



RANCH EHRLO SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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New VP of clinical services

Ranch Ehrlo welcomed a new but familiar face to the executive team and said goodbye to another.

Linda Meyer, the former vice president of clinical services, retired at the end of May. Meyer began at Ranch Ehrlo in 1989 as a unit manager. Over her 27-year career, Meyer held several key leadership positions within the agency, including vice-president of clinical services. Regardless of her position, Meyer's commitment to the mission and vision of the organization was apparent.

"While we share in Linda's happiness as she embarks on this new adventure, we will miss her strong and steadfast leadership at the Ranch," commented Andrea Brittin, Ranch Ehrlo CEO.

On June 1st, Bree Fiissel joined the executive team as the new vice president of clinical services. Fiissel has spent the last 23 years working in the residential, clinical, and community programs at Ranch Ehrlo, and for the past ten years has been a clinical director, leading, developing, managing, and implementing both community and residential clinical services.

Youth Activity Fair

The annual Youth Activity Fair, put on by Ranch Ehrlo Society in partnership with the Prince Albert Optimist Club, is an opportunity for youth in the Prince Albert area to learn about all the recreational opportunities available to them. Over 16 vendors came out, ranging from the archery club to the SPCA, to showcased opportunities for youth in the area.

"The fair reaches people from all areas of Prince Albert and allows them to see all the activities available, not just the ones that are offered in a school setting," said unit manager and event organizer Nicole Connolly.

This event is an important one for Ranch Ehrlo as it helps people in the area to understand that we strive to be part of the communities that we serve.



Linda Meyer (l) and Andrea Brittin at the reflection centre on Pilot Butte campus. Linda received a plaque for her years of service at the agency.



Youth Activity fair

“We are sometimes only associated with children in need, rather than what we can do for all children in our community,” Connolly said.

Though the fair has traditionally been held in August, it was moved to June 17th this year in conjunction with the annual Prince Albert Street Fair.

The partnership with the Optimist Club has also helped make the event what it is.

“Since this partnership began, things have seemed to run more smoothly and that’s allowed us more time to focus on logistics, such as ensuring a wide variety of vendors, rather than searching for the dollars to make this great event happen,” Connolly said.

Ranch Ehrlo again named Top Employer

For the sixth year running, Ranch Ehrlo Society has been named one of Saskatchewan’s Top Employers. While some who continuously receive this designation may rest on their laurels, we do not! We are striving daily to make our agency an even better place to work!

“We are extremely pleased to see Ranch Ehrlo recognized for being a place that puts employees first,” said Andrea Brittin, CEO and president. “The programs and

services we offer our clients are of the highest standards. We are only able to achieve this because we attract the best and most compassionate staff by being an agency that offers great training opportunities, room for professional development, and competitive salaries.”

“Working at Ranch Ehrlo is more than a job, employees have a passion for making the lives of children, youth, and families better.”
-Andrea Brittin, Ranch Ehrlo CEO

“But working at Ranch Ehrlo is more than a job, employees have a passion for making lives of children, youth, and families better,” she added.

“They get up every morning and head to work knowing they will be making a difference.”

Awards Night



Each of our clients are special in their own right. At our annual Awards Night, we take the time to recognize their outstanding achievements and exemplary effort throughout the year, whether it’s academic, athletic or somewhere in between.

On June 15th, staff, clients, and families gathered at the Conexus Art Centre for the southern programs’ Awards Night. Awards were handed out for academics, athletics, social development, creative arts, and finished with the President’s trophies.

As always, the evening ended with entertainment by each of the group homes and an impressive powwow performance by the Ranch Ehrlo powwow club.

New this year, was a special night for the adult clients in the Programs for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. The festivities were held at the Italian Club on June 14th.

Awards Night season wrapped up in Prince Albert on June 22nd at the Art



Hauser Centre.

Training an ongoing commitment

Ranch Ehrlo values continuous education and learning for all employees – the more you know, the better you will be at your job, and ultimately, at helping others. A unit manager took this to heart and completed the Leadership Excellent Advancement Program (LEAP) through SARC (Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres).

The course is a management skill development program that presents practical information, principles, best practices, and tips in a variety of management areas for up and coming leaders in the non-profit sector.

Ranch Ehrlo has had a long-term partnership with SARC. The agency also is highly committed to education and training for all employees. It offers tuition reimbursement and education leaves for staff interested in furthering their education.

SARC will be presenting the 2017 Leap Graduates with their Certificates of Completion this fall at a celebratory Leap Luncheon in the fall.

Annual 3 mile races



Ready, set, GONE! The annual three mile races were held in May!

A little rain couldn't dampen the spirits of our northern campus' youth as they gathered in Corman Park to compete in the annual 3-mile race on May 24th.

The southern race was May 18th at Pilot Butte. The winning time was staff Brett Miller with a time of 21:16. It was also the last race as a staff for Linda Meyer who retired.



Youth place at art festival



One of the entries

It's no secret that many of our youth are artistically gifted, but recently students in Prince Albert received confirmation of that fact through the Prince Albert Grand Council Fine Arts Festival.

Three youth were winners at the event. The teens submitted teepees, and drawings. One youth won big with her pastel drawing, being crowned the overall winner.

“This assignment gave each youth a sense of pride and belonging.”
-Teacher Scarlet Dawson

Her artwork will be featured as the logo on t-shirts at next years Fine Arts Festival.

Though our students submit artwork for consideration at the Fine Arts Festival yearly, this is the first year they've placed.

“It's pretty awesome news for our youth,” said teacher Scarlet Dawson, whose class, along with teacher Leann Johnson's, participated in the project.

Sharing a piece of home

Home is where the heart is – a simple, yet profound statement that rings true for people of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances. Ranch youth in Prince Albert recently had the opportunity to create booklets about their culture and traditions in their home communities to share with staff and other residents.

“This assignment gave each youth a sense of pride and belonging, and it really helped staff to be able to build relationships with youth,” teacher Scarlet Dawson said. “The kids love talking about their communities and like to draw maps of where their families live in relation to the community.”

Their booklets explored topics such as special events, places, cultural activities, food, languages, and family members in each youth's home community.

But the creation of the booklets was just the first step. Each house held a cultural evening to showcase the work done on the



Director Kevin Mugford enjoying the food at a cultural night.

booklets as well.

“The youth responded very well to cultural night. They were most excited to eat wild meat – although at times, staff at individual units will prepare cultural meals, they don’t get to eat it as abundantly as they do when they’re at home,” explained Kandace Parker, Matheson House youth care worker.

“It was exciting to hear the youth speak about their communities and highlight what they think is neat back home,” Parker said. “It really is a great conversation piece, especially for new youth coming into our care, or the young ones who are missing their homes.”

Additionally, the sharing of information about a youth’s home community allows for the lines of communication to be open about what challenges may arise once a youth goes home.

“Many communities don’t have all the resources and programs as a bigger city, and it’s important for the youth to know who they can turn to if they have questions or need help on their reserves or communities. We can help answer those questions, find proper information for them, and bridge those gaps,” Parker added.

2nd annual powwow

We had such a good time last year we’re doing it again! Ranch Ehrlo’s second annual powwow is being planned for August 31st on the Pilot Butte campus. We encourage you to come out, bring your families and make a day of it – in addition to competitive powwow dancing we will again be having the family carnival and concession stands, and supper will be free of charge. Hope to see you out!

Science fair



The Liski Gymnasium at the Schaller Education Centre on Pilot Butte campus was briefly transformed into innovation nation – students showcased projects aimed at solving real world problems in the annual science fair.

Concert for growth



Ranch Ehrlo’s Programs for Persons with Developmental Disabilities recently held a concert full of singing and drumming for growth and change.

Paper Crane open house



On June 8th Paper Crane Community Arts Centre held an open house at its new location, 1221 Osler Street (second floor). It was an opportunity to tour the new location and learn more about the programming.

Wilderness first aid



Corman Park and Buckland staff were instructed in Advanced Wilderness First Aid over three days. The program is geared toward what you can do when you’re hours away from primary care services and calling 911 isn’t an option. This is necessary for our fly-in camps such as Norbert and Dryer Lakes.

Culture camp



Ehrlo Sport Venture had a great afternoon at the Cultural Camp at Open Sky Retreat at the end of May. Sport Venture was on site to run two mini recreation sessions for the youth in attendance.