



RANCH EHRLO SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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Therapeutic Crisis Intervention training

In early April, 19 unit managers and education supervisors took part in a unique training opportunity, becoming certified to teach Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) training.

The TCI model was created to reduce or eliminate the need for physical restraints and has been a staple at the Ranch for nearly two decades. As a result of the training, the number of TCI trained instructors at the agency has grown over 200 per cent.

“While TCI training has long been mandatory for all employees, having our own supervisors able to deliver training will streamline the process and allow all of our employees to remain well-versed in the methodology throughout their time at the agency,” explained Malcolm Neill, vice-president of residential services.

The course was made possible by a financial contribution from the Government of Saskatchewan’s Ministry of the Economy.

Families use training

The Family Treatment Program has taken TCI training one step further by offering adapted courses to the families it serves.

Therapeutic Crisis Intervention for Families (TCIF) training includes the core skills and education of TCI but is adapted for foster parents and biological families to use in an in-home setting.

“It was really a result of the parents advocating for themselves,” explained Sharon Miller, manager of the Family Treatment Program, saying that the interest in learning de-escalation methods was brought up in many of the education groups, held weekly for the parents.

“The basis of TCIF is really about understanding the trauma and the reasons behind some of the behaviours of their children. My goal is to really give them an understanding of the behaviours so that they can figure out different ways of approaching or responding to these behaviours.”

The training is already being used



Unit managers and education supervisors that took part in TCI training

successfully by parents. When Jen’s son became upset that his new bike had a blown tire and would need to be fixed before it could be used, she used active listening skills and drew out his feelings instead of allowing the situation to escalate, which is what historically has occurred in their family.

“If I hadn’t learned active listening, I would’ve handled the situation a lot different. I would’ve gotten frustrated myself and he could’ve really escalated and had a full blown temper tantrum,” she explained.

Working to end violence



Shawna Ochoo/photo courtesy of Regina Leader-Post

Shawna Ochoo is a night float at Ranch Ehrlo Society, but during the day she gives her time to another cause equally close to her heart.

Ochoo is the founder of a community group called North Central: End the Violence.

“Living down here in North Central, there tends to be a lot of negativity, especially when it comes to gang violence. As a community, this isn’t what we want,” she explained. “We’re losing so many of our community members to gang violence, whether that’s through death or incarceration.”

Ochoo’s work on End the Violence has another meaning, as well. While working

at Ranch Ehrlo, she has seen many youth leaving care to return to communities like North Central, where she believes they need more options to help them succeed.

“As soon as our youth walk out these doors they’re faced with so many challenges, and for me, it’s about making a safer community for our youth so that they have opportunities and options; and they have the resources that they need so that when they are faced with these issues they can handle them.”

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-Shawna Ochoo

The first initiative undertaken by End the Violence was a rag tying ceremony at the site of North Central’s first homicide of 2016. About 150 community members came out to tie bandanas in the three colours of the gangs known to frequent the area, sending a message that the violence and gang life is not what the community wants to be known for.

Employee of the month

Sixteen year old Orion has only been working at McDonald’s for four months, but he’s already earned the coveted title of “Employee of the Month.”

Orion lives in a Ranch Ehrlo group home in Regina and began working at McDonald’s as a way to earn some extra cash. He describes his job as “everything” – sweeping, mopping, cooking, and customer service are a few of his duties. His favourite is unloading the truck.

“You get a free meal after,” he said with a chuckle.

But soon Orion will add something else to his already-lengthy list of to-dos, as he recently received a promotion to crew trainer.

Orion said that he received plenty of congratulations from Ranch Ehrlo staff.

Adaptive cooking classes

If there’s one thing Ranch staff are good at (actually, there are many), it’s coming up with new and inventive ways to serve our clients. Occupational therapist Holli Holmes was inspired by her love of adaptive cooking to create a class for clients with developmental disabilities.

“Cooking tends to be such a meaningful activity for all of us,” she explained. “The whole process of making something, from start to finish,





Sample menu

and then enjoying it socially with those around us is so meaningful!”

Holmes and two of her practicum students, Kelsey Blanch and Kaylyn Jenson, ran a four week adaptive cooking program at the Learning Centre. They created recipes, using visuals to make them accessible to clients.

Cooking utensils such as cutting boards were adapted to ensure the safety of the participants.

“My client absolutely loved the program and looked forward to it each week,” said Ryan Labatt, SLP(D) unit manager.

The program had three participants, a number that ensured individual attention for each of them. Each client received a cookbook with the recipes they learned so they can continue to enjoy cooking in their home programs.

Unfortunately, Holmes was unable to continue the program weekly due to time constraints. However, she is actively seeking volunteers to help run the class.

If you are interested in volunteering at Ranch Ehrlo, contact Kim Buchan at 306-781-1814.

50th celebration update

During our 50th celebration year, we will be looking back at our past and how it influences the future.

The vision of one man in the mid-1960s has evolved into the quality treatment programs that are now recognized internationally for their excellence in transforming the lives of children, youth, adults, and families. That man, Dr. Geoff Pawson, who opened the doors to the Ranch Ehrlo Society on June 1, 1966, left an incredible legacy to all those involved in child and family welfare.

“His philosophy was actually quite simple, and has stood the test of time. He believed that every human being deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, to be free from harsh discipline, punishment, rejection, and humiliation. Every individual deserves the basics in life – healthy food, a warm bed, a safe home, and relationships with people they trust,” Dr. Pawson’s daughter and current Ranch Ehrlo director of clinical services, Kate Langen explained.

Langen grew up alongside Ranch Ehrlo and witnessed first-hand her father’s passion for helping youth. She watched as the organization grew to the multi-programmed agency it has become today. As with all momentous endeavors, challenging times have emerged, but she doesn’t shy away from discussing these tough times. Instead, she emphasizes her father’s unwavering commitment to ensuring the best possible care for some of the most vulnerable people. Dr. Pawson never lost hope.

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-Kate Langen, director of clinical services

“When you stay committed and you really know why you’re doing something, the what and the how just follow along,” Langen said, explaining that regardless of the situation, Dr. Pawson remained focused on his singular mission of helping kids.

Today, Ranch Ehrlo is again in a period of transition. As we approach the 50-year mark, all programs are undergoing an extensive review under the leadership of our new CEO and president, Andrea Brittin.

Program reviews provide us an opportunity to ensure that we know why we are doing what we’re doing, and to know with confidence that the programs we offer align with Dr. Pawson’s founding philosophy, and are responsive to the issues facing today’s vulnerable youth and families.

“We’ve been forced to change in the past, and lots of good has come out of that. And,



Dr. Pawson's official University of Southern California doctoral robe hangs at our Francis Street location as a reminder of his steadfast commitment to serving children and families.

this too will bring lots of good, whether that means improved programming, or just a clearer understanding of why we're doing what we're doing", Langen said. "I think he (Geoff) would have embraced that process, knowing that times do change."

We invite you to join us in celebrating the start of our next 50 years at our 50th anniversary celebration, Sept. 29th at the Queensbury Convention Centre in Regina. Tickets are \$85 and can be purchased online at ehrlo.com or by calling Shelley at 306-781-1800.

Staff and clients help build habitat home

Staff and a few clients of Ranch Ehrlo Society have once again proved what a community-minded organization it is.

This spring, several staff and clients from the education team and a few from other areas of the agency headed out to help work on a Habitat for Humanity house at Haultain Crossing in Regina.

Ranch staff donned hardhats and steel toed boots and spent the day doing concrete work on the interior of the house, after some training by Habitat



employees.

"We have lots of community partners that work with us, and it's good for us to give back to the community as well," said Kim Buchan, volunteer services manager.

Mental health awareness



Members of our clinical team, braved the cold in late Feb. to hand out temporary tattoos to raise awareness for mental health issues.

Raising money



Ehrlo Early Learning Centres raised over \$3,000 for the Z99 radiothon for neonatal intensive care.

Upcoming events

May 9th - Kenyon House grand opening, named after former board chair Jim Kenyon, at 11:30 a.m. on the Pilot Butte campus. Please RSVP to Shelley at 306-781-1800 by May 5th.

May 18th - Southern 3 mile race

May 26th - Northern 3 mile race

June 8th - Southern Awards Night

June 16th - Northern Awards Night