to her position of Residential Counsellor in mid-June. It will be great to have her back.

Bed Availability

We accept youth ages 11-18 years. We currently have one (1) bed available for a male. Please contact Jen Foster or Jennifer Dymont for more information

CYW Views

As CYW's, we are consistently looking for new therapeutic activities. As individuals change, group dynamics change and the needs of the youth evolve, we must adjust our interventions accordingly. One of the most engaging therapeutic interventions is the use of games, crafts and fun activities. Given the incredible amount of resources available to choose from, it can become an overwhelming task just to pick something to do. So here are a few guidelines when considering a therapeutic activity for an individual or a group of kids:

- Have a strong theoretical foundation- do not ignore clinical theory.
- Know your audience - understand the level of each child's functioning, any emotional, behavioural or cognitive deficits. As well, understand the child's ability to tolerate emotionally laden materials
- Ensure the activity will meet the clients TREATMENT needs- Sequence activities to engage the child at the beginning, middle or end. Do not plan activities that are too emotionally intense or involve great risk at the beginning. Celebrate the child's achievement
- Be well prepared- Review the activity, gather materials, allot the appropriate amount of time and plan for the unexpected
- Set firm but fair limits- Establish boundaries so to limit any anxiety or to address the child's skill in self-control
- Never force a child to participate in the activity- Coercing a child will increase tension and resistance. Adapt the activity if necessary and/or explore his or her feelings about their level of participation
- Listen- make the child feel important because they were heard. Focus on verbal and non-verbal cues. Use reflective listening skills
- Do not underestimate the value of the therapeutic relationship- create an atmosphere of safety, acceptance, understanding and respect. Be sensitive and do not judge.
- Recognize that the activity is only part of the treatment plan- treatment planning is fairly comprehensive and multifaceted. Make sure that the activity compliments interventions being utilized
- Remember the process is more important than the product

* Taken from 'Creative Interventions for Troubled Children and Youth- Liana Lowenstein'

Happy One-Year Anniversary to Stephanie Scales, Katie Warren-McCullough and Stephanie Dunklee. Stephanie D joined our team last May to complete her final CYW placement from Humber and is now completing her second maternity contract with us. This is very exciting, now the newest members of our staff team have been with us for a year. Way to go team.

We are currently looking for mature and responsible CYW for one to one contract work and relief positions. If you are interested, please forward a resume to Jennifer Dymont at fax number (705)435-6109 or jdymont@jens-place.org

Quote of the Month:

What the world really needs is more love and less paperwork.

Pearl Bailey

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

Jen's Place provides services that include community parent-child supervised visits. This is a fee for service endeavor and is extended to community members. For more information, please contact Jennifer Foster @ Jen's Place.

