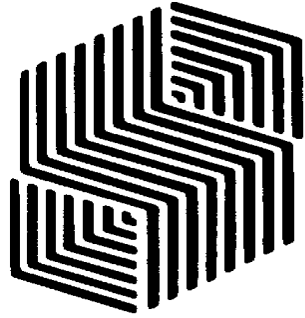


EDMONTON  
JOHN HOWARD  
SOCIETY

**REE\*START**

*Safety and Harmony in our Community*



## EDMONTON JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY

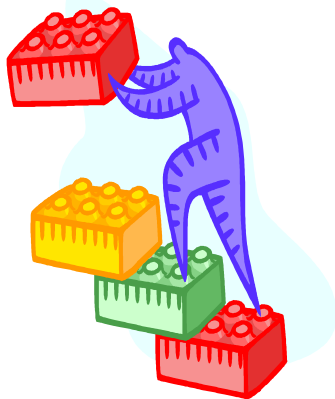
- Edmonton John Howard Society is a not-for-profit, community-based crime prevention agency. We provide assistance to people in conflict with the law, their families, those who have the potential to be in conflict with the law, and victims of crime. We work to eradicate the root causes of crime to help build safety and harmony in our community.

## REE\*START Means:

- R – Resources
- E - Education
- E - Employment
- S - Support
- T - Teaching
- A - Advocacy
- R – Respect
- T - Transition
- \* - Every youth is a star in their own lives

# Our Goal

- To support and empower youth to make healthy choices in life. This is accomplished by promoting the youths independence, building on strengths and helping them to develop positive support systems.



# Client Demographics

**June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011**

- 740 Clients were active in the program

**Ages:**

- 16 – 20 years: 490
- 21 years + : 250

## Demographics cont.

### Gender:

- Male: 426
- Female: 313
- Transgendered: 1

### Cultural Ethnicity:

- Aboriginal: 357
- Caucasian: 293
- Ethnocultural: 89

# Demographics cont.

## Education

- Grade 8 to 11: 676
- Graduated High School: 33
- Post Secondary: 12

# Demographics cont.

## Employment History

- None: 423
- Previous: 289
- Currently Employed: 76



## Demographics cont.

### Children and Youth Services Involvement (CYS)

- Current: 160
- Previous: 240
- None: 338

## Demographics cont.

### Drug Use/Addictions

- Drugs: 300
- Alcohol: 194
- None: 368

### Criminal Record

- Yes: 402
- No: 337

# Who are the youth we assist?

- Involved in the criminal justice system or at risk of involvement
- Homeless youth or street involved
- High Risk Youth
- Multi barriered youth – this includes addictions, homelessness, poverty, family breakdown, mental health, and criminal involvement



# Who is eligible and how do they get involved

- Youth ages 15 – 22
- May or may not have Criminal Justice Status or Children and Youth Services Involvement
- Referrals may come from any outside agency, family member or self referral
- Offers short and long term services
- Offered on a one to one basis
- Operates on a voluntary basis

## Our Services:

- **Employment Preparation** – Resume writing, job searching, interview techniques, and maintaining employment
- **Support and Advocacy** – Self advocacy skills, directed advocacy, work with other agencies to provide comprehensive supportive services
- **Goal Setting** – Self directed goal setting for youth. Working towards educational goals, family relationships, and any other goals identified by the youth

## Our Services cont.

- **Identification and Training** – Assistance in obtaining all forms of identification. Financial assistance in obtaining training specific to employment goals
- **Referrals** – Appropriate referrals as per clients needs and goals, link with various community agencies

# Services provided

- **6281** Client contacts
- **2111** Times advocated for the youth
- **268** Youth advocated for self
- **972** Referrals
- **880** Pieces of Identification provided
- **526** Resumes completed
- **575** Job searches
- **201** secured employment
- **242** assisted with day Program
- **105** Safety training courses completed

# Our Practice

## Harm Reduction

- Safety is the priority

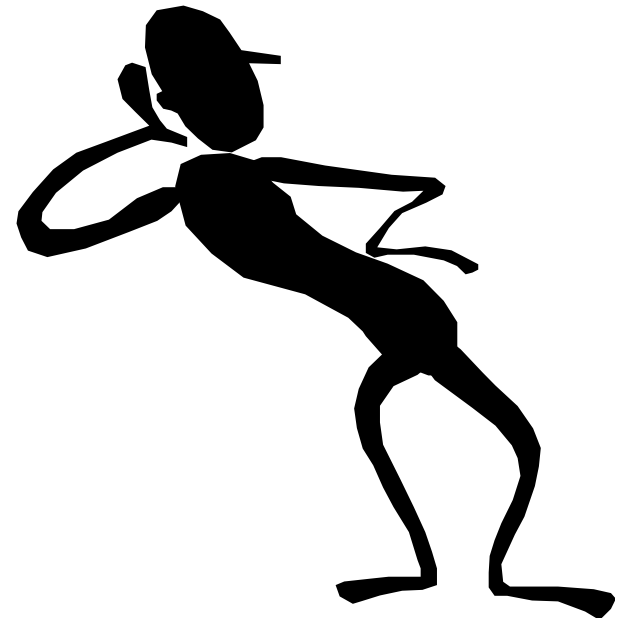
## Strength Based Model

- Focus on the youth skills and what they are interested in



## It all begins with:

- Listen to the youth- they are their own experts
- Follow their lead
- Build the relationship



## Cont.

- Be real, be yourself and gain trust. Have reasonable individual expectations
- Have “Purpose” – Every interaction is an opportunity
- Expect to be challenged, tested, and pushed away over and over again



## Cont.

- Be willing to walk **WITH** the youth
- Build on their strengths – They all have them!
- Respect what is important to **THEM** VS what is important to **YOU**
- Create an open environment
- Be honest and upfront
- Safety is a priority

# Working with Partners



## Our outreach services include:

- **Edmonton Youth Attendance Center**
- **Old Strathcona Youth Society**
- **Braemar School**
- **Aspen Program at Woodside School**
- **Kennedale School at the Youth Attendance Center**
- **Boyle Street Education Center**
- **Edmonton Young Offender Center**
- **IRCS (*Intensive Rehabilitation & Custody Sentence*) community support**
- **Probation**

# Community Involvement



Along with this we participate in the following Committees:

- High Risk Youth Consultation Team: High Risk Youth Unit, Region 6 Children and Youth Services
- High Risk Youth Operations Team: Region 6 Children and Youth Services
- Sexual Health Initiative through the Office of the Children and Youth Advocate
- REACH Stakeholder Consultation Sessions– City of Edmonton
- Operation Youth Urgent – Edmonton Police Services

# How we offer services

## **DROP IN**

- Access for basic needs – Resume, job search, hygiene items, snacks and coffee
- Crisis support

# Our Services Cont.

## Ongoing Outreach

- We go to where the youth are
- Start the relationship in an environment they are comfortable in
- Partners involved include: Schools, library and community agencies

# Our Services Cont.

## Justice Referrals

- Pre release planning and community follow up with the Edmonton Young Offender Center
- IRCS (*Intensive Rehabilitation & Custody Sentence*) community support





## What do the youth have to say....

- “Someone was always here when I just need to talk.”
- “The workers where really helpful and had a positive attitude and were very nice to deal with.”
- “Cause the staff are lots of help and they all love seeing me.”
- " Good staff and lots of help. They did a lot to get me were I am.”
- “I like the fact that they try as much as they can to help you get up on your feet.”
- "Someone to talk to.”
- “They helped me overcome my lost and made me feel supported. Like no matter how bad it gets I have back-up.“

# What do the youth have to say Cont.

- “When I was having problems they made me feel better and they gave me lots of support.”
- “I come in to fill her in on my progress and if she has not heard from me she calls me.”
- “Because she is helping me lots in Criminal and Family Court.”
- “Never looked down on me, always with excellent intention.”
- “Because you can talk to them pretty much about anything and they understand and give you some advise.”
- “My worker is very helpful with whatever I am having problems with if she can't help me she sends me to someone who can.”