



Boys & Girls Club Services
of Greater Victoria

Celebrating 50 Years of Caring for Kids and Community



Fall 2010 Volume 13, Issue 2

**"Strengthening Community through
Empowering Children, Youth and Families."**

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INTRODUCING PATTI SULLIVAN - OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Earlier this year, Patti Sullivan joined us our new Executive Director. We are delighted to have Patti at our helm and are already benefitting from the experience and fresh perspective she brings to the organization.

Patti is originally from Manitoba where she worked in a number of executive leadership roles including as CEO of both the Manitoba Women's Enterprise Centre and Clinic Community Health Centre and as Chief Operating Officer of Assiniboine Park Enterprise. She also served as Board Chair of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Complaints Commissioner for the Law Society of Manitoba and was an active member of the local Chamber of Commerce. She is an honorary Life Bencher of the Law Society of Manitoba. Winner of the 2006 YM-YWCA Woman of Distinction Award in the Business & Professional Category, Patti served as a volunteer, developing volunteer programs and leading volunteer based organizations.

"I see wonderful new opportunities in a respected organization like Boys & Girls Clubs and I look forward to working with the Board and staff to grow this organization for the benefit of kids and families," Patti said.

We are sure you will join us in welcoming Patti and wishing her the very best in this role as she leads us through the beginning of our next 50 years serving the Victoria community.



THE POWER OF FIVE - ANCHORING OUR YOUTH

It really is all about relationships. Our programs are infused with the Developmental Assets philosophy that research has demonstrated have tremendous power to protect children and youth from unhealthy choices and behaviours. One of the main principles of an asset-building approach is that relationships are key. This message was reinforced for us by Derek Peterson when he spoke at our 2010 Annual General Meeting.



Derek had a roomful of attendees trying to keep balloons afloat. Despite our efforts, many balloons ended up on the floor. But once he had us work together as a community (using everybody) we soon developed a common approach and in implementing it the balloons were a lot easier to keep afloat. Derek then had volunteers create webs from a string of wool, showing that the more anchor points a web has, the easier it is to catch the balloon, or keep it from falling through gaps. Every youth needs at least 5 caring and connected adults to anchor (provide the structure) for an individual web of support.

We know that parents and other caring adults have a very significant impact on youth during their formative years. The relationships that young people establish with adults will affect how they see the world and make choices when presented with difficult situations. The power of asset-building communities and 'anchors' was clearly demonstrated by Derek and are evident daily in our work with young people. Take, for example, this story that took place a few weeks ago in one of our programs (names have been changed to protect confidentiality).

While in a local dollar store, Sam, a youth worker, happened to overhear Jed and Kyle (two program

Continued on back page

CHECK OUT OUR 'RENOVATED' AND UPDATED WEBSITE - WWW.BGCVIC.ORG!

NEWS BITS

Philanthropy Starts Young

Not long ago a little girl came into our offices with her mom and deposited the entire contents of a pink sparkly purse on the counter! Her donation was made up of loonies and toonies that she collected at her birthday party in lieu of gifts. It was only her fourth birthday party and already she had decided others needed 'things' more than she did! We are most grateful to Emma and her family for this donation - and for showing us all that you don't have to be very big to have a big heart!

Home Depot's Paper Hammers for Pre-teen Girls

The Home Depot's 'Paper Hammer Campaign' raised enough money for us to run our very popular 'Rite of Me' girls program again this year. This program introduces urban-based 10-14 year old girls to the wilderness and experiential education realm by offering challenging outdoor activities and other group experiences. We are delighted that Home Depot has chosen to support this very important program.

Take it Easy

That's the name of a new initiative we will be incorporating into our programming at our Central Saanich Club, thanks to a grant from Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada. Take it Easy is designed to engage youth in fun and engaging small-group activities. Facilitated by a trained Club staff person, each session focuses on a particular issue such as self-esteem, body image, violence, gender issues, and sexuality. The main objective of the program is to foster self-esteem and confidence in preteen and teen Club members.



Pink Shirts are Back Again!

Our annual anti-bullying day will be taking place in February again next year. We'll be teaming up with the other Boys & Girls Clubs on the island to make sure the message comes across loud and clear in all our communities that bullying in any shape or form will not be tolerated. Information about Pink-Shirt Day events and how to get hold of the t-shirt will be posted on our website

in early 2011. Pink Shirt Day is growing in popularity year by year, so mark your calendars for February 23rd and don't miss this opportunity to join our stand against bullying.

Employer Sponsored Volunteering

Home Depot also showed their support for Boys & Girls Clubs through volunteering their time to work on our agricultural garden project at camp. They join a growing list of businesses and service-groups that are choosing to donate time to our organization for mutual benefits. Recently employees from Deloitte joined us on their 'Impact Day' to give our gym at Yates St. a paint job. In June, AON Reed Stenhouse combined their 'AON United Day' with a celebration of our 50th Anniversary during a day at camp. After re-painting the exterior of the multi-purpose building, AON employees hosted a huge BBQ for our summer campers, complete with a special cake. All of these projects had a positive impact on our services and we look forward to working with more groups in the future.

Our United Way campaign

Our employee campaign was very successful this year, with gifts for the United Way totaling over \$5,000. It was fantastic to see such strong community spirit from staff.



Those of us who work in this sector know from experience how much the United Way does for this community and the importance of getting behind their campaign.

We Thank Our Donors

As we are reducing the size of the newsletter considerably in preparation for moving to an e-newsletter, the list of donors who have given since April 1, 2010 will be published on our website under the Donate tab and Our Supporters page - <http://www.bgcvic.org/default.aspx?PageID=1038>

MONOPOLY MADNESS ENDS

After fourteen years, the partnership between the BC Paraplegic Association and Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria in the Monopoly Madness fundraising event has come to an end. Over the course of the partnership, the event raised more than a million dollars to support Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria and the BC Paraplegic Association. A number of circumstances, however, led us to critically review the viability of the event and it was mutually decided that it was time for a fresh start.

During these tough economic times, event sponsorship has been difficult to attain. Indeed, the loss of a long time title sponsor and the reduction in sponsorship by another key sponsor weighed heavily in our decision. We believed this could dramatically affect the success of this event.

Boys & Girls Clubs relied significantly on the funds raised at Monopoly Madness which supported our after-school programs and other preventative programs to keep kids on the right path. We have identified a few ideas for alternative events that we hope will appeal to the many businesses and individuals who supported the Monopoly event and which will help us raise the funds to ensure these critical programs continue operating. As it is very critical to keep costs down while maximizing returns, these ideas can all be mounted with few overhead costs.

Boys & Girls Clubs have greatly appreciated your support either through sponsorship or through direct donations. Within the next month we will be sending out an email to past supporters to get their feedback on our ideas. If you would like to be part of this survey group please call Kate Mansell at 250.384.9133 ext 115 or email her at kmansell@bgcvic.org. Alternatively, if you have a great fundraising idea you would like to share with us please contact me – I would love to hear from you!

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/default.aspx?PageID=1061> 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

Please credit my donation to:

Operating Endowment Capital

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____ Tel: _____

Email: _____

Method of payment: Cheque Visa MC AMEX

Card no: _____

Expiry: _____

Authorized Signature _____

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

50 WAYS TO SHOW KIDS YOU CARE

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Notice them | 6. Tell them their feelings are okay |
| 2. Acknowledge them | 7. Set boundaries that keep them safe |
| 3. Learn their names | 8. Listen to their stories |
| 4. Look in their eyes when you talk to them | 9. Present options when they seek your counsel |
| 5. Listen to them | 10. Delight in their discoveries |

Check our website for the complete list of 50 ways to show kids you care - www.bgcvic.org .

December 22, 2010 is officially our 50th Anniversary, which means we have been showing kids we care for 18,250 days!

Join us in celebrating by donating \$50.00 and showing kids you care too!

Yes, I care about kids! Please accept my donation of \$50.00.

GIVE YOURSELF A PAPER CUT. . .

ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT US AND HELP THE ENVIRONMENT!

Using all the paper for this newsletter has high environmental and financial costs and results in unnecessary clutter in your home. But there is an alternative. E-newsletters are the greener, more cost effective and convenient alternative to printed newsletters. We can keep you better informed about new programs and developments at Boys & Girls Clubs while saving a substantial amount of money from printing and mailing costs. That is money we can use to provide more programs to kids - now that's worth giving yourself a paper cut for!

We hope you will sign up for our e-newsletter so we can continue to keep in touch! Please complete the following and fax it to the Development Office, 250.384.9136 or mail it to the Development Office at 1240 Yates Street, Victoria BC V8V 3N3.

Please remove my name from your print mailing list. I would like to receive your newsletter via email.

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Privacy Policy Questions, concerns or complaints relating to our privacy policy should be e-mailed to privacy@bgcvic.org. For more information on our policy please call 250.384.9133 or visit <http://www.bgcvic.org/default.aspx?PageID=1011>.



ANCHORING OUR YOUTH...continued

participants) talking about a “five finger discount”. On their way back to the club, Sam started a conversation with the two boys about shoplifting. Sam expressed how he felt about it and how “we all know deep down what is the right thing to do... and the wrong thing to do”.

Back at the club, Sam saw Jed putting something in his back-pack and approached him to ask if he had anything he wanted to talk about. Jed said, “No!” and moved away. Sam decided to step outside to consider what he should do. Just a few moments later, Jed followed him, opened his bag and pulled out a silver ball.

“Sorry, I lied. I took this from the store.” he said. Sam let Jed know that he was not impressed with his theft but was VERY proud of him for coming clean about it. He asked Jed what they should do now. Jed thought about this and decided he would like to return the item and apologize to the store owner which he did the next week, with Sam. While initially hesitant, he finally went to the store keeper and told her what he had done and that he was very sorry. She took the time to explain to Jed how shoplifting negatively affects her business and ultimately her family. She told him she would usually call the police, but she was willing to let him off with a warning since he had voluntarily come back to say sorry.

When they left the store, Sam asked Jed how he felt. He replied, “not good”. The idea that the cheap ball he had stolen for fun was actually part of another family's livelihood really seemed to bother him. He asked Sam to help him in explaining the situation to his mom, which they did together that evening.



Our staff and volunteers know how important it is to build strong relationships with youth.



Members of the community act as anchors creating a web of support for youth.

Although many young people experiment with shoplifting, not all of them have strong relationships, like the one between Sam and Jed, to help them turn a negative situation into a positive one. Sam gave Jed a way out. He role-modeled a good attitude and helped Jed learn how to make better choices, things he couldn't have done without first building a strong relationship with Jed. The store-keeper helped Jed see his connection to the community and how his actions can affect other kids in other families.

Asset-development theory teaches us that: “A community's responsibility for its young does not end with the provision of external assets. There also needs to be a commitment to nurturing the internal qualities that guide choices and create a sense of centeredness, purpose, and focus.” Jed learned from this incident, and so can we. Our preventative programs offer many opportunities for kids to be active and sociable, try new things and have fun. These are physical 'activities' that we can talk about easily and quantify. And yet, intangible threads run through all these activities: role-modelling, building self-esteem, instilling positive values. The root of all of these threads is relationships. That is how we are 'strengthening community by empowering children, youth and families'.