



# RANCH EHRLO SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 100 November 2018

### 100th issue

Our newsletter is always exciting, but this issue is momentous! This is the 100th edition! Thank you for continuing to follow along as we update you on all things Ranch Ehrlo. We hope to provide you with another 100 and beyond!

### AGM highlights

Staff, stakeholders, and special guests, including Regina Mayor Michael Fougere, gathered together on Sept. 18th, to review and celebrate a year of excellence at Ranch Ehrlo Society.

The Annual General Meeting was called to order by board vice-chair Greg Fieger. After welcoming everyone, he gave the board chair report, highlights of which included the many milestone and anniversaries celebrated over the course of the year.

“This past year has been another exciting one for Ranch Ehrlo,” said Andrea Brittin. “We have tried to do what we can to respond to the evolving and ever growing needs in the community while staying true to our strategic vision and direction.”

Highlights of her message included the operational review of the community vocational program to better suit the needs of the clients and the continued CARE (Children And Residential Experiences: Creating Conditions for Change) practice model roll-out across the Ranch.

This coming year is the lead-up to the agency’s recertification cycle. Ranch Ehrlo has been accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) since 1977. The designation helps the agency adhere to best practices and strengthens our services. Fittingly, this year’s keynote speaker was Jennifer Murray, Ranch Ehrlo’s quality improvement consultant who is heading up the in-depth year long process.

Vice-president of finance and administration Lori Mann presented a review of the



Andrea Brittin, Wanda Falkowsky, Richard Hazel and Greg Fieger

We are guided by the CARE, Children And Residential Experiences: Creating Conditions for Change, multi-level model. We work to improve services for our clients through six practice principles:

developmentally focused

family involved

relationship based

trauma informed

competence centred

ecologically oriented

agency's financial statements, noting that the agency has a lower surplus than was expected but like in many years, there are both opportunities and challenges in the coming year.

She finished her report by stating, "Overall, the agency continues to be in a strong financial position."

As a wrap-up, exiting board members Jamie Burrows, Wanda Falkowsky, Jaime Lavallee, and Richard Hazel were thanked for their contributions, while new members David Hedlund, Sheri Woods, Diana Adams, and Peter Hoffmann were welcomed to their positions.

The meeting concluded with Brittin sharing some of the most important numbers for the agency – statistics from our annual outcomes report which cite important successes such as our clients' high satisfaction rates with our services.

"At the Ranch, our staff ARE our programs," Brittin stated. "Thank you (staff) for these outstanding outcomes – all of you should be proud!"

## New Outcomes Report

At Ranch Ehrlo Society, we believe in transparency and accountability. It is important to us that we are able to demonstrate to you – our referring agencies, parents, and the communities we work with that we are helping children, youth, families, and communities achieve their full potential.

One way we do this is through our yearly Outcomes Report, which is a summary of resident and client experiences and accomplishments at Ranch Ehrlo Society. We use the information gathered to determine the effectiveness of our programs and services.

"Through evaluating our outcomes, we identify where the treatment we provide is

having a positive impact and also where changes to our approach may be necessary to improve client outcomes," commented Andrea Brittin, Ranch Ehrlo CEO.

She added, "Accountability and transparency are extremely important. We believe in our programs and services and we want to see them make a difference."

### Some of the highlights from this year's report include:

- 88% of youth were satisfied with our services
- 85% of youth attained part or all their goals
- 88% of families stayed together in the Intensive Family Preservation Program
- Ehrlo Housing helped 81 families and 55 individuals find affordable housing

## Agency CARE stories

*CARE, Children And Residential Experiences: Creating Conditions for Change, is a multi-level program model developed by Cornell University that Ranch Ehrlo uses to improve services for children, youth, and families.*

### Helping Hilsden youth transition

Hilsden House is the home of the agency's youngest clients, boys aged eight to 12. With that age group comes some unique requirements. For younger children, moves can be especially difficult and anxiety provoking.

"Knowing that, Hilsden has always done a great job of celebrating when our clients transition – whether it be going home or moving to a new program," explained caseworker Josee Westermann. "In 2016, when I came to the program, I suggested the addition of the rock ceremony."

When a youth is scheduled to move, he gets to choose his own rock from a collection that was purchased or found. All of the staff – many of who come in on their days off to participate – and youth gather in a circle, and the transitioning youth chooses who the rock will go to first.

“The idea behind the rock ceremony is that it gives a tangible reminder to each departing youth of how well he did and how loved he is.”

*Josee Westerman, caseworker*

Each participant speaks to the rock and to the youth, sharing fond memories and expressing support, encouragement, and well wishes for the future. When he goes, the youth gets to take the rock – and all the well-wishes – with him.

“The idea behind the rock ceremony is that it gives a tangible reminder to



each departing youth of how well he did and how loved he is. The youth that come here are an important part of our Hilsden family and always will be,” stated Westermann.

### Back to school

Every staff member at Ranch Ehrlo strives to connect and build relationships with our youth, but no relationship is quite as unique as that with the house parent.

Ranch Ehrlo house parents are often the first adult that youth see upon waking up, greeted with a smile and breakfast to start their day off right. In the afternoon, returning from school, the house parent is there to inquire about how their day went, snack in hand. And on days off from school, the kitchen – where the house parent can often be found – is a frequent haven for our youth, to talk, or just sit in companionable silence.

“He made an agreement with our housemother that, if she were to attend school with him, that he would go and write his finals.”  
-Kelly Cook, unit manager

Sometimes, though, house parents go above and beyond the call of duty to be there for a youth in crisis. One young man was having issues with school – he was experiencing some bullying, and a lot of anxiety around attending his classes as a result.

“He made an agreement with our housemother that, if she were to attend school with him, that he would go and write his finals” said unit manager Kelly Cook.

A deal is a deal, so every morning the housemom headed into high school with the youth. With her calming presence, support, and encouragement, he was able to reduce his anxiety and successfully complete – and pass – his final exams.

“This particular youth does really well in school, but without writing his finals, he wouldn’t have gotten credit for the entire year. We really didn’t want to see that,” Cook continued. “This is a great example of the success we see when we integrate CARE principles into our work with youth.”

### Running with CARE

When Todd\* was admitted to Ranch Ehrlo, clinical caseworker Tandi van Tol set about discovering his strengths. One of them, she learned, was running.

“One of my goals as a caseworker is to intentionally build a safe and



nurturing relationship with our youth,” she continued, explaining that in her experience, one of the best ways to do so is through inclusiveness.

When an opportunity came up for Todd to participate in the Queen City Marathon, van Tol approached him to ask if he would be interested and inquired if he had anyone in mind that he may like to run with.

“By providing an opportunity for him to make a decision about whether or not he would like to participate, and whether or not he would like to run with someone or not, was crucial in building his capacity for decision making and valuing the decision he had made,” van Tol explained.

Todd invited his cousin, who lives in his home community, to come down and run the race with him. She accepted, and their family drove down on race day to support them.

“Since one of our goals in residential care is to strengthen family relationships, this was the perfect opportunity to allow for this growth,” van Tol said.

The two of them put up impressive times in the 5 k, both completing in under 30 minutes.

Afterward, he was able to enjoy lunch and spend more time with his family.

\*name changed

## Pilot Butte road removal

In September the temporary campus access road that intersects with Highway 624 was removed.

The approach was originally built as a temporary measure to allow for construction access during the building of Mitchell House. With the completion of the Regina bypass project and the added traffic that comes with the population growth in and around Pilot Butte, this temporary road is no longer an appropriate access and exit from the highway.

Main campus access will continue to be off the Dewdney Avenue grid.

## Deloitte and Ehrlo Sport Venture team up



On October 12th, representatives from Deloitte helped Ehrlo Sport Venture for their 12th annual Day of Impact.

“We were so excited and grateful to be working with Deloitte for their Day of Impact. Sport

Venture is powered by volunteers and working with Deloitte gave us an opportunity to tackle a few bigger projects that will have a great impact on Sport Venture and the community,” said Amanda McConnell, Sport Venture manager.

Twenty volunteers came out for the day to spruce up the Sport Venture location. They also helped facilitate a sport equipment giveaway at the mamaweyatitan centre.

Regarding the equipment drive, McConnell stated, “We have been pleasantly overwhelmed with equipment and would like to see it find a good home in the community.”

## Charity Championship Volunteers



The superheroes in training at Ehrlo Sport Venture recently took on the Charity Championship event hosted by the Casino Regina.



Midget AA Rebels volunteering at Ehrlo Sport Venture.

## Orange shirt day



Staff on Orange Shirt Day, which is a growing movement of reconciliation. It grew out of a former student's account of having her brand-new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school.

## Welcome back picnic



At Buckland campus' annual welcome back picnic, everyone gathered to eat, drink, and celebrate the beginning of what is sure to be another exciting school year. Dancing and drumming capped off a great

## High Five training



Program managers and staff at Ranch Ehrlo's AVEP and Learning Centre locations received High Five – Principles of Healthy Childhood Development training from Sport Venture manager Amanda McConnell, who became certified to teach the course three years ago.

## Monday Night Football



Ehrlo Sport Venture's Monday Night Football kicked off September 3rd at Mosaic stadium with Mak Henry and Marcel Young from the Saskatchewan Roughriders coming out to help.