



News & Notes

Serving and learning in one of the most culturally diverse communities in the world, CMS-D is a recognized leader in changing the face of conflict since 1987.

Community Transformation Program

Reaching Out

These past months have seen extensive outreach efforts through presentations and workshops to community groups and organizations. The goal is to educate people about acquiring new information and skills. Ultimately, this will result in an increase in case referrals. The response has been great with workshops in a number of English as a Second Language classes/groups, organizations and community neighbourhood groups.

Plans have moved forward with outreach projects to Toronto's Russian and Iranian communities. At the same time, CTP is becoming more involved with research into community development, violence, victimization and gender-based attitudes and behaviours.

York University and CTP

CTP has expanded its relationship with York University through its Experiential Learning Model on a number of fronts including:

- A 4th Year Seminar Law and Society class project of facilitating a discussion with a Weston Collegiate Institute class.
- A 4th Year Social Marketing class creating a comprehensive Marketing Plan for Outreach to the Korean community that is also to be used as a template for other community groups.
- Sitting on an expert panel for a 4th Year Negotiations in Human Resource Management class.

More CTP Activities

Our international connection is growing. Jaime Tilston, a recent Dalhousie University Community Development graduate, has come from San Francisco to do a three-month internship. In addition, Anthony Oduro, a Masters student in Conflict Management from The Netherlands, originally from Ghana, is coming this summer to do a four-month internship.

CTP staff and volunteers created a wall quilt for the CTP office, representing 12 of the CTP core values. It provides a visual expression of what the program, philosophy and approach mean to individuals involved in the CTP.

The CTP Volunteer Orientation is shifted to the Fall with details still to be confirmed.

We thank Nicole Rosen, Ekta Talwar, Bev Moffett, Long Zheng and Mark Harris for all their efforts these past months.

Gregg Fenten, CTP Coordinator
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CTP Coordinator Gregg Fenten with CTP Assistant Case Manager and Outreach Coordinator Forouz Masrou



April 2008—CTP volunteers at work on wall quilt

Children and Youth Program

The Children and Youth Program team continues to promote and expand our 2008 initiatives in schools and the community. This year's focus is "*Youth-Engaging-Youth For Positive Change*". This is achieved by building on the existing strengths of our youth and investing in their individual abilities as leaders, mentors and youth/community change agents. Together we work on creating safe and healthy communities in our schools, families and neighbourhoods.

Our programs and services and newly introduced projects are as follows:

- Conflict resolution training in schools for elementary school students, teachers, hall monitors and parents;
- Youth volunteer and mentorship opportunities through our Youth Advisory Committee (YAC);
- School-based youth talking circle dialogue in collaboration with other community organizations; and
- Summer Conflict Resolution workshops for children and youth aged 5 – 24 years at various summer school programs and youth-serving agencies in the community.

Hermia Corbette, Children & Youth Program Coordinator
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Youth participant Hillary Booker (left) with WE-Lead Project Coordinator Wayne D. Henry

WE Lead Project, our youth-led Drug Prevention Project team, has successfully selected 20 out of our 40 trained high school Youth Leaders to be Peer Drug Prevention Educators. Through their leadership training, the Peer Drug Prevention Educators have co-created a Drug Prevention Manual geared towards teaching elementary school students about drugs and their harmful effects on users. Elementary School Drug Prevention trainings, co-facilitated by the 20 Peer Drug Prevention Educators, began in April and will continue throughout May.

Wayne D. Henry, WE-Lead Project Coordinator
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Thanks to a \$20,000 grant from ORT Toronto, CMS-D has introduced a violence prevention initiative. We received the money as the designated charity by ORT Toronto 2007 Local Hero Honouree Gina Godfrey. The project combines peer mediation training, leadership and mentorship to empower a diverse group of Grade 11 Westview Centennial Secondary School students with transferable life skills. Students learn and use mediation and conflict resolution techniques as a positive option to manage and de-escalate conflict peacefully in their school, among their peers and in the community. As certified Peer Mediators, the students will train Brookview Middle School students to be Peacemakers as well as celebrate and promote a healthy school environment in a high-energy, life-changing Spirit Day event scheduled for the Fall.

Nigel Hunter, ORT Peer Mediation Project Coordinator
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CMS-D accepts a \$20,000 gift from ORT Toronto - (From left to right) Michele Sauve, Marlene Fine, Evan Heise, ORT Local Hero Honouree Gina Godfrey, Hermia Corbette, Joanne Gray, Simone Grant, Pierina Cincinnato, Gregg Fenten

The Somali Speaking Out Youth Advisory Project team is planning its fifth Somali Youth Speak Out Forum. Forum 4 focused on "Know Your Rights and Privileges" and took place on April 24 at Kipling Collegiate Institute. A resource handbook highlighting the previous forums and networks of effective youth-serving agencies and programs was distributed. Forum 5, "Empowering Youth, Future without Violence: How to Stay SAFE," will be held at Emery Collegiate on May 21 from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Over the past forums, the project has successfully reached out and provided access to community resources to Somali Youth in neighbouring high schools from the Jane and Finch, Jamestown and Rexdale communities. This has sparked the interest of a group of Somali Youth at Westview Centennial Secondary School to create a Somali Club to continue to build their skills and mentor newcomers in their school.

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Restorative Justice Program

Adult Justice Committees

We are pleased that the Adult Justice Committee (AJC) project has been extended for another year (until March 2009). As we reflect back on the two years of this program, the important role of our Steering Committees is clear. Made up of representatives from the Crown Attorney's Office, Duty Counsel, Toronto Police Services, Victim's Services, a Defence Counsel, Ministry of the Attorney General Representatives and Diversion Workers (from CMS-D, John Howard Society and Elizabeth Fry Society), these committees meet every three months and provide us an opportunity to connect with all the stakeholders at the courts, to report back on cases, and to work together to increase referrals and strengthen the operation of our program. Given our long history of implementing restorative justice programs at CMS-D, we know that these partnerships are essential to the strength of the Justice Committee Program.

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Private Information Court Update

Private Information Court continues to rely on the commitment of a few loyal volunteers to attend court and accept referrals from the Crown Attorney's office at the North York Courthouse. The value of this program is evident in recent resolved cases that included landlord/tenant issues, personal relationships and disputes between business partners.

Michele Sauve, Restorative Justice Director
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Volunteer Update

The Ministry of the Attorney General's requirements for mediating YJC cases include a vulnerable sector police check, referral to the YJC Steering Committee, and approval and swearing in by MAG. On March 26, over 35 volunteers were sworn in by Assistant Crown Attorney Shane Hobson who commended the quality of individuals offering themselves for this volunteer service. He added that 2201 Finch is the busiest youth court in Toronto. More volunteers and new trainees will be sworn in shortly after the upcoming training in May.

CMS-D would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication of our volunteers.

Brenda Kotras, Restorative Justice Volunteer Coordinator
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Restorative Justice Youth Program

As we begin Year Four of the Restorative Justice Youth Program, a lot of growth and recognition has taken place. Probation Officers are aware of the program and are utilizing it more, as well as requesting it in their pre-sentence reports. We were recently invited, along with Hermia Corbette, CMS-D's Children and Youth Program Coordinator, to present an educational piece on peer mediation and restorative justice at the 2008 Unity for the Future Conference in Etobicoke, on April 17. The conference was hosted by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

Adil Ahmed, Restorative Justice Youth Program Coordinator
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Youth Justice Committee Program

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who participated in the Youth Justice Committee (YJC) Special Evaluation Project. We are excited about the tremendous work and effort that went into this project, most notably that of the evaluator, Adam Lodzinski. Our hope is that this project better informs us about the Youth Justice Committee Program and seeks to propel the program towards continued growth and success.

I am resigning from the position of YJC Program Coordinator in order to further pursue my academic career. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for contributing to my wonderful experiences here. I look forward to continuing my volunteer work with CMS-D.

Kiri Lutchman, Youth Justice Coordinator
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Participants at the November 2007 Victim Offender Dialogue Training

Training and Consulting

We offer conflict resolution training and consulting services to individuals, schools, organizations and workplaces, including: coaching, mentoring, conferencing, corporate circles and customized training. We provide certificate as well as contract training.

2008 Training Schedule

Mediation Skills Training — June 24, 26 (evenings), 28 & 29 (days)

Parent -Youth Mediation — October 23, 24 (evenings) & 25 (day)

Mediation Skills Training — November 18, 20 (evenings) 22 & 23 (days)

Advanced Mediation Skills Training — December 2, 4 (evenings) & 6 (day)

Please visit our website for a full description of services and trainings: www.cmsd.org/training/home.html

For our 2008 Course Calendar, go to: www.cmsd.org/training/catalogue08.pdf

Pierina Cincinnato, Training & Consulting Coordinator
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We need your support **NOW** more than ever before!

Over the past five years, we have experienced a 54% increase in the number of individuals that approached CMS-D for community mediation services. This has resulted in slower response times and larger windows between appointments. In order to cope with this continuing increase, CMS-D needs additional staff to recruit and train more volunteer mediators and additional space for training and mediations. Without more funds, we will be unable to meet this growing need.

Indeed, we are celebrating our 20th year of incorporation only because of the ongoing financial help we have received from friends of CMS-D. Please show your continued support by making a donation today. To do so, return your completed response form, contact us at Ext. 28 or go to www.cmsd.org/general/donate.html

Your contribution makes a difference.



Children and Youth Program BSW Intern Grace Arku (left) with Training and Consulting Coordinator Pierina Cincinnato

Thanks to our Financial Supporters

- City of Toronto - Community Service Partnership, Access & Equity, Drug Prevention
- Human Resources Development Canada
- Ministry of the Attorney General
- Ministry of Children and Youth Services
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- ORT Toronto
- United Way

And thanks to all the businesses and individual supporters.



(From left to right) Volunteers Michael Benedict, Kate Franklin, Rita Czarny and Rita Houwers at CMS-D Open House