



# Newsletter

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

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## Message from the Directors

Jenn and I had the opportunity to be involved in a number of meetings this month that has demonstrated that there are some positive changes in Residential Care coming along. It appears that we are at a crossroad in this field and that the values that Jen's Place has embraced are flourishing within this field. People are demanding change. Academia, the Ministry, CYC, and residential specific organizations are rising to the challenge. Residential programs themselves must look to change or to collapse.

This month, we have participated in a visioning workshop where stakeholders were able to discuss how to create an effective residential care system. We have also participated in a working group to establish a consistent system for identifying the characteristics of a residential program, and a standard financial formula for each child in group and foster care. This month we met an international foster care organization that has demonstrated a commitment to foster children through an effective foster care program that has been so successful, it is currently expanding to five other countries as well as Newfoundland and Ontario.

These changes are all promising because ultimately they lead to the better operation of programs for kids in care and the finally deserve it!

Jennifer Foster- Director

## The REAL Program

Jen's Place is currently interviewing for a Certified Teacher for the REAL Program. The choice to move forward with hiring a teacher has resulted from the departure of Theresa Tonon from Jen's Place and the confirmation that licensing of the REAL Program, as a private school will be finalized in February 2009. The expected start date is mid October.

If you have any questions about the REAL Program, please contact (705) 435-3080

## **HAPPY 4TH ANNIVERSARY**

### What's New at Jen's Place?

Happy Anniversary to Jen's Place as of September 4th!

Happy Anniversary this month to Carole Sylvain. It has been 3 years! Happy Anniversary this month to Mark Simms, it has been 4 whole years!

Theresa Tonon has sadly chosen to leave the REAL Program to pursue her interest in treatment foster care. Theresa was a great addition to our school program and has done a great job in advancing the REAL Program toward our private school license. ☹

Our staff has participated in an all day training regarding Serious Occurrences and the new rules, guidelines and forms. The new guidelines started on July 31<sup>st</sup> and Jen's Place is prepared.

Jen's Place staff will be travelling to PEI in October to participate in the National Child and Youth Care Conference.

### Bed Availability

**We accept youth ages 11-18 years. We currently do not have any (o) beds available  
Please contact Jen Foster or Jennifer  
Dymont for more information**

Jen's Place continues to plan the OACYC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference 'Achieving Gold' – June 24-26, 2009. It will be held at the Metropolitan Hotel/University of Toronto- 89 Chestnut. For complete information, please visit the website [www.oacychachievinggold.com](http://www.oacychachievinggold.com)

## Employment Opportunities

We are currently looking for individuals for the following position:

- **Treatment Foster Care Coordinator**
- **Residential Counsellors - Occasional Afternoon and Permanent Full Time Overnight**
- **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



## Quote of the Month

unless someone like you cares a whole awful  
lot,

Nothing is going to get better

its not

Dr. Seuss

## CYW Views

If you ever want to find an opportunity to figure out how 'uncool' you are as an adult, talk to a youth about graffiti. I recently had the opportunity to talk to a 'tagger' (an individual who writes a signature with marker, spraypaint, scribes, or sandpaper on property rather than doing a piece). What I had discovered was that graffiti really is a culture. It has a very sophisticated history, its own language; it is guided by its own rules. Graffiti has its own set of heroes and icons and wannabes. Most of what is produced is meaningful to those who are a part of the culture.

As complex as the graffiti culture may be, most tags are random acts of vandalism and in any case are participating in an illegal act. Here are some indicators of whether or not a child/youth is a tagger:

- The child frequently wears a large backpack or baggy pants - packs and loose clothing can be used to hold paint cans and carry graffiti tools
- Clothing may be paint stained/has paint on the tip of their fingers/permanent marker stains on hands
- The child carries tools used for etching glass
- The child has large quantities of magic markers, shoe polish containers, etching tools, spray paint, bug spray, starch cans or other devices for drawing
- The child has these items and no income to afford them
- The child has graffiti magazines, flyers, piece book/portfolio of tags
- The child possesses large quantities of "my name is" stickers or other large stickers used for sticker tagging
- The child's internet browser has bookmarks to graffiti advocate websites
- The child has photographs of graffiti and tags on walls that look familiar to you

A graffiti crew is a group of individuals who work together to create huge pieces and murals to make their crew as famous as they can. Local crews are not well respected by graffiti artists, as the intention is pure vandalism. This is demonstrated by the unorganization, lack of artistic ability and cause. They usually tag with names like FTP (F\*\*\* the Police) or SSR (Slippery Sam's Recruiting), etc