



EJHS CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

EJHS celebrated 60 years at its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 at the Royal Glenora Club. The short business meeting was followed by a luncheon program that featured guest speaker, Fred Rayner, Co-Chair – Edmonton Taskforce on Community Safety. Mr. Rayner shared a meaningful speech on community crime prevention and his involvement with the Safe Communities Task Force.

To mark the 60th anniversary, the crowd enjoyed special presentations by

- * United Way, Alberta Capital Region
- * Correctional Service Canada
- * Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security.



In addition, EJHS received a "Star Blanket," a symbol of four directions, four nations or four generations intricately woven in four

traditional colours. Presented by Wilf Trohan from Stan Daniels, the audience learned about the history and origins of the Star Blanket. EJHS was humbled by such gifts and sharing. It was truly a momentous occasion.

EJHS' work has expanded from providing immediate basic support to released offenders to offering a range of services and programs for at-risk youth, offenders, ex-offenders, victims of crime, family members and the community-at-large. We are proud of the work that we have done in our community over the past 60 years. We are deeply grateful for the support that we have received from our community.

As we look forward, EJHS is committed to working effectively with our funders, supporters and many partners to continue in our work to create safety and harmony in our community.



60 Reasons to Celebrate the work of the Edmonton John Howard Society

We invited board members, staff, volunteers, clients, supporters, colleagues and alumni to share their views on reasons to celebrate the work of Edmonton John Howard Society. Below, contributions from various stakeholders that make up the community of EJHS.

Edmonton John Howard Society...

1. **Cares** about the intrinsic worth of each individual.
2. Always puts clients first.
3. Is focused on keeping community-at-large in the forefront of its goals.
4. Is **compassionate**.
5. Is empathetic.
6. Sees past behaviours and labels that promote stigmas.
7. Is a group of individuals who care for each other as well as the **community**.
8. Touches people's lives everyday.
9. Has been an absolute **joy** to work for. The staff goes out of their way to make new staff and clients alike feel at home and like family.
10. **Is accepting**.

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AN EVENING IN CHINA

EJHS' 3rd annual FUNdraiser, An Evening in China was a huge success. We gathered at the Lingnan restaurant to celebrate the Chinese New Year and to raise money for EJHS' volunteer program and ASSIST Community Service Centre. The event included draw prizes, 50/50 prizes, amazing food, dancing and lots of fun. Enthusiastic volunteers added to the evening's sold-out festivities which raised \$6,800.



WITH THANKS...AND LOOKING FORWARD

As EJHS wraps up the 2008/2009 fiscal year, we want to acknowledge and thank our outgoing Board Chair, Tracey Cyca. Tracey has served on our Board for six years and will continue next year in the capacity of Past Chair. Tracey has provided vision and leadership and has been an excellent ambassador for EJHS during her tenure as Chair. She also graciously hosts our year-end Board/Management Barbeque.

We also thank and acknowledge Past Board Chair, Erin Gray, who leaves the Board after serving two full terms and serving an additional year as Past Chair.



Lisa Filice

We welcome Lisa Filice as our incoming Board Chair. Lisa is a Chartered Accountant who specializes in the implementation of new accounting and auditing standards, practicing throughout Alberta. Lisa has worked in private practice and in industry since completing her Bachelor of Commerce with distinction at the University of Alberta in 1995. Lisa is very involved in her community serving as Treasurer on the Edmonton John Howard Board for the past three years, and is currently President with the Entrepreneurial Chartered Accountants of Edmonton. For the past six years Lisa has volunteered at tax clinics for low-income seniors. In 2007, Lisa was awarded the early achievement award from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta for her contributions to the profession and her community. Lisa is married to James Filice and they have one child. We welcome Lisa as our new Board Chair and wish her every success as she leads the board into the new year.

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VOLUNTEER AND STAFF AWARDS

On April 28, 2009 EJHS welcomed staff, volunteers and guests to a celebratory Volunteer and Staff Appreciation Luncheon at the Citadel Theatre. As the official date of EJHS' incorporation, April 28, 1948 marked a special day in our history. As such, we felt it fitting, 60 years later, to choose this date to celebrate our past year's accomplishments, to recognize work well done, and to show our deep appreciation to all our volunteers and staff.



The following award winners were recognized for their outstanding contributions to EJHS:
Tony Pearson - Peer Recognition Award
Rachel Posch - Extra Mile Award
Meagan Miciak - Ken Schultz Award
Frank Postill - 10 Year Volunteer Appreciation Award.

VICTIM OFFENDER RESTORATIVE DIALOGUE

The Mediation and Restorative Justice Centre (MRJC) has just launched its Victim Offender Restorative Dialogue (VORD) program. The VORD process prepares and provides interested victims and offenders with an opportunity to meet face-to-face in a safe and structured setting. The process, voluntary and offered at no cost, aims to help participants address the criminal behaviour, the harm caused to the victim, and how the offender may be held accountable in a way that is meaningful to both parties.

VORD is the result of the collaborative efforts of members of the Crown, Defense Counsel, Edmonton John Howard Society, Edmonton Police Service, Grant MacEwan College, Native Counselling, Solicitor General Correctional Services, Solicitor General Victim Services, University of Alberta – Faculty of Law, RJ Academics and Practitioners. Funding is provided by Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security, Victim Services.

Edmonton John Howard Society was a founding member of the Edmonton Victim Offender Mediation Program which successfully operated in the 1990s. We are very pleased to have participated on the advisory committee for the new Victim Offender Restorative Dialogue Program and wish MRJC every success in its implementation.

VORD is currently accepting referrals into the program. For more information, contact Harvey Voogd at 780-423-0896 ext. 203 or go to www.mrjc.ca.

MORE FUNDING FOR REESTART

EJHS is very pleased to announce that we received additional funding from Safe Communities Innovation Fund (SCIF). Our successful application has enabled us to hire additional staff for REESTART enabling us to support more youth in transition over the next three years. This additional funding will significantly expand our



capacity to effectively support young adults (15-22) in making healthy choices in life.

60 REASONS TO CELEBRATE EJHS...continued from page 1.

11. Allows me to be a positive change in people's lives. I am motivated to grow and change as an individual as a result of my work with John Howard.
12. Is **non-discriminating**.
13. Gave me courage and showed me how I can believe I myself. I had the courage to change my situation, find a new home...I could never have done it without John Howard's support and encouragement.
14. Is understanding.
15. Has wonderful caring staff that have **respect** for each other as well as clients.
16. Helped me build myself and my kids life back up from a place where I was at my lowest.
17. Gave me a better understanding of the abuse...
18. Reached out to me when I felt isolated. It is a **resource** in time of need.
19. Is a major support for people who don't know where to go and who don't have resources for expensive care. It is a gift to the community.
20. Is a tireless advocate for those in need and a champion of the underdog.
21. Is a great resource and help to any one in a time of crisis.
22. Is like a family to me.
23. Honours **diversity**.
24. Truly lives up to the concept of partnership.
25. Is **understanding**, compassionate, empathetic and nondiscriminatory.
26. Is a group of people who care for each other and touch people's lives everyday.
27. Gave me the courage to change my situation and helped me find my way.
28. Makes it easier to cope; knowing someone is there to help or listen.
29. Was there when I needed someone to be here for me.
30. Is a gift to the **community**.
31. Is an absolute joy to work for.
32. Helped me build myself and my kid's lives back up.
33. Was an open door in a time of need.
34. Is such a valuable resource.
35. Restored my sense of hope and trust.
36. Gave me the courage to change my situation, find a new home, continue my education and find peace and healing.
37. Is an extended circle of support for Aboriginal families.
38. Believes in **collaboration**.
39. I'm so grateful that this program was here and I could attend it because it really has changed my life.
40. "Are you Mrs. John Howard," asks a grade two student to a Public Education staff member during an in-school presentation.
41. I am so, so thankful to have the opportunity to work and learn with the guys in this field...thank you for this experience
42. My **passion** in life is working with youth.
43. In a time of need the doors of the John Howard Society were opened to me. I had little knowledge of resources that could be available to me and I was very hesitant to ask.
44. How wonderful to find **warm, caring supportive** professionals who listened and could steer me to variety of resources.
45. Fortunately I was given the phone number to John Howard Society where I was blessed to be given a support worker.
46. Thank-you for all the **support**...I still have weak spots and discouraging moments, but they are easier to cope with knowing someone is there to help.
47. I like EJHS **encouragement** like the phone calls and home visits.
48. It was a privilege to be asked to serve as a Board member of EJHS and I benefitted every bit as much as I contributed during my tenure.
49. I continue to be inspired by the excellence of the work done by the staff who are passionate about what they do and the people they work with.
50. Staff take the time to listen and laugh with you!"
51. They are **open minded** and there to help you along for success.
52. It really has changed my life.
53. I thoroughly enjoy our talks. They have helped me through some personal issues and making some very hard decisions.
54. Kids should be allowed to be kids. They shouldn't be dealing with adult problems.
55. They've helped me become a better person and to respect myself and others.
56. Every time that I come here I feel a positive energy around here. Me and my wife appreciate the help the Edmonton John Howard Society offered. Without them I would not have a home!
57. It is an honour to be a part of EJHS as a volunteer...for one day, a year, or a lifetime. There is much satisfaction to be achieved in any program and I truly recommend it.
58. My self-esteem has increased so much as a result of coming to ATLC. It has given me motivation to be successful.
59. You were a great encouragement and taught me to speak for myself
60. The people here are very **friendly and helpful** and they don't look down on you.

Transition

is the community
newsletter of
**Edmonton John
Howard Society**

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Safety and Harmony in our Community

