

ACTIVITY REPORT 2006-2007

HIGHLIGHTS

○ YOUTH PROGRAM

The Lowertown Community Resource Centre (LTCRC) now offers Youth and Anglophone programs for the youth of Lowertown. In the last 10 years, this service was offered at the Lowertown Youth Centre. Their Board of Directors requested that the LTCRC take this service under its wings because it was felt that the management of the service would be more efficient and provide better continuity. After negotiations with the City of Ottawa, where the source of funds originate, the LTCRC entered into an agreement and accepted to place under its responsibility the delivery of youth services.

We've hired personnel and implemented various programs, offering youth activities for children 6 to 17. These activities take place at different locations. The Homework club, basketball and the After-school program (Club 310) take place at the York Street School. Other activities, such as the Cooking course, the Computer centre, the billiards tournaments, the cinema nights, etc. take place at 201 Friel, where a room is especially prepared for the youth program participants. We soon will be organizing soccer leagues and the summer program.

The contribution of the volunteers from the Youth Centre's Board of Directors is gratefully acknowledged, in particular that of its chairperson, Janis Nostbakken, who spent many hours making it possible for the youth in Lowertown to benefit from the programs. We also extend our grateful thanks to the Community Funding Division for the City of Ottawa and United Way Ottawa for accepting to provide continued funding in order to make it possible for the LTCRC to take over the management of the programs.

○ THE EAST OTTAWA COMMUNITY FAMILY HEALTH TEAM (EOCFHT)

On January 11 last, the EOCFHT held its first annual general meeting. The Board of Directors consists of 14 members. Each community resource centre named two directors to the Board. The members also elected two other directors.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care approved 3 of the 5 sites that will be functional in the fall. These are the Orleans-Cumberland, the Overbrook-Forbes and

the Eastern Ottawa Community Resource Centres. The Vanier and the Lowertown Community Resource Centres will receive Ministry approval in 2008.

On February 15, 2007, a temporary site was opened in order to provide health services to the community. To this day, more than 500 patients have been registered. The team is made up of an executive director, a doctor, a nurse practitioner, a mental health practitioner, a psychologist, a dietitian and support staff. We plan on hiring two new doctors in the coming weeks.

○ **INITIATIVES IN REGARD TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- Community Store / Magasin Partage
 - Income Tax Clinics
 - Lowertown Good Food Box
 - Millennium Learning Centre
 - Anti-poverty Community Action Groups
 - Community Gardens
 - Craft Group
 - International Women's Day
 - Active Living / Active Women / Walking Club
 - English as a Second Language classes
 - Security Committee in Lowertown East
 - Youth Action Day / Spring Cleaning
 - Lowertown Community Celebration
- We were awarded a \$6,000 grant by the *Fondation franco-ontarienne* for the initiative ***Les jeunes au service des plus démunis de leur communauté.*** During their 2006-2007 year, students enrolled in the *Centre d'excellence artistique* at the *École secondaire publique de La Salle*, with the help of the teachers responsible for the artistic initiatives, presented a benefit concert on Thursday, October 12, 2006, in partnership with the LTCRC and the *Patro d'Ottawa*, in aid of the Community Store / Magasin Partage.

The main goal of this initiative was to promote the awareness of these young adolescents towards the community's poorest by allowing them to participate in a real project. By staging the concert, they felt that they made a real difference in their own community, meeting a tangible and concrete need for them.

- Almost 70 students from the *Centre d'excellence artistique* participated in the benefit concert;
- 39 attendants had VIP tickets including the networking activity;
- More than 100 other persons attended the benefit concert;

- The community in general was made aware of the project thanks to the publicity in the daily *Le Droit*, the press release, media relations activities and networking.

We insist on thanking the *Fondation franco-ontarienne* for supporting this initiative, as well as the enterprise Yves Marchand for its involvement in the project.

- **The Green Box** benefits many families and individuals. This year, we made special recruiting efforts and explained the benefits of good nutrition. Many presentations were made in the premises of the Ottawa Community Housing Corporation. Presently, more than 20 families and individuals regularly participate by buying a green box.
- The Centre is still involved with the “**Groupe d’action communautaire francophone (GACF)**”, whose mission is to inform and mobilize Ottawa’s francophone low-income citizens in order to give them the tools and identify solutions to the effects of poverty. So, it is with eagerness and great interest that we share the 2007 project. The project consists of writing and gathering written histories that represent the different faces of poverty in the francophone population and to publish the collection of testimonies.
- The Centre is one of the members of the “**Comité de sécurité de la Basse-Ville Est**” / **Lowertown East Safety Committee**. In the course of the year, the Committee undertook many initiatives in order to deliver a project that would meet the different needs of the community in regards to safety. We submitted an application for a grant with the City of Ottawa. We are also exploring other sources of financing.
- The Centre participated in the **Youth Action Day 2007**. Organized by United Way Ottawa, the activity is conceived to create volunteer opportunities for youth in order for them to become aware of the needs and the services in our community. We are happy to share with you that 7 young persons rolled up their sleeves and participated in the **Spring clean-up day** of Lowertown. This activity will have helped the adult and younger residents to bond while cleaning the neighbourhood.

○ SUPPORT SERVICES

- Crisis intervention
- Short term counselling
- Advocacy
- Support Group
- Information and referral

- Individual and couple counselling (Catholic Family Services)
- Home Management counselling services (City of Ottawa)
- Public Health services (City of Ottawa)
- Housing services (Action Housing)
- Voice Mailbox (Contact Ottawa)

This year, a reception service worker organized a support and discussion group for francophones who are lesbians or bisexual women. Six women participated in this support group.

○ SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- Healthy Babies Healthy Children (City of Ottawa)
 - Parent-Child Playgroup for parents and 6 year olds and under
 - Infant Group for parents and babies from 0 to 1
 - Children's Playgroup for children from 4 to 6 at l'école Ste-Anne
 - Mobile toy lending library
 - Counselling services for students attending Ste-Anne and De La Salle schools
 - Crisis intervention for school age children
 - Topic forums with youth
 - Monthly parent-child library outings
 - Homework club for English speaking students
- As part of their annual grant giving practice, the operating grant from the City of Ottawa provided funds that allowed us to recruit, train and supervise **volunteers** who support the workers in the Parent-Child Playgroup. We've integrated 16 volunteers in the program since September 2006. While supporting the workers, the project also aims to help the volunteers develop skills that can be transferred to the job market; the volunteer work also enhances the volunteers' self-respect. We are proud of the goals reached in the few months that this has been operational.

○ COMMUNITY LINKAGES AND REPRESENTATION

- Participation in meetings of the organizations represented at the Heartwood House / *Au coeur de la vie*
- Representation of LTCRC on the *Comité Réseau*
- Participation on a research committee relative to services at the *Centre Espoir Sophie*
- Representation on the *Comité Hydro-énergie*
- Participation on the steering committee of the GLBT Project
- Participation on the Lowertown Housing Committee

- Participation on the Board of Directors of the *Centre de jeunes de la Basse-Ville*
- Member of the coalition Ottawa Community Response to Hoarding
- Member of the Action Housing partners committee
- Member of the Multicultural Health Coalition Group
- Member of the Multicultural Advisor Committee
- Member of the Coalition of Community Health & Resource Centres
- Participation in the Multicultural Resource Group
- Member of the *Regroupement francophone des intervenantes à l'accueil*
- Member of the Family Literacy Advisory Committee
- Partnership in the Coalition of Community Health & Resource Centres for the diversity training program
- Representation on the Board of Directors of the Lowertown Good Neighbours Community House
- Cooperation with *Entraide budgétaire* in regards to the Income Tax Clinics and the GACF project
- Partnership with *Patro d'Ottawa* in the Community Store project
- Cooperation with Action Housing by offering information sessions for the community.

○ ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

- The City of Ottawa granted a budget increase to the community organizations to counteract the pressures of staffing and operating costs and a 2% increase for the cost of living increase. The Centre also was allowed \$49,045 from the City for the Youth Program.
- United Way Ottawa granted \$5,000 for the Lowertown Homework Club for English speaking students and \$18,750 to help finance the Youth Program.
- The Centre also ensures the administrative management of the City for All Women Initiative.
- We now have a new database program to register clients at reception. This project was done in collaboration with the Orléans-Cumberland and Overbrook CRCs.