

Volume 4, issue 1 The Newsletter of the John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland of BC

Spring 1999

#### JHSLM adopts Provincal Policy On Substance Use

The following Policy/Position Statement was adopted by the JHSLM in April 98. John Howard workers across the Province continue to be deeply moved by the number of drug related deaths we experience during the course of our work. While abstinence may be the ultimate goal, we suggest that the immediate concern is to prevent harm. Our Policy/Position statement is the first step towards this goal: harm reduction.

The John Howard Society of BC Policy/Position Statement (Revised February 6, 1999) Substance Use & Criminal Justice

#### Preamble

The use, possession and trafficking of illicit drugs has become a serious problem for Canadian Society. Governments spend enormous amounts of money for police, the court system and the correctional system to combat drug related problems. There is an increase in the availability of illicit drugs and government measures to combat their effects are not reducing the problem.

#### 1. Alcohol & Drug Use Prevention Education

The Society supports the promotion of increased efforts in prevention education focusing on children, parents, teachers, other caregivers and the media. This education should demonstrate the harmful risks associated with using drugs as well the related socio/economic conditions should be factored into all education prevention programs. The Society recommends increased funding for alcohol and drug abuse prevention education.

#### 2. Harm Reduction

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The society supports the continuation of the needle exchange programs in order to reduce the incidents of infectious disease. To be effective. there needs to be increased resources for the community based support such as residential detoxification centers. treatment programs and short/long term supportive housing for men. women and children. The Society recommends the establishment of a medically supervised drug dispensation system throughout the province in order to accommodate detoxification programs. This intervention should be exercised in the least intrusive

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method as possible. It should also include counseling, education, lifeskill development and followup.

The Society further recommends alternate sentencing options be made available to appropriate offenders with substance use problems as a means of encouraging treatment rather than incarceration.

#### **3.Illicit Substances**

The Society recommends that the purchase, possession and consumption of illicit substances for adult personal use be addressed as a health and social issue, not as a criminal justice issue.

The John Howard Society is Proud to be sponsored by the United Way



#### **United Way** Of the Lower Mainland

# The BRIDGE

is published by the John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland of BC.

Editors

Kim Capri

Layout Denise Olenyk

Data Input Denise Olenyk

We welcome and encourage your comments, suggestions, and feedback. Do you have any ideas for articles? Are there issues that you would like to see discussed?

In future issues, we will print letters from our readers. So, please write us a letter. (Submissions will be edited for style and length).

Please send your comments, suggestions, and feedback to:

The John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland of BC 300 - 96 East Broadway Vancouver, BC V5T 4N9 Phone: 872-5651 Fax: 872-4165

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#### Welcome to the "School for John's Project"

With great excitement the JHSLM is welcoming the "School for John's Project" to the Lower Mainland. This is a pioneer project for British Columbia, and a project that the John Howard Society is eager to introduce. The anticipated start date is April 01, 1999.

The program is geared towards the clients of our community's sex trade workers, commonly referred to as "Johns." The John School has been modeled from programs that exist in other Provinces across Canada, and it has been refined to meet the needs that have been identified in our community. There are many advantages to this project – the most obvious being that it adheres to the principles of restorative justice.

In a nutshell, this project will; enable our community to have a voice regarding the negative effects of Prostitution; provide the client a greater understanding of their behavior and the global consequences of their actions; decrease the likelihood of future recidivism; create an opportunity to research and explore issues around Prostitution in our community; create funding to help the sex trade workers review their interests and lean towards a healthy and balanced lifestyle; and provide the opportunity for our affected community members to repair any harm, and continue the healing journey.

Personally, I am very excited to support the Vancouver City Police in leading this challenge, as the Coordinator – Community Diversion Projects, and I would like to welcome all of the partners who will be part of the School for John's Project team. This team will be guided by an Advisory Committee, which is comprised of a myriad of community agencies interested in exploring the issues enveloped in Prostitution.

Appreciation is extended to all agencies and individuals who have supported the program and contributed to the process that resulted in the birth of this program.

Nathan L. Rock Coordinator - Community Diversion Projects



#### FOCUS ON THE COMMUNITY

When we examine the services made available by the John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland and the many John Howard Societies across Canada, although we all

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have a similar mission, there are differences. Communities are very distinctive and vary in their needs and concerns. Every John Howard Society develops and implements services that are reflective of their community.

The John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland prides itself as being a leading member of the community when it comes to addressing issues relating to crime. Back in 1994, the Government of Canada launched a National Strategy for a framework for federal efforts to support community safety and crime prevention, by mobilizing the community to take action to prevent crime. One funding initiative made available to communities is the Community Mobilization Program, that helps communities develop comprehensive and sustainable approaches to crime prevention and undertake activities that deal with the root causes of crime. The City of Vancouver has responded to this federal initiative and developed a Vancouver Safety Coalition. The Vancouver Safety Coalition, formed in April 1998, is a community-based coalition working towards safety, security, peace, justice and harmony. The Vancouver Safety Coalition arose out of a desire amongst community-based organizations

involved in community safety and well-being, to work more collectively in order to strengthen our efforts, and realize more meaningful results. As a representative of the John Howard Society, I have been actively participating with the South Vancouver and the Midtown Service Provider Committees to develop proposals accessing funding to assess, educate, implement and evaluate sustainable projects relating to the needs and concerns of our community. Community responsibility and empowerment are necessary components towards effective crime prevention strategies and community safety and security. We, the John Howard Societies across Canada, can play an important role in assisting communities reach their potential in being informed about, involved in, and responsible for crime prevention and community safety. Together, we can create a safe and peaceful community. For further information on how

you can become an active member in your community, contact Shawna Rocque at 872-5651.

Shawna Rocque, Youth Services Coordinator



#### Mental Illness: A Plight That Deserves More Attention

Generally it is agreed that mental illness/head injury is a plight, which does not receive adequate attention within the criminal justice system. When mental health institutions started closing wards and moving people into the community the support systems were not adequate. In North America and in other countries. there seem to be too few strategies to counter the massive numbers of sick people who end up behind bars. And the strategies that do exist appear to result in concealed failures. What is the real solution?

Given the growing number of mentally disordered offenders not only in prison but also on the city streets one might question the effectiveness of existing government - run programs. While acknowledging that there have been successes, few will ever believe that results have been anything but poor. Mentally ill people are often left wandering the streets. People have been expelled from institutional care after years and left to fend for themselves in an unfamiliar world. Many arrests are made because mentally ill persons are homeless, unsupervised and too ill to make good decisions. The 

result: sick persons are placed in prison and prisons are not equipped to help mentally ill. This plight, which impacts significantly on crime and incarceration rates, would warrant the adoption of much more serious strategies. For example how do we manage the mentally ill without trying to fit a round peg in a square hole (prison). Many people with mental illnes: don't even understand the concept that incarceration is a form of accountability. The criminal behavior is do to a lack of impulse control or delusions. The concept that they may be dangerous to others, is a foreign to the mentally ill person because often there is no intent behind the crime

Many issues related to mental illness and incarceration have been clear to all for some time now. We must show increasing support for the current direction being taken toward more concerted action and a strong commitment to doing away with incarceraton and providing services that manage illness in the community. We must continue to strive for a better balance of nower and resources between those who seek to protect on one hand and promote public health on the other hand. The JHS of the Lower Mainland in the past year has developed community based

programming specific to the needs of persons with mental illness. Although this is a significant service it is a far cry from what is needed in the community to deal with the problem. What is important is not to punish, but to intervene in the most effective fashion possible, all the while pushing back the boundaries that prevent us from acting more firmly to put strategies into place that more effectively manage this devastating plague. We need to strive for healing where there is hurt and intervene decisively and consistently, with a focus on prevention, safety for all, and a respectful treatment of the person who suffers an illness by choice of their own.

Lou DeMaeyer – Director of Forensic Services

#### **Residence Worker Moves On**

The staff and residents of Guy Richmond Place are saddened to see Kimberly Brake leave her position as Residence Worker. It has been a great two years of having her energy and great painting skills. We wish her all the best in her new position with the John Howard Society Adult Services.

Guy Richmond Place held a Paint and Pizza day on Saturday March 20, 1999. This involved all staff, residents and partners plus a lotof volunteers. This was Kim Brake's farewell to Guy Richmond Place and she definitely left her Mark!!



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#### DOING TIME

Seconds feel like minutes. Hours feel like days, Months feel like years. TV is your best friend Yet your worst enemy Your friends are your Friends and your friends Your worst enemies This is what it is like When your doing time You will see things that Will blow your mind. Because there is no trust When you are doing time. Outsiders may think it is easy, Even the sentences to light But I assure you of this It's rough doing time.

By Sean Camirand

Coordinator – Adult Services Moves On...

January 05, 1998 I received a call from our Executive Director asking if I would like to be the new Coordinator for Adult Services, and just over a year later, I am moving on to another great venture within the agency. The Adult Services program is an incredible learning ground that the agency has provided to me. I definitely wish the program continued success as I know that there are many individuals who are in prison and our community that need this program's diverse support. Furthermore, our community continues to thrive on the knowledge, philosophy, and the advocate role that the JHS deploys. I welcome Kimberly Brake as the new Coordinator and I wish her, as well as the program. every success.

To the Volunteers with the Adult Services program - I will miss having the companionship and the unique approaches and personalities that you bring to this program. As a leader, I hope that you all have achieved what you have set out to learn. Conversely, as your student I can proudly say that I have learned so much from every one of you. Continue to nurture your unique styles, be yourself, and never leave behind the values that have attracted you to our agency.

To the Choices volunteer, Dan, we have shared a lot of special experiences over the past year. and I know that the schools will continue to welcome your honesty and integrity. These are special parts of our core that we must always strive to maintain. I know that you will be successful in obtaining your dreams and you definitely deserve them. The pursuit of these dreams will always confront you with challenges - maintain the strength I know you have and they will materialize

A client shared a quote with me the other day, "Keep your head and your heart in the right direction and you'll never have to worry about your feet." This is a message for us all.

Thank you.

Nathan L. Rock



#### Hello and Goodbye

I must admit I am extremely excited about my new role as Coordinator of Adult Services. I have met the volunteers who provide such an invaluable service to the program and am really looking forward to working with them. In the near future the Adult Services team will have the opportunity to meet as a group and discuss our goals and direction. In stepping into this position I realize I've got big shoes to fill. Fortunately Nathan Rock has been showing me the ropes for the past week and a half. He has provided me with so much information and guidance, which I greatly appreciate. Nathan, the Volunteers and Staff at Head Office have made such an effort in making me feel at home. They have been very supportive and fun to work with and I thank them all.

As for leaving Guy Richmond Place I am still at a loss for words. This transition has been awkward and I've been catching myself talking about GRP as though I was still there. Fortunately in continuing with the John Howard Society I can still work with GRP in providing community resources. I have learned so much over the last two years and my co-workers have been extremely supportive and caring. Remember, I am only a few blocks away and there is always coffee brewing here as well.

Thanks! Kimberly Brake

### Reflection of a Practicum Student

As I reflect back over the last three months I have spent at the John Howard Society as an undergraduate practicum student with the Youth Court Program, only one word comes to mind – *HONORED*. Its amazing, I have learned more about the practice of criminal justice in this short time than in my last four years at Simon Fraser University studying Criminology. For this wonderful adventure, for this learning about life beyond academia, I owe the people of John Howard many thanks.

I would first like to acknowledge and show my appreciation for my supervisor and the Coordinator of Youth Services, Shawna Rocque whose grace-filled tenacity has taught me the meaning of the word "professionalism". Shawna leads by example, showing all around her that respect is something you give first and then receive. Thank you for helping me with that lesson. To all the volunteers at the Youth Court Program, I thank you for helping to strengthen in me the value of believing in what you do. You are angels. With such faith you care for and reach out to "the kids" without ever really seeing the results of your work. I know you do shine light in the lives of the children you meet.

Finally, my special thanks goes to the clients of the John Howard Society who have taught me the power of *choice*, the power of *today*, and about the *value of every human spirit*.

To everyone I met on my adventure, I am so *HONORED* to have shared a part of what you do. You opened a world for me. Whether it is Victim Offender Mediation or halfway house reintegration, you put *heart* into what you do. This is why I believe you truly are succeeding in restoring justice. And this is probably why I so thoroughly enjoyed my time with you. You are gifts I will always treasure.

Andrea



#### A MOTHERS STORY The Fight to Free My Son David - Joyce Milgaard with Peter Edwards

For nearly three decades, Joyce Milgaard told anyone who would listen that her son, David was an innocent man trapped in a nightmare – sentenced to life in prison at age seventeen for a rape and murder he did not commit. Now, thirty years after the horrific murder of Gail Miller and David Milgaard's wrongful conviction, Joyce Milgaard tells her story in A Mother's Story: The Fight to Free My Son David, published by Doubleday Canada on March 20, 1999.

On April 12th, 1999, Jovce Milgaard visited Vancouver, where she shared her inspiring story that is an example of the unbreakable bond between a mother and her child and demonstrates an empowering victory for the human spirit. A role model for many Canadians, Joyce has been named to the Maclean's Magazine Honor Roll and was awarded the 125 Anniversary Medal, a government of Canada Confederation Commemorative, for "significant contribution to fellow citizens, their community or Canada." She continues to be very involved with the John Howard Society, and the Association in Defense of the Wrongfully Convicted.

On behalf of The John Howard Society, our heartfelt appreciation, admiration and respect go to Joyce Milgaard, who donated the proceeds of her tour to the John Howard Society but more importantly, because of her courage to persevere in the face of adversity and her ability to remain true to her beliefs. Thank you, Joyce!

Matthew Yun President The John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland



Note: The Milgaard family has not been able to complete closure of their ordeal, as the matter of compensation has not been resolved. For information on how you can express support for them, please call our office 872-5651.



#### A Visit of Justice

In Canada, our jails are recognized as model penal facilities in our worldly criminal justice system. Through collective efforts of dedicated individuals and agencies over the years our jails have become more humane. Our jails are seen as one of the cleanest. most therapeutic oriented centers that an individual could encounter in the criminal justice system. A lot of people in jail are constantly reminded that they are lucky to be in jail here and not in another country - Canada, should we be proud?

I met a man in prison several weeks ago – he is a tiny young man, emanciated, and presenting a timid demeanor. As we slowly begin to talk I learn that the man in front of me is currently incarcerated for several charges of a violent nature. He explains that there has been a mix up and that he is not the man who committed the crimes. He looked up at me despairingly, not sure whether or not he should trust me and continue the story – at this point I just lent him an ear.

John, as I will refer to him in this story, is really physically ill. He is

suffering from panic attacks, which he states that he has never experienced before, and slight lesions are beginning to form on various parts of his body. John alleges that he has never experienced ailments like this before and that they have erupted since his incarceration of three weeks ago. Last night, he explains. he began to get the shivers and he could not fall asleep as the cells are very damp. John rang his buzzer several times to ask the night shift correctional officer if he could have an additional blanket, but the answer was no. Instead, his existing blankets were taken away as punishment for the disturbance. Over the next few days John submitted several requests to see health care and on the fourth day he was finally seen. The Doctor did run some tests and implied that John may have contracted some infection or disease, and upon receiving this information John left feeling humiliated and emotionally exhausted. Today, he contacts the John Howard Society in an attempt to find a support system amidst the chaos of his confinement. At this point, John's only friends are handcarved soap figurines he made out of his toiletries. Sadly, he holds onto these symbols for a sense of freedom, friendship, and strength.

Perhaps some of our readers will feel for this man – perhaps not. However, I have intentionally left out one detail: John is currently incarcerated in a sentencing facility, yet to be convicted of any crime. Unfortunately, in this story it truly appears that we have abandoned our fundamental right as a Canadian citizen – "Innocent until proven guilty."

#### Nathan Rock



#### So... What do you think

Please tell us by phone, by fax, or by mail. We want to learn <u>your</u> opinions, concerns, and ideas. All feedback is welcome. Letters submitted for publication in future newsletters will be edited for style and length.



#### Thanks!

Recently, the staff of Home Depot Coquitlam generously donated enough high quality paint to cover the interior of Guy Richmond Place. In addition, they provided us with numerous paint travs. rollers, brushes and other paint supplies we so desperately needed. I'd like to thank Dave Jenn and the staff for their support. The new look to Guy Richmond Place has definitely added to the warmth and home. atmosphere we have established. Again, Thanks a million!

Once we had all the supplies some of the residents and staff of Guy Richmond Place dived in and started painting. In an effort to finish off the work we had a painting pizza party which was a lot of fun. Several residents, friends and staff arrived in torn jeans and old shirts. We got so much accomplished! I want to thank everyone who participated for sacrificing their time on such a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon. Also, thanks to everyone who put in extra work beyond our pizza party. The house is looking fantastic!

Kimberly Brake !

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#### Doctor Guy Richmond 1904 - 1994

Doctor Guy Richmond was born in 1904 in England. He attended and graduated from St. Thomas Hospital in London with a degree in medicine and was a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

From the years 1930 – 1950 he was the prison doctor at Dartmoor Prison and the Portland Borstal Institution, both based in England. After leaving Portland Borstal, he was away from the prison environment for the next twelve years. Six of those twelve years were spent in medical service with Royal Air Force during the war.

As the war worsened in England, Doctor Richmond moved his wife and family to British Columbia so that he could work in the Child Guidance Clinic in Vancouver. Part of this job entailed paying weekly visits to the Oakalla Prison, where he classified young offenders who were under consideration for transfer to the New Haven Borstal Institution. By 1952, Doctor Richmond had been appointed as the first full time prison doctor in all of British Columbia. Based out of Oaklla Prison, Doctor Richmond was the Senior Medical Officer for

BC Corrections. He held this position until 1969, when he was appointed Coroners position in Vancouver starting in 1973.

During Doctor Richmond's time as a prison doctor, his compassion for all inmates, no matter what their crimes, was duly noted by all. Doctor Richmond felt that most criminal behavior started at an early age, and could be changed with education, rather than with incarceration. His humane treatment of all criminals was due solely to the fact that his feelings were for the inmates as people first, and should be dealt with as such He felt that the harsher you treated them, the harder the inmate became, only leading to more difficult situations inside the prisons. He felt that once released from jail, the same instances took place again on the streets. Doctor Richmond was also very aware that at the least 70% of offenders were incarcerated due to out of control drug and alcohol addiction, leading him to become the first prison doctor to use heavy doses of barbiturates to relieve the symptoms of heroin withdrawl. Barbiturates being used due to the fact that synthetic narcotics at this time were unheard of

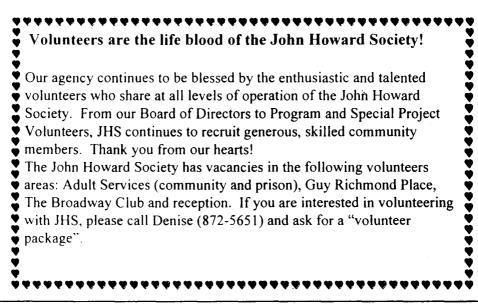
This practice was just one more humane act that Doctor Richmond was so well known for. To summarize, the thinking of Doctor Richmond and his heartfelt feelings, were that a vast majority of offenders could be maintained in the community under alternate degrees of supervision, whether that be in a therapeutic surrounding, a supervised residence, or in his own words, "Anywhere else but jail".

#### Tana

Volunteer Guy Richmond Place



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#### **Community Diversion Project**

Nathan Rock. Coordinator Community Diversion Projects

#### **Guy Richmond**

Roxanne Kehler, Coordinator Mark Bradshaw, Residence Worker Britta Danscreau, Relief Worker Rolven Doo, Relief Worker Troy Mann, Relief Worker Melissa MacAulay, Residence Worker Katherine Middler, Relief Worker

#### Guy Richmond Cont...

Paul Maclellan, Awake Residential Night Worker Michael Purewal, Relief Worker Matthew Scott, Relief Staff

#### Hobden House

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#### **Forensic Outreach Services**

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#### **AJ's Place**

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#### **The Surrey Apartment**

Teresa Fors, Asleep Residential Night Worker Susan MacMillan, Supervisor

#### **The Last Post Project**

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Volunteers

*Bingo* Eileen H Eleanor S

Caroline K

*Choices* Dan H

Community and Prison ServicesShelly WDonna WStephanie BAllison BClaudine RLillian DSamir GSunjeet JPearl K

Broadway Club Sabrina P

Reception Kyle R

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Youth Court

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*The 7th Annual* JUSTICE OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

> At Ledgeview Golf and Country Club

35997 McKee Road Abbotsford BC



\$360.00 (\$320.00 prior to April 30, 1999) REGISTRATION: 11:00 A.M. SHOTGUN START: 1:00 P.M. Phone (604) 872-5651 Fax (604) 872-4165



TO REGISTER.... See page 20!

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### The John Howard Society of The Lower Mainland of BC

#### **Mission Statement**

The Society works for effective and humane criminal justice through reform, advocacy, direct service and public education in order to promote a safe and peaceful community.

#### **Core Values of JHS**

- people have the right to live in a safe and peaceful society as well as the responsibility to accept humane consequences when this right is infringed;
- every person has intrinsic worth and must be treated with dignity, equity, fairness and compassion before the law;
- all people have the potential to become responsible citizens;
- every person has the right and the responsibility to be informed about and involved in the criminal justice process;
- justice is best served through measures that resolve conflicts, repair harm and restore peaceful relations in society;



## THE JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY

#### OF THE LOWER MAINLAND OF BC

Presents

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Justice Open Celf Tournament Ledgeview Golf & Country Club 35997 McKee Road Abbotsford BC V2S 4N8 Friday June 4, 1999

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I am registering:	4some	\$320.00 before April 30th.	\$360.00 after
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