

Silver Edition



1982 - 2007

Rainbow youth centre Newsletter

977 McTavish St.,
Regina, Sk., S4T 3V2

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 3:30 pm Celebration Begins!
Games & Face Painting
- 4:30 pm Supper
(served until 6:30 pm)
- 5:15 pm Welcoming Remarks
Cutting of Cake
- 5:45 pm KAOS Dog Sports
- 6:30 pm Carnival Games
(until 7:30 pm)

Welcome to Rainbow's 25th Anniversary!

Rainbow Youth Centre has been shaped by the contributions of many people and we are very pleased to celebrate this milestone with our current and past participants, volunteers, staff, and community partners.

Rainbow Youth Centre currently has 24 full-time and 5 part-time staff, working in five major program areas: YouthCARE (Creating a Respectful

Environment) Program, Young Parent Program, Road to Employment Program, Attendance Centre Programs (Anger Management Education, Substance Use & Abuse Education, and Skills for Adolescence), and KidsFirst Home Visiting Program. Our programs complement each other and have continued to grow and expand as the needs of the youth have changed.

Having experienced a high level of growth in the past few years, we will be undertaking a review of our current mission statement this fall as part of

our strategic planning process. We want to ensure that our mission statement reflects our work both currently and as we move into the future.

Thank you for being a part of our success over the years and for taking time to reflect and celebrate with us.

I would like to thank Sandra Pfeifer and John Dufort for compiling the information for this special edition newsletter.

Danielle Pass
Executive Director

Thank you to volunteers

There are ever so many people in twenty five years who have shared their time and given of themselves as a volunteer at Rainbow Youth Centre.

Rainbow volunteers have done dishes, swept floors, washed walls, installed all kinds of things no one on staff knew how to, organized fashion shows, talent shows, and special events, cooked, baked, played games, talked with youth, served on the Board of Directors, swam, canoed, hiked, played baseball, answered telephones, stuffed envelopes, filed, tutored, stuffed socks, served Christmas Dinner, laughed, and danced.

If this was you, please accept these words of appreciation and know that your involvement made a difference.

Many Rainbows of Thanks.



First Home - 1806 Albert Street



Second Home - 2338 Dewdney Avenue



Present Home - 977 McTavish Street

Rainbow Trivia Quiz

1. Who was the first Executive Director of Rainbow Youth Centre?

- (a) Claire O'Conner Wattrall
- (b) Debbie Pearce
- (c) Danielle Pass

2. Put these current Rainbow Youth Centre programs in the order they first became part of the organization.

- (a) Attendance Centre Program
- (b) Road To Employment Program
- (c) Youth C.A.R.E Program
- (d) Young Parent Program
- (e) KidsFirst Program

3. What did CEDTP stand for at Rainbow Youth Centre?

- (a) Creative Employment Development for Tomorrow Program
- (b) Comprehensive Education Development Training Program
- (c) Call Everyone Down To Play

4. In 1992, Rainbow Youth Centre partnered with the Merici Centre to provide programming for young parents. Who wrote the first letters of support for the program?

- (a) Department of Health
- (b) Executive Director of the Merici Centre
- (c) Young parents interested in the group

5. What connection does the United Church, the Lions Band and the Coop Creamery have with Rainbow Youth Centre?

- (a) All were previous tenants of buildings Rainbow moved in to.
- (b) Rainbow recruits volunteers from these places.
- (c) There is no connection.

6. Which of these initiatives were part of the Peer Helping Project?

- (a) Generation Us
- (b) Street Pain
- (c) Speakers Bureau
- (d) Teen Help Centre
- (e) All of the above

7. When Rainbow Youth Centre secured funding in 1991 to serve evening meals, which of these menu items would youth never put on their plate?

- (a) Salad
- (b) Fish
- (c) Lasagna
- (d) Soup

8. What did the acronym W.O.W stand for at Rainbow Youth Centre?

- (a) World of Work
- (b) Why Oh Why!
- (c) Work Orientation Workshop

9. The KidsFirst program at Rainbow Youth Centre was the first KidsFirst program in Regina to do what?

- (a) host a community health fair
- (b) have "Santa Claus" visit homes of families at Christmas
- (c) hire a male home visitor

10. Have the following programs been part of Rainbow Youth Centre in the last 25 years? (Yes or No).

- (a) Adolescent Development Program
- (b) Short Order Cook Training Program
- (c) The Global Youth Program Chemical Dependency Relapse / Recovery Program
- (d) The Move Up Program
- (e) C.A.R.E Outreach Program

11. Do you know what these acronyms stand for?

AMEP _____

SUBAB _____

SFA _____

12. Which of these programs have been part of the Youth C.A.R.E program?

- (a) Points of View
- (b) P.E.A.C.E
- (c) Leaders Now
- (d) Roots
- (e) Movie Night
- (f) Eagles' Claw
- (g) Group Talks
- (h) Circle
- (i) Swimming
- (j) Guardian Eagles
- (k) Cooking
- (l) Art-ternatives

Trivia Quiz answers on page 4

Do you have memories of Rainbow?

Rainbow Youth Centre is collecting memories. If you have a memory (or two) about your experiences with Rainbow Youth Centre, please tell us.

We want to know what Rainbow was like when you were involved. No memory is too small.

Send your memory to Sandra Pfeifer by mail at 977 McTavish St., Regina S4T 3V2 email spfeifer@rainbowyouth.com telephone 757-9743 or come visit us.

The origins of Rainbow

The idea of a comprehensive youth centre in Regina arose from several directions.

Dr. Terry Russell, who had set up Child & Youth Services at the Provincial Department of Health, visited *The Door*, an organization in New York City offering comprehensive services for youth. He decided to bring in two persons involved with *The Door*, Dr. Jim Turanski and his wife, Dr. Lorraine Hendricks, to set up something similar here in Regina.

The vision was of a multi-service centre for youth, using a holistic approach involving mental health services, recreation, arts & culture, food, and job training. Whereas Child & Youth Services was dealing with youth and their parents, the focus of the multi-services centre would be on the youth themselves.

Meanwhile, Dr. George Maslany and Dr. Harvey Stalwick were teaching a Community Development class at the University of Regina's School of Social Work. They were looking for a socially relevant urban project for their class. There were indications from various sources, including Market Square, the downtown business association, that there were a lot of youth in central Regina who needed help and support, but were not being reached by existing institutions.

The Community Development class decided to do a "needs assessment" of this population. A group of stakeholders in the community coalesced around the need for community action, and they worked towards establishing a Centre to provide the services that were identified as lacking.

On November 22, 1982, the Regina Multiservice Centre for Youth Inc. was born. Incorporators were social worker Michael Simpson as Chairperson, Phyllis Bellegarde from Youth Unlimited, and police officer Dennis Hoyer.

In April 1983, the new organization

received a Summer Canada Works grant to pay for salaries for two youth workers and a supervisor (Community Development class member, Jan Johnston) to continue the needs assessment, and work on developing the Centre. In the Fall, the organization received more funding, and moved into the Dairy Producers Building on the corner of Albert and 11th Avenue.

In December, Debbie Pierce became Executive Director, with Donna Pinay

joining the staff as Co-director in January 1984. In March, on recommendation of the Youth Involvement Committee, the name of the organization was changed to Rainbow Youth Centre. The official opening of the Centre was December 10, 1985.

The first few years were a financial struggle, with Board members working very hard to keep the organization afloat. But with core funding from Saskatchewan Health, and project funding from a myriad of other sources, the organization grew and achieved relative stability.

Did You Know ...

- ◆ The name *Rainbow Youth Centre* was chosen by youth from about 50 submissions.
 - ◆ John Dufort and Sandra Pfeifer have been with Rainbow since 1987 and 1988 respectively, and are the longest serving staff members in the organization. John knows the number of the first cheque he wrote as Administrative Coordinator ... it was cheque #1561 - currently cheque numbers are over #22000.
 - ◆ Rainbow Youth Centre became unionized in 1989 and the first Collective Bargaining Agreement was signed in 1992.
 - ◆ A Comprehensive Evaluation of the Centre was completed in 1990 by Joanne Crofford in conjunction with SARU (Social Administration Research Unit Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina).
 - ◆ In 1992 Rainbow Youth Centre became an United Way Agency.
 - ◆ The first ever Benefit Dinner Theatre was held September 1996 at the Italian Club with a theatre production, "Forgotten!" performed by youth of Oscar Wilde & Company and directed by Guy Michaud.
 - ◆ Rainbow Youth Centre has participated in every United Way Day of Caring since its' 1997 inception.
 - ◆ In 1998 the Peer Helping Project of Rainbow Youth Centre organized its' 1st Annual Youth Week. Youth Week Celebrations have continued every year since.
 - ◆ The most popularly enjoyed meal by youth at Rainbow is Jennet McGillis' homemade pizza which is served once a month and available nowhere else in the City.
 - ◆ In the year 2000, Rainbow purchased the former St. John's United Church, and began transforming it into the Centre we know today.
 - ◆ Rainbow made a major leap into the world of information technology in January 2006 when a server network was set up for the organization. How did we survive without email?!!!
 - ◆ Staff at Rainbow Youth Centre are really good at planning special events!!
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Executive Directors over the years...

1983 -1985	Debbie Pearce	1994 - 1995	Sue Smart (Acting)
1985	Doug Switzer (Acting)	1995 - 1999	Mellodee Hansen
1986 - 1989	Mark Hanley	1999	Val Skamanis (Secondment as Acting)
1989 - 1991	Roger Pelletier	1999	Archana Jaswal
1991 - 1993	Claire O'Conner Wattrall	1999 - 2000	Sandra Pfeifer (Acting)
1993	Tony Lund (Secondment as Acting)	2000 →	Danielle Pass

Trivia Answers

1. (b) Debbie Pearce served as Executive Director from 1983 - 1985. Danielle Pass is the current Executive Director joining Rainbow Youth Centre in July 2000. Danielle is the longest serving ED in Rainbow's 25 year history.

2. (c) Youth C.A.R.E Program (since inception)
 (a) Attendance Centre Program (1987)
 (d) Young Parent Program (1992)
 (b) Road To Employment Program (1998)
 (e) KidsFirst Program (2002)

3. (b) The CEDTP was a program helping young people develop employment skills and included a work experience component. It was the first program targeting young people 18 – 25 years when Rainbow expanded its' age mandate from 11 – 19 years.

4. (c) Young mothers attending regular programming at Rainbow Youth Centre asked about activities specific to their needs. The youth were asked to write out what it would mean for them if they had young parent programming.

Currently, the Young Parent Program is funded by Health Canada Community Action Program for Children. Starting September 2007, a new initiative for YPP will be an Aboriginal Traditional parenting course.

5. (a) The first building Rainbow Youth Centre operated out of was the Coop Creamery building at 1806 Albert St.

In August 1994, Rainbow moved to the Laird Building at 2338 Dewdney Ave.

Rainbow currently owns its' building at 977 McTavish St., having purchased it from St. John's United Church in April 2000.

6. (e) The Peer Helping Project was the first program at Rainbow Youth Centre to receive multi-year funding. Unfortunately, in 2003 the Muttart Foundation changed their funding criteria and Peer Helping was no longer eligible to receive funding.

7. (a) Cook Jenny Krieser made beautiful salads that often went untouched, and persisted in saying "one day they will eat them".

Today, they do. Caesar salad and vegetable trays are favorites for many youth attending the five days a week supper program offered at Rainbow.

8. (c) From 1988 - 1992 W.O.W was an employment program targeting youth who had given up on school but were interested in continuing their education through hands on learning. W.O.W consisted of employment training, skill development, and a work placement.

Currently, Rainbow Youth Centre continues providing an employment

program for youth through The Road To Employment program. Similar to W.O.W, RTE targets youth who are no longer in a school program, is comprised of skill development classes, and has a six month work placement.

9. (a), (b), and (c) The KidsFirst Program has six home visitors who provide support for young families through a curriculum known as Growing Great Kids/Families. The program is voluntary. Currently, there are 72 families involved.

10. YES. Throughout Rainbow Youth Centre's 25 year history, various programming aspects have been developed and implemented in response to the needs and trends experienced by young people.

11. AMEP: Anger Management Education Program
 SUBAB: Substance Use and Abuse Education Program
 SFA: Skills For Adolescence

All three programs are part of the Attendance Centre Program which offers skill development classes for youth in a group learning environment. As of this 2007, SUBAB will now be known as The Truth About It! Currently, curriculum is being developed to address the needs and experiences specific to female adolescents.

12. All of them. Youth C.A.R.E (Creating A Respectful Environment), once known as Youth Work, provides recreational, social, educational, and cultural activities for young people ages 11 – 19 years between the hours of 3:30 – 8:45 pm. Currently, there are six full time staff positions in Youth C.A.R.E.

Thank you to the following for helping fund the 25th Anniversary Celebration



IPSCO
A DIVISION OF SSA

WCB SASKATCHEWAN
WORKERS
COMPENSATION
BOARD

SaskCentral
Sandra Pfeifer
Danielle Pass
Ken & Shelby Love

Other contributions will be acknowledged in the next Newsletter.