



# Newsletter



April 2016

**John Howard**  
SOCIETY OF THUNDER BAY & DISTRICT

## New Youth Restorative Justice Conflict Mediation Program

### Introducing Domenic Barbiero

### The On Track Program



Domenic is the Coordinator of the On Track Restorative Justice & Conflict Resolution Program beginning at Westgate C.V.I. Here's what he had to say about himself and his new position:

My name is Domenic Barbiero; I graduated

from St. Patrick High School and went on to receive my Child and Youth Worker Diploma from Confederation College here in Thunder Bay. For the past nineteen years, I have enjoyed working as a Student Support Professional at Westgate C.V.I. Throughout my time at Westgate, I have enjoyed many opportunities to mentor students, both inside and outside the classroom. I love coaching soccer and assisting the Westgate football teams. Most recently, I have accepted the On Track Peer Mediation Coordinator position at Westgate C.V.I., a collaboration between the John Howard Society and the Lakehead District School Board. I am married and have an eleven-year-old stepson. I am excited about and look forward to my new role.

John Howard Society Thunder Bay has won grant funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth services for a new peer mediation program. This program, which is being implemented at Westgate Collegiate & Vocational Institute in partnership with Lakehead School Board, will be modeled after our existing On Track program that has been running successfully at Geraldton Composite High School since 2007. The Thunder Bay On Track program will be coordinated by a certified peer mediation trainer. The Coordinator, along with teachers and administrators at the school, will recruit a diverse group of students at the beginning of each term. The Coordinator will then train these students over five hours (with additional ongoing training) in peer mediation. Once the student mediators are trained, they mediate conflicts between students referred to the mediation process, with close support from the Coordinator. When a resolution is reached, the referred students and mediators sign an agreement. Mediators must uphold an oath of confidentiality and must make up any school work missed while partaking in the mediation process. The Coordinator is also available to support at-risk youth on a one-on-one basis. Peer mediation serves as a constructive alternative to detention, suspension and expulsion. Since the implementation of the On Track program, Geraldton Composite High School has seen a 40% reduction in expulsion and suspension and an increase in graduation rates. We look forward to engaging Westgate students in the restorative justice program and expect similarly positive results!



Our next **Mental Health First Aid** course will be **May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>** from 9am to 4:30pm at our offices, 315 Syndicate Ave. S. Payment in full is due by May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Refunds can be issued until May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016. To register or for more information contact Colleen at

**Mental Health First Aid**

cpeters@johnhowardtbay.on.ca or (807) 623-5355 x. 508.

**If you need a large print version or would like to be added to our mailing list to receive a digital copy please contact us at 807-623-5355 x.507 or at pwolframe@johnhowardtbay.on.ca**



### Noah: A Success Story

Noah arrived at JHS in November 2014, homeless, lacking identification documents, and needing to be connected to appropriate services. Noah had learned that his daughter, age 16, whom he had not seen in over a decade, had recently moved to Thunder Bay. Shortly after joining JHS's rehabilitative residence, Noah was able to apply for his Status Card and Photo ID card, and he opened a bank account. After approximately eight months of residing at JHS, staff began to notice a decline in Noah's mental and physical health. Staff reached out to partner agencies to provide assessment. Noah was diagnosed with an acquired brain injury, and had an extended stay in hospital. From there, he was stabilized and able to return to JHS. Noah is well today: looking healthy, actively participating in programming, and meeting with his daughter. Soon



## We are looking for volunteers !

- ⇒ **Tag Day June 18:** 11 am – 6 pm @ Beer Stores on Edward St., May St. & Red River Rd. Shifts are one hour in duration and involve collecting donations and distributing information to customers.
- ⇒ **Bingo volunteers** will be needed on an ongoing basis to help with bingos at Superior Shores Gaming Centre. Volunteers will need to go through a volunteer orientation at Superior Shores, dates to be determined.
- ⇒ The next **volunteer orientation** for volunteers looking to do direct service with clients in our residence will be on May 16th at 7 pm at our offices.

### Save the Date!

Lakehead Motors presents  
**The Howard Ball**

November 5, 2016  
Valhalla Inn Ballroom

Tickets \$80  
\$750 for a table of 10  
on sale May 1st, 2016

Tickets available at our office,  
Habitat for Humanity, Lakehead  
Motors or eventbrite.ca

**Limited Time Early Bird Special:**  
The first 20 people to purchase a table will get a free stay at the Valhalla Inn the night of the ball. One room per table purchase only.



### Holly: A Success Story

Holly came to the John Howard Society seeking housing in order to avoid homelessness. After completing her Resident Action Plan and identifying a number of goals, Holly quickly found her feet. She began an academic upgrading program, and started attending counselling to address her struggles with addiction. Holly experienced some difficult life events during her time with us. She was assaulted by an ex-boyfriend, and shortly after being assaulted, her father passed away. Holly showed her resiliency, however, reporting the assault to the police, and testifying against her ex-boyfriend in court, resulting in him receiving a short sentence. Throughout these challenges, Holly continued to attend school. After completing our residential program, she moved out on her own, having found housing in the community.

## AGM

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held June 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 at our offices. Dinner/symposium 5 pm, meeting at 6 pm. Hope to see you there!



On April 8th we held a spring feast for clients, staff and community members, organized by our Social Navigator Laurie (pictured right) and Confederation College placement student Amy (centre). Miigwech to Elders Ma-nee Chacaby (left) and Morris Shapwaykeesic, and to Dilico's Standing Bear drumming group for taking part in the event!

### Yoga comes to John Howard!



We are happy to announce that "Broga" yoga, relaxation & functional fitness classes will be added to our programming for clients. Classes will be facilitated by certified yoga instructor Bill Day, who has previously assisted our residents in accessing academic upgrading.

Find us on the Web:

[www.johnhowardtbay.on.ca](http://www.johnhowardtbay.on.ca)

Like us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/jhstbay](http://www.facebook.com/jhstbay)

Follow us on Twitter: @JHStbay

Email us: [info@johnhowardtbay.on.ca](mailto:info@johnhowardtbay.on.ca)

**Please share our success stories posted monthly on our social media pages!**



Other ways to reach us:

Phone: (807) 623-5355

In person or by mail:

315 Syndicate Ave. S.

Thunder Bay, ON

P7E 1E2

## Fundraising Report



I am happy to report that we have had several successful fundraisers in the past two months:

On March 26th, our volunteers came out on a long weekend and braved chilly weather to run a successful Tag Day, collecting donations at local LCBO locations.

On April 1, 2 and 3rd we were at the CLE Home & Garden Show selling raffle tickets, which were drawn on April 3rd. We raffled off some fabulous prizes including two return tickets anywhere Westjet flies, a wine and cheese package, a hand crafted bent willow chair, and passes to the CLE fair. Thank you to our sponsors: Westjet, Waterfront Winery & Brewhouse, Willow Springs Creative Centre, and the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition.

On April 9th, we had a pizza fundraiser in partnership with Both Hands Pizza & Bakery.

Thanks to the generosity of our volunteers, donors and sponsors, we raised almost \$5000 in three weeks and created a lot of buzz about our programs & services!

**Heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported these initiatives.**

On **May 19th**, we will be participating in **United Way's Great Billboard Rescue**, with funds raised by our team going to help support John Howard Society's rehabilitative residential programs.

Our team will be going up in the scissor lift at 2 pm and we'll be looking for donations to meet our fundraising goal of \$4000 so that we can get back down again! For more information or to make a donation contact [pwolframe@johnhowardtbay.on.ca](mailto:pwolframe@johnhowardtbay.on.ca) or 623-5355 x. 507 or visit our pledge page via the United Way website.



PhebeAnn Wolframe, Fundraising Administrator

