

CYN NEWS



YOUTH ANTI-VIOLENCE FORUM & LAUNCH OF STRIVE PROGRAM

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Community Youth Network-St. John's, in partnership with the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary and the provincial Violence Prevention Initiative, hosted a Youth Anti-Violence Forum in Corner Brook on November 6 & 7 as part of a three-tier anti-violence campaign. Forty junior high students from Corner Brook and the surrounding area, along with community partners and friends, came together to listen, learn and share experiences about violence in their communities and schools.

With speakers presenting on topics such as Gender Analysis, Representations of Violence in Media, and Cyber Violence, the young people had a great opportunity to learn strategies of how to deal with these issues, as well as recognize when more subtle forms of violence are occurring in their lives. It was also a great opportunity for guidance counselors, RNC officers, and community partners to listen to the stories of these young people and to learn themselves how to better approach the serious issue of youth violence.

Another exciting aspect of the conference was the official launching of the new STRIVE (Students Taking Responsibility In Violence Education) program, another part of the three-tier anti-violence campaign within the partnership. This interactive program will be presented in junior high schools by Community Service officers. Chief Joseph Brown made the announcement and Deputy Chief Robert Johnson, A/Supt. Cal Barrett and MHA Terry Loder were among the distinguished guests who attended the launch.

A special thanks to all of the wonderful people, both in St. John's and Corner Brook, who made this forum such a success.

SPECIAL POINTS

OF INTEREST:

- December 21st—
First Day of Winter.
- CYN closed from
Dec 24th—Jan 1st.
- December 31st—
New Year's Eve.
- Special Project
Grant deadline—
January 25th, 2009



MOUNTAIN OF HATS!!!



On Friday November 21st, 2008 eleven women from Hearts Content built a mountain of hats and donated to the Street Reach Program. The donation consisted of 156 hand knitted wool hats and mittens.

The knitters met through CBC's morning show's "Raising the Roof Pancake Breakfast" February 2007. Dawn Duggan of Hearts Content recruited knitters to help people who

access the Street Reach program. They all had something in common, to make a difference in someone's life and one year later, the dream became a reality.

Street Reach is in the downtown area four times per week, Monday and Friday afternoons and Tuesday and Thursday evenings. During outreach items such as hats, mittens, basic care items, snacks and hot chocolate are distributed to anyone in need. Street Reach would like to extend a huge thank you to our knitters for helping us make a difference.

If you would like to learn more about our program, or to make a donation, please contact Kerri Mahoney or Angela Decker at 754-0841.





"Now Accepting applications for our 2009 program"

Barriers to employment come in many forms. Perhaps you didn't complete high school, had a learning disability, made some poor choices, came into conflict with the law, had/have a lack of social supports; family, friends, community or your resume is simply not getting you a job. The reasons a youth is facing barriers to employment are usually a combination of factors. Whatever the reason for your employment woes, there is an opportunity for you to reverse your negative experiences on the job finding front. It's called **Youth Are Working**. If you have made a serious decision to move forward and address the barriers to employment that are preventing success in your life, this program may be for you.

Each year, **WayPoints** chooses ten (10) youth aged 17-24 for its Youth Are Working program. All youth commit to taking part in a total of eight weeks of employment preparation classes combined with twenty six weeks in a job placement. Now here's the good part, you are paid for all hours completed during the program. Generally the rate of pay is based on the provincial minimum wage but youth may receive high salaries depending on their employer. Your job placement is determined by matching your interests with the available employers.

High school credits anyone? All participants of Youth Are Working have one thing in common; they have not completed their high school education. With an innovative approach to learning, all participants can earn up to seven high school credits while they are in the program. This reintroduction to textbook learning, called the Transitional Learning Component, prepares participants for a return to a learning environment in a creative manner.

Youth Are Working is more than just your typical employment preparation program. We pride ourselves on our individualized approach to assisting our participants in their daily lives. We know you cannot be successful in work if there are unresolved issues at home and in your personal life. We know that you have great potential and we'll help you discover your strengths and build on your weaknesses.

For more information, apply online at www.youthareworking.ca or contact Hugo McCarthy by phone 738-3392 or email youthareworking@nf.aibn.com

Seeking Input From Youth!

The Community Services Council Newfoundland and Labrador (CSC) is looking for young people who have some knowledge of the high school course, Career Development 2201, and the community contribution or 'volunteering' component of that course. We would like students who have completed the course and students now registered in the course to tell us about their thoughts, experiences and expectations.

Do you have any experience with this course? Do you know anyone who has completed or is registered in the course? If so, would you be willing to share your views? You can email franlocke@csc.nf.net or phone 1-866-753-9860 (Fran Locke).

This is in association with work CSC is doing for the Department of Education on the community contribution component of CD 2201. Thank you.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR FOSTER FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

is seeking submissions (stories, poems, etc.) from young people who have spent time in foster care. This will be utilized for the Voices of Youth section of our quarterly newsletter. If you have some ideas and would like assistance in putting your thoughts together, we would be interested in working with you on this. Please call 754-0213, 877-754-0218 (toll free) or email amykendall@nfld.net. Our next newsletter goes to print in January 2009. We'd love to hear from you! You can also check out previous newsletter submissions at www.nlffa.com for inspiration or ideas.

Seasons Greetings

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season
and a Happy New Year

from the Staff and Board of Directors at
The Community Youth Network, St. John's

Have a safe and happy holiday!