



Executive Director Report for 2020

March 3rd, 2021

The past year, to say the least, has been a year the Quinte West Youth Centre has never had to face before. When COVID-19 hit, it was the first time the youth centre had to ever close our doors for an extended period of time. It was a challenge we were willing to take and took on head first. COVID-19 taught us there are many different ways to support our youth; one of those ways including transitioning almost all programs virtually. We were able to gain tremendous amount of support from the community and government, which allowed us to offer new programs and continue the amazing work that we do. The youth centre continues to welcome youth between ages of 10 and 18 by providing a safe place for them.

FACILITY

QWYC has been well maintained by staff each day of operation with bathrooms and floors being cleaned every 2 hours to meet Public Health regulations. We were able to have our floors stripped and waxed, which has made a tremendous difference in cleaning our floors. The parking lot continues to cost \$40 per snow clearing and sanding during the winter/snow months. Lawn maintenance has continued to be done the City of Quinte West. The City of Quinte West is investing in new play structures at the centre and this should be completed this year; it was supposed to be done last summer, but because of COVID, the deadline was pushed.

RENTALS

Due to COVID-19, all rental agreements have ceased. Josephine as recently rented out the one room in the storage area of the basement to allow for her maintenance staff to come in and work on the machines; rent fee is \$113.00 a month.

Once things go back to normal, focus will go towards getting new rental income for the centre.

EVENTS/FUNDRAISING

With the new hire of Darlene Jones as our Fundraising Coordinator, there are some exciting events coming up.

During the months of May to August, staff and some youth will be at the Farmer's Market to promote the Centre, as well as sell our very own cookbooks. We will have 200 cookbooks made

and will be selling each book for \$13. We are looking at getting some advertisements put into the books to help cover the cost of making them. We are anticipating to raise approximately \$2500.

On August 7th, we will be hosting the “Route for Youth” motorcycle/vintage car poker run. This event is still a work in progress; people will be able to sign up and pay an entrance fee to do a 4 hour drive to help bring awareness and raise funds for our centre.

On December 4th, we will be hosting another Whoville craft sale. Darlene is working on trying to make this a big vendor show, with the goal of getting 90 vendors.

Darlene is also working on the bazaar lottery tickets as well as doing a 50/50 or Catch the Ace.

MEETINGS/TRAININGS/PARTNERSHIPS

Jess and Allie will be completing our professional growth training with Clearview at the end of this month. Training sessions included maximizing your delegation skills, leadership skills, working through difficult interactions, board of governance, fundraising, long term financial sustainability, critical thinking and strategic problem-solving, and developing a case for support. All of this training will be final on March 18th.

The Quinte West Youth Centre are apart of two committees at this time; Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Committee and the Quinte West Community Narcotics Committee.

We also have partnered with Counselling Services of Belleville and District to provide free counselling to our youth. This is being paid by our Trillium grant.

MEDIA

We’ve recently been in three newspapers to discuss our new counselling services.

PLACEMENT STUDENTS/VOLUNTEERS

Currently have 2 placement students working remotely from George Brown in Toronto. Everything they have done and will continue to do is done virtually.

We currently do not have volunteers at this time. This is due to COVID and the uncertainty of the lockdowns.

UPDATE ON COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

N/A

YOUTH CENTRE PROGRAMS

The Staff at QWYC has been focussed on offering programming virtually and providing extra support to our youth during these hard times. Virtual programs have been going extremely well and new youth have been joining us virtually every month.

STATISTICS

In 2020, there have been 622 youth visits despite the setbacks COVID has brought upon us. Last day of in-person programming was on March 13th and we stayed closed until August. August 4th was our official day back and was our first time offering virtual programming. We are receiving a lot of referrals from intersections; at the end of 2020 we had 20 new members. Our counselling service that begun last month also has gotten a good turn out right away with 5 new youth members joining to gain access to this service.

GRANT/APPROVALS AND LETTER OF INTERESTS APPROVAL (2021)

United Way of HPE - \$55,000

City of Quinte West - \$40,000

Hydro One - \$2,500

Ontario Trillium Foundation - \$94,500

Kay Stafford - \$5,000.00 – Waiting for Response

Rent Relief - \$12,000.00 – Waiting for Response

Energy Rebate - \$584.33

Donations - \$280

THANKS

On behalf of all staff of the Quinte West Youth Centre, I would like to thank all of our community partners for attending this afternoon. Our centre relies heavily on your support, resources and knowledge to make our youth centre successful and we are beyond grateful for everything you do.