



RANCH EHRLO SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Christmas at the Ranch

When December rolls around, so do Christmas celebrations at Ranch Ehrlo Society!

From staff and program Christmas parties where we can get quite “wrapped up” in the fun to the annual Christmas Variety Show at Schaller Education Centre, there is no shortage of activities to spread Christmas cheer!



A magical performance at the Schaller Education Centre Christmas Variety Show - this youth displayed her talent for making cookies DISAPPEAR!



Judy Bidyk, Ranch Ehrlo VP of human resources at a northern Christmas party

Treatment Foster Care expansion

Treatment Foster Care program will be expanding its professional foster care based services. This expansion will involve two new types of service: 1) an emergency foster care service, and 2) a family based treatment home service.

“There is an ever-increasing need for foster care in Saskatchewan. With the increase in the number of younger children coming into care, the need for family based care is also growing,” explained vice president of clinical services, Bree Fiissel.

Emergency foster care will provide for children ages 0 – 6 in need of short-term, emergency care. Our specially trained foster parents will welcome children into their homes 24/7, for up to 30 days, while a longer-term placement plan is being developed.



Ehrlo Ehrlo Learning Centre staff had the opportunity to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus!

The emergency foster care program will provide safe and nurturing homes designed to mitigate the level of trauma experienced by young children after removal from their homes.

“We are looking for three families to start this program, each of whom will be asked to take in a maximum of two children at any given time,” explained program manager, Lisa Neill. “Staying true to the program, the families will provide contracted services which requires one parent to stay home and be the primary caregiver.”

The family based treatment home will involve foster parents caring for up to four children with the help of child and youth care staff. This service will be available for children aged 5 to 11 with a variety of presenting problems, including behavioural, emotional, and developmental issues. Children referred to this program will typically require 24-hour supervision and/or support, but will be better served in a staffed family home due to their age. Professional foster parents will live in the home, but will be supported by in-home child and youth-care staff.

Ranch Ehrlo is open to ideas from interested foster parent candidates about program requirements and supports.

Anyone interested in applying to become foster parents should visit ehrllo.com.



TFC group session

Family program striving to be inclusive

If you visit Ranch Ehrlo Society’s family programs office, you’ll probably feel very welcomed. There are a few reasons for that – the first is that the front desk has a friendly receptionist ready to direct you to wherever you need to go. The second is that she sits in front of a unique feature.

The “welcome wall” displays the word “welcome” in 30 languages, ranging from Cree to German and nearly everything in between. The idea for the wall came after family programs director Patti Petrucka attended a conference on building family support in Washington, D.C.

“

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”

Patti Petrucka, family programs director

“One of the questions asked at the conference was, ‘how can you be sure that you’re being fully inclusive?’ They talked about your literature being in different languages to make sure you’re representative of who you serve,” Petrucka explained.

“I thought what a wonderful thing, to come into a space and see in your own language, ‘welcome’.”

The Family Treatment Program and Intensive Family Preservation Service, which make up the family programs, strive to include their families in other ways as well – they even had a hand in the design of the new office space.

Petrucka explained, “We wanted to minimize the space feeling like an office. We’re trying so hard to be more and more family inclusive, and to get families involved in all aspects of the program, because that’s who we serve.”



Sport Venture receives community donations



Ehrlo Sport Venture is grateful to have been selected by Leopold's Tavern as one of their five Christmas donations this year in the amount of \$1,000.

"Donations like this one are very important to Sport Venture – they allow for the continued sustainability of our programs," said Sport Venture manager Amanda McConnell.

"It's through support from the community on all levels that allows Sport Venture to run quality recreation and sport donations in the city, and the donation from Leo's is an excellent example of that support."

The program's shelves are also a little fuller, thanks to another donation.

Sport Central, an organization based out of Edmonton who makes resources available to ensure underprivileged children in Alberta can play sports, has recently expanded to Saskatchewan. With that expansion, they began searching for similar organizations who may require a little help. Sport Venture received a donation of 16 boxes of shin guards from Sport Central.

"Since we've been getting equipment to kids for over 20 years, they wanted to form a relationship and work together," explained McConnell.

Sport Venture is also gearing up to kick off their outdoor hockey season. It returns January 8, 2018 for its 25th year! As always, the OHL is a free-of-charge drop-in league operating in eight locations throughout the city of Regina. For more information go to ehrl.com/sport-venture.

Community4Connection

For the third year running, Ranch Ehrlo staff and clients had an impressive showing at Community4Connection, an event geared toward people in the community who are homeless or at risk of becoming so, hungry, or having housing issues.

“It’s sad to see so many people are in need, but so wonderful to see that Ranch Ehrlo staff and youth are so willing to participate.”

-Shelley Sayer, director of Ehrlo Housing

Shelley Sayer, director of Ehrlo Housing and the driving force behind Ranch Ehrlo's involvement in C4C, had a table providing information on housing, and Ehrlo Counselling consultant Sarah Hammett provided guests with information on the Cognitive Disability Strategy. From elsewhere in the agency, there were donations of warm clothing and baked goods.

"It's sad to see so many people are in need, but so wonderful to see that Ranch Ehrlo staff and youth are so willing to participate and help others in so many ways," Sayer said. "I am always impressed with the generosity of our staff!"

Jordan House youth receive inspiring message

Youth at Jordan House got a special shout out via YouTube from Juno nominated Aboriginal artist Don Amero.

In the video, Amero spoke about his own past. He explained that he grew up in a broken home, with a "tough family life sometimes", but with hard work and perseverance was able to rise above his circumstances to become the success he is today.

"I just wanted to hopefully encourage you guys, and let you know that I know what it's like to go through tough times," Amero said in the recording. "Even though things in the

past (may have been) hard, or bad – it should not define your future.”

Amero learned of the youth at Jordan House through caseworker Julie Francella. “Music is very important to our youth, and I thought this might resonate with them.” Francella added, “As First Nations people, we often struggle to find positive role models. Don is a wonderful role model.”

Youth experience spin class

The Wheelhouse Cycle Club is a hugely popular destination for indoor cycling. Unit manager Mike Torrie and caseworker Tandi van Tol, both avid Wheelhouse attendees, wanted to share the experience with some of Ranch Ehrlo’s youth.

“Some of the youth were not sure what to think, but once they got settled onto the bike, they loved it,” van Tol said. “When I asked some youth how they enjoyed it, they said it was a lot of fun – and challenging!”

Staff were impressed by the perseverance displayed by the youth, who kept at it for the entire 45-minute class.

Buckland youth community minded

Two youth from Matheson House were recently given a big responsibility, and they rose to the challenge! The two girls were asked by the Kiwanis Club to run the coat check at a well-known art show in the city.

“This is a fairly formal, significant event in the Prince Albert arts community, so it’s quite an honour to be asked back on an annual basis,” Kevin Mugford, director of residential treatment explained, noting that all the youth who have participated in volunteer opportunities have done an excellent job of treating the opportunity seriously.

The partnership has given Ranch youth an excellent opportunity to work on building confidence, social skills, and relationships.

Board tour



Members of our board of directors recently got a tour of several of our facilities, including Sport Venture, Ehrlo Early Learning Centre, and a few group homes. Our board of directors is made up entirely of volunteers. They contribute a significant amount of time to assist in the direction of the agency’s programs.

Open house



Ehrlo Counselling hosted an Open House for existing clients and other members of the public to learn a little more about their needs and what services Ehrlo Counselling offers our community!

Halloween at the Ranch



We take our jobs very seriously here at Ranch Ehrlo – and part of our jobs is to make sure everyone has fun! Each year, part of October is dedicated to the traditions of Halloween: from holding parties for our clients, bobbing for apples, and doing the Monster Mash – there’s no shortage of spirit around here! The Clinical Assessment team got into the Halloween spirit as “Rosie the Riveter.”

Go Girls



Ehrlo Sport Venture has partnered with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Regina to run Go Girls, for girls ages 11-16. The program involves having fun, making new friends, being active, and learning about healthy lifestyles.

Social Connections



In partnership with the former Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region, Ehrlo Sport Venture runs a Social Connections program for young people on the autism spectrum. We work on making social connections through art and recreation.