



## Our Children – Our Future

Summer 2011  
Volume 14, Issue 1

*Excerpts from a speech by  
Cathy, - a Central Saanich  
Club mom who spoke at  
our AGM....*

"For the past seven years my two boys have been a part of the Central Saanich Boys and Girls Club. They have gone from after school care being picked up by the leaders, to being the big kids at club. Through all of that, the club has been a place to learn outside of school. Colton is very proud of his record, going each and every day all summer long to camp, as a volunteer, this made a huge impact on his self-esteem and outlook on things. These are memories that will last a lifetime.

Today I would like to thank Magda, without your support and friendship I would not be here today. To thank all of the leaders at our club that have always been helpful and supportive and ensured our kids were in a safe fun positive environment. Their love has gone way beyond the walls of club. Their kindness, compassion, hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed, my kids are living proof. Thank you."

Read more on our  
AGM on page 6..

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### WILD ABOUT WHALES - AN INAUGURAL EVENT

I woke up at 3:30 in the morning of the Wild About Whales Derby to an ominous sound – rain was just pelting down which certainly did not augur well for the event! The weather gods were on our side, however, and the rain cleared up. While the sky never cleared completely it did warm up and the set up crew got to work at 11:00 am. We were well ready for our anticipated family visitors and had a steady stream of people checking out the children's activities where the hits were definitely the Froggy Fly Fling and the whale games. Many more people 'adopted' whales in time for the race and guests and volunteers alike enjoyed the delicious hamburgers and hot dogs our great concession team grilled up.

But as three o'clock neared you could feel the anticipation in the air as the running of the whales was really the draw for so many people. It was hard to resist crowding the walkway along the Gorge to get a gander at just what all those little whales were going to look like floating down the waterway. Of course, those of us who bought a ticket (or two or three!) were also anxious to cheer on our particular whales as there were great prizes at stake.

Well, the best laid plans often go awry and the short delay in getting underway was to create a bit of a problem for a lot of the little whales. The boom surrounding the whales was pulled out ways in to the channel and opened up. There were definitely some front runners but we watched from shore to see many getting hung up near the wall and then, horrors of all horrors, we could tell the tide was shifting! But never fear, our race coordinators had it in hand and then quickly pulled into place the booms establishing the finish line and the winning

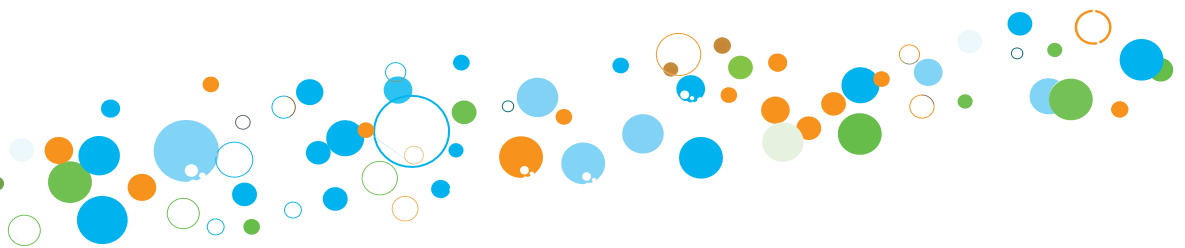
whales were scooped from the whale trap.

Whale number 3746 won \$2500 and the 'adoption certificate' was held by Danielle Topliss. Second place was whale 410 and this was held by Kathryn Haughton. Kathryn won the trip for 2 anywhere WestJet flies. Whale 3353 came in third and Jennifer Kahn won the day sail on the HMSC Oriole. Maritta Zimmerman's whale 3136 won the BBQ & accessories worth \$1,000 from Canadian Tire. Whale 3170, held by Jennifer Dayne, won the Long Beach Lodge package and coming in sixth was whale 2871. Shean Beardsley had adopted that whale on the very first day we had begun the adoption process. Shean won an xBox and Kinect bundle from Future Shop.



Our incredible team of volunteers did a very quick clean up and from the event in the Gorge Park we all moved to the reception at the Hotel Grand Pacific. We were treated to scrumptious appetizers and watched in great amusement at the people who took up the challenge of the Chip a Whale contest. We were also delighted to hear Rear Admiral Roger Girouard, our Honorary Chair, speak about the fun he had being involved and that it was easy to get caught up in the

Continued on page 3



## NEWS BITS

### Word Play

We launched three new literacy and numeracy programs at our Harbourside Club this spring thanks to generous grants from TELUS Community Board and Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada Foundation. 'Lunch Books', 'Word Play' and 'Numbers at Night' introduce children aged 5-10 to a variety of fun games and activities with the underlying goal of building their literacy skills and aiding their growth in the classroom. We are very grateful to our donors for helping us address our participants' needs for extra help in this area.

### Millstream Kids Get Wild Outdoors!

Our facility in Metchosin offers visitors adventure and challenge. However the additional cost of transport, equipment and specialized staff time can sometimes put trips to the facility out of the program budget. A recent 'Healthy Active Kids Grant' from Wonder + (George Weston Ltd.) allows our Millstream Club program to visit the camp once a week, giving members access to the challenge course, the agricultural garden, the climbing tower, canoeing, and much more. These kinds of activities are not provided by other after school programs in the area and are not within the leisure budget of most of the families we serve. This grant introduces our after school participants to a broad range of activities, fostering in them a love for physical activity in the outdoors and helping

them learn important skills about team work, leadership and overcoming challenges. Thank you Wonder +!

### Pink Shirts Send Bullies a Clear Message

The 3rd annual Pink Shirt Day was a success in the Victoria community. Schools, businesses and many other organizations showed their support for our anti-bullying message through the wearing of pink shirts and other organized activities. At Boys & Girls Clubs, we used games, drama and arts and crafts to explore the issue of bullying with children and youth. Our message is that it is not enough to stand by and watch; bullies need to know that their behaviour is not acceptable. Pink shirts were sold out across the country this year, so we recommend you order yours early in time for next year's event in February 2012!



### New Office Hours

We're springing forward again at Boys & Girls Clubs! As of May 1st, 2011, the office opening hours in our

1240 Yates Street location changed from 8:00 to 8:30am. Don't worry, we'll still be here until 4:30pm everyday and until 1:00pm on Fridays. You can find out about changes like this, and all other news and events, at our website, [www.bgcvic.org](http://www.bgcvic.org). Also check us out on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bgcvic](http://www.facebook.com/bgcvic).

### Luv a Rug

Bill & Denise Downs (Downs Construction) are our Harbourside Club Champions and through their auspices we have developed other supportive relationships. One of those is with Luv a Rug who has supplied a couple of area rugs as well as cleaning services. Thank you Bill & Denise and thank you Luv a Rug!

### We Thank Our Donors

We are so grateful to the growing list of supporters who show their commitment to the children, youth and families of Greater Victoria through donations to our Foundation. We could not do the important work we do without each and everyone of you.

While we do not have the space to list them all here, a full list of donors who have given between February 1st, 2010 and January 31st, 2011 is published in our annual report on our website which you can find at <http://www.bgcvic.org/about-us/annual-reports/>.

## HOPE ROBERTS

Recently we lost Hope Roberts, our Controller / HR and all around go to person, and her 20 years of cheerful dedicated service to our organization. There are a few among us who will share this loss for some time to come. And at some point or other every staff member would have sought Hope's advice on their budget or program expenses. While we all wish her success in her new position at Cool Aid Society we are really going to miss her.

Our new Manager of Finance and Administration, Bob Macdonald, joined us at the beginning of June. He has been hard at work filling some big shoes (figuratively speaking of course as Hope definitely didn't have big feet!) and tackling the many challenges of our organization in an ever changing environment.



## WILD ABOUT WHALES CONTINUED

enthusiasm for such a great cause. Jonathan Russell, an alumnus of Boys & Girls Clubs, also spoke about how much his experiences with us had impacted his life.

In my opinion, however, the most entertaining part of the evening was watching Iain Hooley, our auctioneer, work the crowd to much laughter and great effect. Most of the items went at value or above and it was wonderful to see so many people bidding items up – they realized this was adding to the success overall of the Wild About Whales event and would make a huge difference to us in our ability to support our after-school programs. I would like to offer a special thanks to our Event Chair, Cheryl d'Estrubé and to Astrid Braunschmidt of /A\ Vancouver Island for her always impeccable emceeing job. With their help and the help of the steering committee and so many other volunteers we netted close to \$21,000. We think we did a whale of a job!

### Sponsors

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#### **Auction Purchasers**

Astrid Braunschmidt  
Barry Cosgrave  
Geoff Davis  
Bill & Denise Downs  
Roger Girouard  
Greg Tarnopolsky  
Jamie Pearce  
Don Reed



## BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OWN A BIT OF HEAVEN ON EARTH

In 2004 we were offered an incredible opportunity – purchasing 98 acres in Metchosin where we had been operating programs since 1984. Previously owned by the provincial government, this property was deemed in excess of need and the province offered Boys and Girls Clubs first right of refusal. The Clubs had operated youth justice programs on the property for 20 years in addition to summer camps, outdoor education and adventure-based learning programs. This was an offer we couldn't turn down and we closed the sale in March 2004 with a purchase price of \$1.62 million. In December 2010 we made the last payment on our mortgage – what a great feeling of accomplishment! On top of that we had made many improvements to the property

“I am very proud of our team for accomplishing this in such a short period of time. Not only have we paid off the mortgage but we added facilities such as cabins, a climbing tower, shelters, washrooms and meeting space. This infrastructure was critical to expand programming,” said Dave Curtis, chair of the fundraising committee and past President of the Board of Boys & Girls Club Services. “The Camp is addressing the growing need to

preserve green space in our community for our children while providing opportunities to develop the skills that will take them to adulthood,” he added.

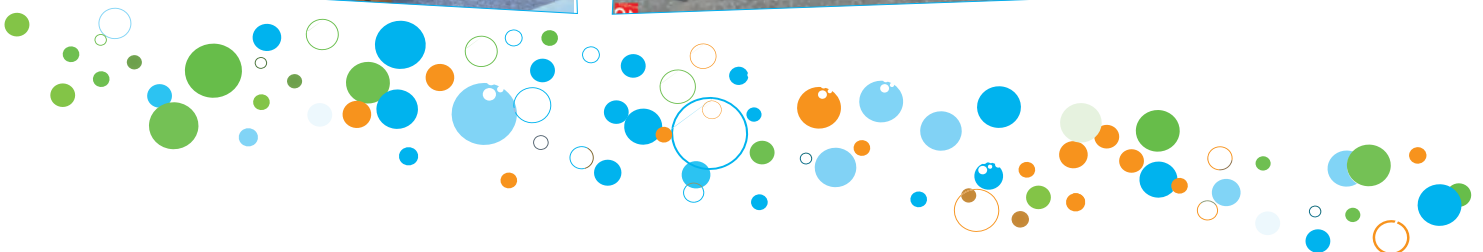
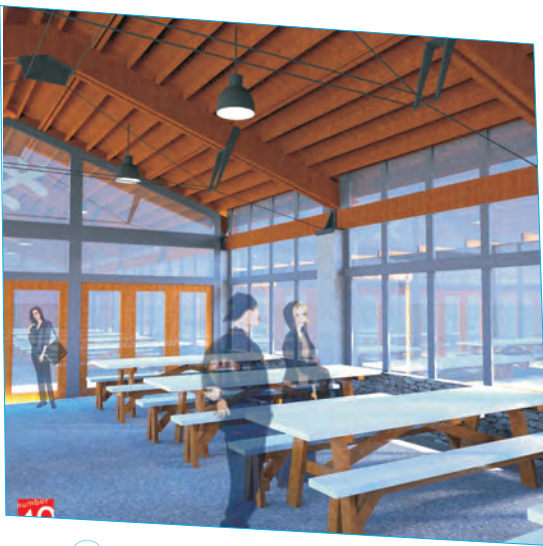
Clients utilizing the property and programs include public and private schools, post-secondary institutions and community organizations like Spectrum Job Search, Power To Be: Adventure Therapy Society, Scouts Canada, Women's Sexual Assault Center, Queen Alexandra Children's Hospital, Beacon Community Services, Burnside Gorge Community Association, Victoria Native Friendship Center, and Cool Aid Society.

In 2010 the camp increased revenues by 54% over the previous year which will be reinvested in programs and services. 1,165 youth, adults and families accessed services of which 883 were from public and private schools, community, or corporate groups. This is just the beginning. Our goal is to provide learning and skill development to 5,000 individuals and increase programming to 300 days a year.

“Securing funding for a new kitchen is our current priority. We have half of the funds in place for this important

piece of any camp but we still need approximately \$250,000 before we can finalize plans and get underway,” said Kris Charmley, President of Boys & Girls Clubs Services. “We will be seeking grants and donations in the coming months to match the amounts already received from The Vancouver Foundation and the Campbell family. We have a start on our mini-campaign as an anonymous donor has pledged \$50,000 as a matching challenge for which we are very grateful as this will certainly speed up the process.”

With a modern kitchen and dining area, we can reach out to larger groups who may wish to prepare their own food rather than having it brought in. It will also provide a central location for sharing meals – the kitchen really is the hub of a camp. So much more than cooking and eating takes place – it brings people together. If you are interested in making a donation to the matching challenge please contact Kate Mansell, Director of Development, at 250.384.9133 ext 115 or email her at [kmansell@bgcvic.org](mailto:kmansell@bgcvic.org).



## ON TOP OF THE WORLD FOR KIDS – HOW ONE MAN INSPIRED 40 KIDS TO RUN A MARATHON

Did you know that 34% of youth in Canada get fewer than two hours of exercise per week? That is one reason why our children are on course to be amongst the least healthy in Canada's history. Hopefully not Boys & Girls Club kids! In fact, participants of Harbourside Boys & Girls Club decided to help tackle child obesity by taking up a 'marathon' challenge and raising funds for after school programs that promote active living.

The challenge was laid down by Glenn Harkness, Executive Director of Boys & Girls Clubs of Hamilton, who set his sights on his own seemingly impossible challenge – the coolest marathon in the world at the North Pole! Glenn covered 42 gruelling kilometres at sub-zero temperatures in one of the most remote places in the world to raise awareness of the obesity epidemic facing youth. One of only 25 participants, and the only Canadian to race this year, Glenn trained for months to

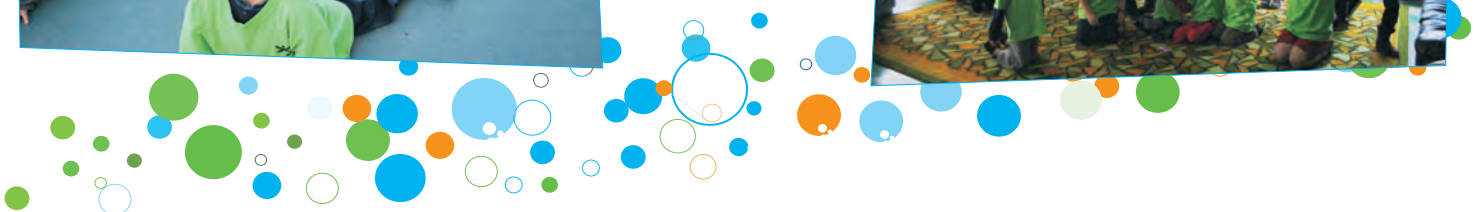
prepare for the tough race. The kids from our Harbourside Club were with him every step of the way.

Our club members completed their own marathon (or half-marathon for Kindergarten to Grade 3) over the course of 10 weeks during their regular after school club hours. Each runner also collected pledges to raise funds for Boys & Girls Clubs. Guest speakers and volunteers joined runs to help motivate the kids and keep them focused on their goal. Glenn also visited the club to share with them his belief that the experience of overcoming challenges, however big or small, leads to many positive life lessons.

On April 7th we learned that the North Pole marathon was delayed due to a large crack in the ice. So, in the end, the kids beat Glenn in the race to complete a marathon! We held a medal ceremony at which Mayor Desjardins presented each participant with an award for their dedication and

determination to reach their goal, as well as their own unique running styles! The next day, Glenn finished his own marathon in 6 hours and 18 minutes, exhausted and with a touch of frostbite to remind him of this great achievement.

We are so proud of our participants for completing this challenge in the true spirit of what Boys & Girls Clubs stand for - healthy kids and healthy communities. We are also very proud of Glenn, who faced enormous obstacles and overcame them, setting an example for us all. Our children have the remarkable responsibility of creating a better future, not just for themselves, but for our entire community. We hope they will continue to put on their running shoes regularly and race towards their dreams!



## CLAYTON WEBB - ALUMNI EXTRAORDINAIRE

"As a kid going up in Brentwood Bay my first interaction with the Boys and Girls Club was at age 6 when my mom took me to the Central Saanich club kicking, screaming and crying. With recently divorced parents I was resistant to change but when my mom picked me up at the end of program I was already thinking about when I'd get to come back next. I soon registered for the after school care program and new friends and mentors were soon made. I spent as much time as I could at the club, after school care, evening programs and in the summer it was off to camp to enjoy the wonders of the Metchosin Camp property.

With consistently attending after school care, evening programs and summer camp from the age of six there was no surprise that I would later make the jump into the youth leadership program, which led me to countless volunteer hours on a wide range of programs and events. This would soon lead me to my first paying job, cleaning the club and mowing its lawn on the weekend. This work would quickly be replaced by staffing

evening and after school programs where strong staff mentors and role models were able to help me develop my leadership potential and youth work skills. Soon a Boys and Girls Club Future Shop Future Leaders scholarship would help me further develop these skills as I attended the University of Victoria, working towards my recently completed Bachelor of Arts in Recreation and Health Education.

The strong foundation of skills that the Boys and Girls Club gave me has allowed me to continue to give back the types of experiences and mentorship that helped me so much growing up. Last year I was fortunate enough to be recognized by the United Way by being awarded 'Youth Worker of the Year' in the Youth Now Awards. I have now held positions in a variety of youth programs including wilderness camps, skateboard and surfing programs, municipal youth programming and youth leadership to name a few. I now am fortunate enough to be employed by an agency that often partners with Boys and Girls Club where I am lucky enough

to be able to provide adventure therapy to youth and other community members who are facing significant life challenges. I am also lucky enough to be able to occasionally return to my old stomping grounds of the Metchosin Camp where I remain employed as an auxiliary staff on the Adventure Based Learning program. I don't know where I'd be if the Boys and Girls Club hadn't impacted my life so heavily, but I do know I certainly wouldn't be where I am today without it."



## AGM 2011

On Tuesday, June 21st friends, supporters, staff, members and board members gathered at the Delta Ocean Pointe for the Annual General Meeting. As usual, we dealt with official business as quickly as possible in order to leave time to celebrate our success and hear from speakers. During the Foundation segment of the meeting, we were pleased to welcome Michael O'Brien, of CIBC Wood Gundy, to the Foundation Board of Directors. Mike was part of a very important team who supported us for many years through the Vancouver Island Irish Poker Tournament and we look forward benefitting from his advice and support on that Board.

We were delighted to welcome four guest speakers who shared stories of

how Boys & Girls Clubs had impacted their lives or work. First up was 10 year old Tyson, who attends our Harbourside Club, Youth Leadership programs and summer camp. He told us about all the exciting things he gets to do and thanked Boys & Girls Club, 'for making the last three years so much fun!'

Tyson was followed by Cathy Campbell, a mom of two participants of the Central Saanich Club and Michelle Willis, a Child & Youth Counsellor from Bayside Middle School who works closely with the Central Saanich Club to meet the needs of children and families in that community. Finally, we heard from Linae and Robyn, two young moms from our Care Home Parenting Program who are putting into practice

the parenting and life-skills they gained through the program in raising their new families. Linae has now become a breast feeding counsellor and taken on a volunteer mentor role with the program to share what she has learned with other new moms.

After the launch of the new website (see page 8), service awards were presented to staff. Congratulations to Pete Smolders and Jenny Thomson for 10 and 5 years of dedicated service respectively. For those donors and supporters who couldn't be with us on June 21st, Annual Reports will be mailed to you in the next few weeks, or you can see the report online at <http://www.bgcvic.org/about-us/annual-reports/>.

## TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Your support allows us to continue delivering quality programs that address the current needs of youth and their families. If you have not already supported us this year please take a moment to clip this page and send it along with your donation to Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Victoria Foundation, 1240 Yates St., Victoria, BC V8V 3N3. Official receipts will be issued for income tax purposes. You can also donate securely online by going to: <http://www.bgcvic.org/get-involved/donate-online/> CRA # 89051-1975 RR0001.

### Thank you for your support!

I wish to support Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Victoria Foundation. Enclosed is my investment of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Or  \$50  \$100  \$200  \$500  \$1,000

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I/We wish to make monthly contributions using a Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) on the first of each month. Please send me the necessary form to do this at the address above. Note: this form is on our website at [http://www.bgcvic.org/upload/docs/PAD\\_Agreement\\_Form.pdf](http://www.bgcvic.org/upload/docs/PAD_Agreement_Form.pdf)



## SIMON WHITFIELD WANTS YOU ON HIS TEAM - 2011 ANNUAL APPEAL

Two major components of Boys & Girls Club programming is encouraging healthy lifestyles and developing self-esteem. Through adventure, play, challenge and discovery, we encourage and empower children and youth to adopt positive lifestyle choices so that they can face challenges in life head on, with a healthy body and mind.

One role model who examples both of these things is Simon Whitfield, the Honorary Chair of our Annual Appeal this year. Victoria's favourite triathlete, and twice Olympic medalist, started his active lifestyle at a very young age through spending free time playing soccer. The proud father of two children makes it a priority to help them develop healthy habits at a young age too.

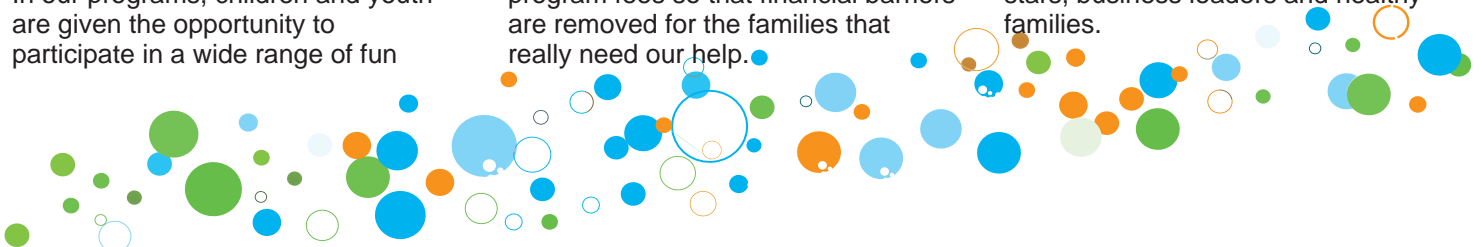
In our programs, children and youth are given the opportunity to participate in a wide range of fun

physical activities that might be otherwise unavailable to them. Boys & Girls Clubs also teaches young people how to make more positive food and lifestyle choices. Our day camps give children opportunities for fun, adventure and physical activity throughout the summer. And while they are having fun, they are also being challenged to reach just a little further and gain important skills like leadership and teamwork.

Every year in our appeal, we ask you to support the summer camp so that we can make sure it is accessible and affordable for the families in our community. With your support, we are able to offer a high standard of programming, that introduces kids to sports and activities their families wouldn't usually be able to afford. We are also able to offer subsidies for the program fees so that financial barriers are removed for the families that really need our help.

Simon's appeal should have reached your mail box by now, so we would like to echo his request for support and let you know that your donation, however small, will directly impact a family in your community. Despite the interruption in Canada Post services, there has been a significant response to the appeal this year. However, we need to raise more funds to be able to subsidize the summer camp for all the families that need it this year.

With a little help from you we can overcome the financial obstacles that some families face in trying to provide a summer their children will treasure forever, and in doing so, help tackle the obesity epidemic facing our country. Join Simon's team and invest in our future triathletes, hockey stars, business leaders and healthy families.





**Questions?** Call Kate Mansell at 250.478.3872  
or email her at [kmansell@bgcvc.org](mailto:kmansell@bgcvc.org)

## BOYS & GIRLS CLUB LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

With over 200 million websites floating around on the world wide web, it is hard to get noticed sometimes! However, with the launch of our new website at [www.bgcvic.org](http://www.bgcvic.org), we hope not only to get noticed but also to help you, our readers, get the information, stories and updates that you want more easily. The site features lots of great photography and news, as well as background information about our agency, our staff and our programs. The new design captures our passion for youth and

the site structure helps direct visitors easily to the pages that capture their interest.

We've also added a new section dedicated to resources for youth justice. This section aims to help young people, their parents and even professionals, understand and navigate the youth justice system and points them to places where they can get further information or assistance. We are extremely grateful to the

federal Department of Justice for a grant that allowed us to add these sections as well as incorporate some search engine optimization to help more people find us.

We invite you to explore the new site, check out the photo gallery, and enjoy all the other innovative features. While you are visiting, please sign up for our newsletter and 'like' our page on Facebook – then we will be truly connected to you in the digital world!

