



THE INSIDER

21ST CENTURY UPGRADES

The WorkFirst Program is going to be moving into the 21st century with a totally new computer network, thanks to the Province (MHSD) who is funding an upgrade to our current computer system.

No longer will we be on a Wireless network, but instead working off of our own server with all the latest programs. We will be getting rid of the three computers in the resource room and replacing them with five Wyse terminals (dumb boxes) that will be connected to the server.

Clients will not be able to save any data on the server but will instead be given a 2GB Flash Drive on which to keep their data files.

Though only in preliminary discussion, we are recommending to Management that we take the very old computers from Ed's office and the resource room and set one up upstairs and one in the Library/TV Room area. These will not have internet access... but would be available to clients to use for word processing, exchange of music, games, etc.

The other computers from the resource room will be redistributed to replace Ed's old machine and the Residential Worker's old machine.

We will be switching the current resource room and Al's office to allow more space and air conditioning for the resource room.

WorkFirst

All of this will be happening over the next two to three weeks. There will be periods of time where the resource room will not be available during this period.

With the changes to WorkFirst we will be adding internet to the residential workers computer, both at Howard House and Gateway... residential workers will also be given an email address so that all memos etc. will now be paperless... You will need to make sure you check your mail all the time...

JHSNOK NOW HAS ITS OWN WEB PAGE!

Check it out: www.jhsnok.ca

Starting Monday, March 23, 2009 our website is live. As with any website it is a continuously developing process. If you have any suggestions for the website, let Al know.

One idea currently under development is a Picture Gallery (broken down into categories) for example: pictures of client and staff art.

We are also working on setting up a "JHSNOK Intranet" ...an internal website where we can put such items as policy manuals etc. Also if you see any typos let me know so I can fix them. I intend to train several staff on updating the web (Franco and Nina).

Al Beck

TARGET

Starting April 1, 2009, John Howard Society will have an Employee Peer Encouragement Award. This award is called the T.A.R.G.E.T. Award. T.A.R.G.E.T. stands for: Thank you, Appreciation, Recognition, Good job, Encouragement, and Teamwork.

The idea of the T.A.R.G.E.T. award is that staff will nominate fellow employees to say thank you for a job well done; to show their appreciation for their co-workers efforts; to recognize excellence that may otherwise go unnoticed; and to encourage each other to build a team. All nominations will remain anonymous.

The ground rules for the T.A.R.G.E.T. award nomination process will be posted in the RW office starting on April 1. There will be one winner every month that will be chosen at random from all the nominations gathered throughout that month. The awards will be handed out on the last working day of each month.

CAMP OKANAGAN OUTREACH/LIAISON TEAM (C.O.O.L.)



The City of Vernon, Safe Communities Policing Unit, By-Law, Social Planning, John Howard Society and many other organizations' representatives have

been working hard to formulate various issues that will assist individuals that utilize camps (homeless camps). One of these items is the formation of a team consisting of a variety of outreach workers that would have the ability to visit the camps.

The call out center for the team will be run from the Gateway Shelter. Team members are not required to respond when called, which is why a relatively large number of members is beneficial.

Team members are employees or volunteers of their respective organizations and are volunteering their time unless otherwise indicated within their organizations. Team members must have the approval of their organization.

Members of the C.O.O.L. Team may be called to visit a homeless camp for, but not limited to the following:

- Various outreach providers on the team may require additional personnel for safety and security reasons
- Encourage clients to access shelters, housing and/or housing programs
- Encourage camp cleanliness & safety
- To provide support to the Street Nurse as they provide medical assistance, needle exchange, distributes warm beverages and snacks, etc.
- Assist By-Laws with camp notification of decommissioning and assessment of camp

Armed with goody bags containing survival information and snacks, teams spread out in the early hours of the morning on June 2, 2009 to document the number of homeless people in Vernon and Goldstream.

They found evidence of a number of encampments and spoke to some homeless people. The numbers seemed to be down from last year, which could be attributed to the opening of Gateway, a low barrier shelter. A second mission is planned for July.

Kelly Fehr

Manager of Shelter Services

On February 26, 2009 Kelly attended a meeting in Kamloops with representatives from a variety of shelters from within the province of B.C. The purpose of the meeting was to poll the collective mind and come up with a Client Centered Case Plan tool that can be used across B.C.

Some of the suggestions for the Case Plan form are as follows:

- A tool that supports Emergency Shelter Planning (ESP)
- Meets demands of funders
- Consistent across B.C.
- Provides for essential services
- Customizable

- Acts as a guide to implement goals
- Sensitive to client initiated case plan changes
- Supported by other tools used by the service provider
- Has clearly defined steps and tasks
- Provides for: assessment, advocacy, service planning, assistance/benefits/income acquisition, service linkage, monitoring, outcome reporting and evaluation, and discharge planning.

Hopefully the draft of this new case plan tool will go before BC Housing for approval sometime in April.



JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY VALUES

What does the John Howard Society stand for?

It is important to look at some of the core values and principles of the John Howard Society as these are the bedrock of the society all across Canada, and as such, we too as employees are mandated to uphold these values

regardless of what our personal views and beliefs are.

Capital Punishment

JHS has long been an opponent of the death penalty. Although Canada is one of a growing number of nations that have abolished the death penalty for any offence, our neighbor to the South, the United States has been a bad example. There are reasons to reaffirm our commitment to the abolition of the death penalty:

- ▶ In a civilized society, killing for retribution or revenge is wrong
- ▶ The death penalty is not a deterrent to murder
- ▶ Innocent people have been wrongfully executed
- ▶ Execution is a horrendous form of torture

The death penalty is unfair, and in the U.S. execution for murder has been used almost exclusively on people of color, and the poor as

well as on mentally challenged or mentally ill individuals.

Pope John Paul II states in 1999, that the dignity of human life should never be taken away, and that even those who have done great wrong should not be denied the chance to reform. Other

leaders and institutions have recognized that capital punishment is a violation of the principles of fundamental justice.

Research from:

"The Death Penalty: Any Nation's Shame, a publication of the John Howard Society of Ontario - available online



www.johnhowardsociety.ca/PDFs/FAct%20sheets/death%20penalty.pdf

JHS Core Values:

People have the right to live in a safe and peaceful society as well as a responsibility implied by the right to respect the law.

Every person has intrinsic worth and the right to be treated with dignity, equity, fairness and compassion without discrimination.

All people have the potential to become responsible citizens.

Every person has the right and the responsibility to be informed about, and involved in, the criminal justice process.

Justice is best served through measures that resolve conflicts, repair harm, and restore peaceful relations in society.

Independent, autonomous non-government voluntary organizations have a vital role in the criminal justice process.

"...remember that when you are out in the community, you are still often viewed as someone representing the John Howard Society."

STAFF

Shawn Reed



I joined the JHS in August of 2008. For the first time in my working life I have found something that I was meant to do. I spent five years on and off the streets, the majority of the 1990's on drugs. In the fall of 1996 I was sentenced to prison where I spent 11 months. It was there that I realized it was time to change my way of life and my way of thinking. After my release I got

married and started a family. A lot of time has passed since then; my boys are 13 and 11. I have since remarried and have two step-daughters, six and eight-year old girls. I have found my position at the Gateway Shelter amazing. I am able to help others like myself and pass on some of my knowledge. I look forward to whatever the JHS holds, and would like to thank all of the staff at Gateway and Howard House for this unique opportunity and unbelievable support.

Leanne Oberg



Leanne Oberg is our newest employee, hired as a bookkeeping assistant. Leanne, originally from the prairies, has lived in

Vernon for 12 years. She has extensive business experience with her own pool and hot tub storefront, and for many years as a seamstress and costume designer. In her non-work life she volunteers with 4-H clubs, and with regional Army and Navy and Pub League dart tournaments.

MILESTONES



Barb Levesque, Executive Director, and Calvin, a Howard House resident, display Calvin's newest Native crest painting to grace our walls.

The Residential Worker's office and overhead deck is almost completed. We mock Construction worked with four of our clients - Don, Kevin, Russell and Keith - to expand the office, replace walls and windows, and completely rebuild and resurface the deck. Looks great guys!



Glenn Sawyer

I have been a resident at the John Howard Society for 16 months. The JHS has helped me find assistance for my medical and dental problems. They have helped me "immensely" - by allowing me into their in-house Alcohol and Drug program. I've grown with the help of the availability of counseling, computer courses, and the fact that the employees will bend an ear (not pretending) to actually listen.



Next Deadline for "The Insider" is May 1, 2009. Contributions can be sent to:
jhsnina@shaw.ca

All staff are welcome to contribute with articles, pictures, resources, quotes, etc.