

# SPCRS NEWSLETTER

October - December 2006

## South Peace Community Resources Society

is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to meeting the social, educational, and personal needs of the community by providing services that develop skills for living.

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## A Christmas Message From the Board

Everyone thinks this completely selfish. They love you. They are thinking about you. They respect you. All they want is for you to be happy. Their entire being is focused on making you happy. You are the centre of the universe. Then do 1) and 2) as above. At the same time think how wonderful you are.

is the season for things. selflessness, doing things for others and giving. I disagree, this is the right time for absolute self-centered, egocentric out goodwill and self-absorption, doing things that benefit only of misery in the world. you and taking from others all they can give. effort on radiating joy. At the same time think how wonderful you are. Do all this every day until January 2, 2007.

2) Say thank you. But don't just thank them. REALLY thank them. Put all your energy into it. Be absolutely aware you are doing this for no one else but for yourself. Really, really mean it with all your heart and concentrate fully and selfishly. Revel in the moment. Extract the maximum joy from taking from others. sterling example of humanity that ever existed. At the same time think how wonderful you are.

You too can have 3) Take a gift from an extremely happy someone. But don't just holiday by doing the take it. Realize that they three simple but are GIVING it to you.

*Submitted by  
Trevor Reeves,  
Board Member*

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# DECEMBER 6TH MEMORIAL

## National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Wednesday evening, December 6, was mild and balmy for the annual candlelight march from NAR Park in Dawson Creek to the United Church. Around 40 people gathered in the snowy parking lot at 6:30 pm to walk with remembrance of the 1989 Massacre in Montreal of 14 young engineering students, all women. Mayor Calvin Kruk helped hold the banner with two young girls, and led the march behind an RCMP escort car. Everyone held a candle as they walked past the big Christmas Tree, past the Diner, past the Salvation Army, past St. Mark's, and on to the United Church. Every step was a remembrance of women who died because of human brutality, often at the hands of their partner or former loved one.

The service at the church was led by Jane Harper, Executive Director of SPCRS. Alice Hanson played both organ and piano, and we sang together with hope and tears. 14 candles were lit in turn by children, women and men who honoured their dedications with light. A moment of silence followed each candle.

1. We light this candle in memory of the 14 women killed at l' Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal on December 6, 1989.
2. We light this candle in memory of the estimated 500 Aboriginal women who have gone missing or have been murdered in the past 20 years.
3. We light this candle in memory of the women of our city who have been killed in the past.
4. We light this candle for the South Asian women who have recently been killed in our province.
5. We light this candle in memory of all women who have died this past year as victims of domestic and political violence.
6. We light this candle for the women who have been disabled through violence or who have been abused because of their disability.
7. We light this candle for the baby girls around the world whose births are not celebrated because they are born female.
8. We light this candle for the women working in non-traditional trades who experience hatred and harassment because of their choices.
9. We light this candle for the families who have lost daughters, granddaughters, sisters, mothers, grandmothers and other family members to violence.
10. We light this candle for the children who have witnessed violence in their home but who have chosen to live a non-violent life and break the cycle of violence.
11. We light this candle to the women and men who have lost their lives in their struggle to eradicate violence from our world.
12. We light this candle to the women who are incarcerated because they chose to protect themselves from violence.
13. We light this candle for the women lost on Highway 16, the Highway of Tears.
14. We light a candle for our politicians who work for new laws to keep women safe.



Continued on page 8...

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## Supported Child Development, Child Care Resource & Referral and The Berry Patch Child Care Facility

The three children's programs have been very busy over the last few months.

Several of the Supported Child Development (SCD) staff have been participating in Sign Language courses and are anxious to utilize what they learned in their work. SCD has had some changes in staffing. We welcome Katherine Haerter, Janna Keller and Sydney Yaremichuk as casuals. Joanne McCreadie is a new temporary filling in for Jackie Spurrell while she is off on maternity leave. Brandi Cox will be leaving to pursue other ventures and Ellen Morris left SCD to take a permanent position in The Berry Patch.

The three CCR&R programs have been very busy. Open Houses, various group programs, as well as offering both Halloween and Christmas parties for The Licensed Family Daycare Providers have kept them hopping. All staff attended a Do Bugs Need Drugs workshop and added this to the many training workshops they

offer to daycare providers. CCR&R had some changes to their program as well. Kathryn Ford left the program to move with her family to Alberta. Carole Taylor who was hired into The Outreach Worker position moved into the Resource & Education Worker position in the South Peace program. We also just learned that Pam Sawers will be leaving CCR&R to pursue a job with Public Health. Pam's last day will be December 21, and we wish her the best of luck.

The Berry Patch has been filled with the sound of Christmas carols and much excitement, as the children and staff get ready for the Christmas holidays. The facility had some serious changes the last 3 months and adapted splendidly. The facility is proud owner of a new sand box, which the children have enjoyed very much. The Berry Patch is also hoping to do some serious fundraising in order to purchase a computer and TV. So keep your eyes open. This program also has some new faces: Sherri Stewart, Karen Boyd,

Ellen Morris, Kelly Maher and Ashlee Dionne have all accepted permanent positions, although Ashlee will be taking a leave in January to further her education. New casuals have also joined us, including Janna Keller, Katherine Haerter and Sydney Yaremichuk. Welcome!

The staff would like to take this time to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

*Submitted by: Wendi Hamilton,  
Personnel & Practice Coordinator*





## MY Residence

M.Y. went on her Edmonton hockey game at stopped and had tea and holidays in October the Rexall place, enjoyed cookies with her dad. to the big city of a movie at the West Holidays came to a end Edmonton. M.Y. and staff Edmonton Mall on the big and we had to come back . shared experiences that screen. We shopped and November has been will be memories for a long walked and shopped and survival month due to the time. We took in an walked many times during cold weather. Now into our stay. We stayed on December, we fly with lots the truckers floor at the to do to get ready for Fantasyland Hotel, Christmas. We hope learned a lot about everyone has a safe elevators, had many good holiday season. laughs, and enjoyed the jacuzzi tub soaks after long days. M.Y.'s greatest time was when we



*Submitted by  
M.Y. Staff Team*

## SF Residence

S.F. and his team say reliable and persistent. S.F. "Hello" again. It's likes to hang out at the almost Christmas and it is Berry Patch play with all beginning to look a lot like the interesting toys and it, too. SB and S.F., as you chat with the Berry Patch know, share an apartment staff. In November S.F. and enjoy a beautiful invited all his friends to his Christmas tree together that Birthday Party. Everyone their staff put up for them. had a good time and he was S.F. is busy as always in heaven opening his visiting with an elderly many presents. S.F. is out gentleman once a week, and about every day delivering the mail for the touring the library, local main office and running museums and stores. He errands. Despite the cold went to see Michelle We welcome Diane temperatures and the heavy Wright's Christmas concert Brunton, Darlene Kilfoy snow fall, S.F. never in Dawson Creek. S.F. and Brenda Gow to the missed the mail run. We plans to spend Christmas team. say "Thank you" to S.F. with his family. He will no and his staff for being so doubt have a great time.



See you all in the New Year! Merry Christmas!

We welcome Diane Brunton, Darlene Kilfoy and Brenda Gow to the team.

*Submitted by S.F. Staff Team*



**Can you  
guess  
who  
this is?**



Yes - it's none other than our hard-working hero, Franz - always there to fix a leak, hang a door or repair the fence.

This strapping young man has reached that beautiful point in life where you get to retire and spend more time doing the things you want to do. And he has plenty of things lined up, and several projects waiting for him. He's going to be a very busy fellow.

So we send him a fond farewell, along with our thanks for helping to keep us in ship shape.

May all your projects be successful, and you have a blast working on them.

Thanks again, Franz!

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## S.B. Residence

Hi everybody! We are in S.B. regularly swims at the Christmas and a Happy New Year. the middle of Christmas CDC, often joined by one of preparations at S.B. her friends. After all the Residence. The Christmas exercise they usually stop in We welcome Diane Brunton, tree is up and presents at Robins Donuts for a treat Darlene Kilfoy and Brenda bought. S.B. and her staff before returning home again. Gow to the team. were very busy these last few months. They recycled every S.B. spent a day in Grande Prairie, had lunch and amounts of snow and cold browsed through different temperatures. S.B. also stores looking for clothes. She picked out a few nice crafted quite a few pieces to wear during the interesting projects with the help of her staff at the winter season. S.B. is looking Opportunity Center. She forward to the holidays and always meets a friend or two will invite friends over for a and enjoys their company. visit. Have a wonderful

*Submitted by S.B. Staff Team*



## R.C. Residence

Have you seen a grey R.C. joined the Special "O" pick-up truck zip around town curling team again and lately? It might have been practices every week. He one of Santa's helpers, R.C., loves to spend time with his working hard at his recycling girlfriend and is invited to job. With Christmas not far spend Christmas with her away his customers have a and her family. R.C. also lot more cardboard boxes plans to visit his Mom in Fort from toys and other presents St. John on one of the to haul away. R.C. also holidays. R.C. went to worked hard shoveling more Grande Prairie a few times to snow than ever before in spend the day browsing November. His friends at the through stores and buying the duplex rely on him cleaning clothing, CD's and DVD's. He the sidewalks and pathways finished painting his bedroom to their vehicles so they can and it looks great. go about their daily business. Great job R.C. and staff!

We welcome Marla Adams to the team.



Season's greetings to everyone! Enjoy the holidays with friends and family!

*Submitted by  
R.C. Staff team*



## It was a very “pink” day!

And a very fun and rewarding day too! Employees from South Peace Community Resources, with the help from friends and local businesses organized a “pink” luncheon to support the Breast Cancer Foundation’s “Dress Down Day” fundraiser in October. There were pink clothes, pink food, pink prizes, and silent auctions. The winner of the “pinkest person” award went to Jennifer Talson from the Reconnect Youth program who even painted herself pink. What a sport! In the end, the group was able to raise \$400.00 for the Cancer Foundation.





## DECEMBER 6TH MEMORIAL (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Last year, the congregation each chose a cloth square and pinned it to a board to create a quilt pattern. This evening, the finished quilt was displayed on the same board, symbolizing the beauty and strength that comes from many standing together for a common goal: to move from violence to wholeness, and to help each other along this path.

This year, Lurind Jeaneaux read a story from John 8: 2-10, written in contemporary language. It was the story about the Rabbi, the woman accused of adultery, and the mob of townsmen who tormented her and threatened her life. The Rabbi diffused the incident by asking those who had no sin to throw the first stone. No one did. With compassion, the Rabbi helped the woman to her feet. Small polished stones were given as gifts to everyone in the congregation as a symbol of the strength of 'sisters united in spirit', a symbol of non-violence and peace. Everyone affirmed their faith by reading the following prayer together:

' We believe that beyond the violence, there can be love.  
That beyond the despair, there can be hope.  
That beyond the torment, we will find rest.  
That beyond the brokenness, there can be healing.  
'That beyond our agony, we will find joy.'

(from Healing Waters: Churches Working together to end Violence Against Women)

Everyone gathered in the upstairs hall to share conversation over refreshments provided with funds from the Northern Lights Bingo Association. Many thanks to Jane Harper for leading this Memorial Service, to Alice Hansen for the lovely music, to the RCMP for their police car escort, to South Peace United Church for the use of their warm building, and to all the committee members who organized and worked at this community event. Let us indeed go beyond here in Peace, to build a better world.

## Meet our staff

### Fran Love

Hi there, my name is Fran Love (not Frances ... unless you're a legal document or wishing to really get my attention!) . I was born and raised a proud stubble jumper in a 'small' town on the Saskatchewan Prairie... the year... not so important. What is important is that I grew up 50 km's south east of the imaginary town of 'Dog River' in a real place called Weyburn Sask. This piece of information is only important if you're an avid TV fan (like myself) and watch

'Corner Gas' on CTV. If this realistic comedy about life on the prairie's is on your 'must see' list each week then of course you know and love Lacy, a young single woman, transplanted to a cold small town from some weird place out East that no one has ever heard of and couldn't find even with a map. Lacy, moves to the town of Dog River in hopes of finding fame and fortune running the 'Ruby' Restaurant. As the series has evolved, viewers have

learned that Lacy uprooted her entire life on a wing and a prayer, has tried to integrate into a small town where everyone has known everyone else for decades, and she brings with her definite ideas and opinions about how things should be done. Lacy is always taking up a cause, and always seems to know what's going on in her immediate surroundings. In case you haven't guessed... I am pretty much Lacy.



Uprooting in 2002, I decided it was time to fly out of small town Saskatchewan on a wing and a prayer... and head for a destination to the West. My daughter, Makalia and I left our family and friends with no more than a job and a destination to keep us on track. You see, I had secured a position at Mizpah Transition house prior to packing my apartment and bidding Saskatchewan a fond farewell, but the childcare provider and the living quarters...well those details were left unresolved until we stopped for lunch a few days later in Grande Prairie. I sat in McDonald's (my toddler's restaurant of choice) and not only rented an apartment I had never seen before, but I also hired Makalia's babysitter in the same flurry of phone calls. Sound crazy? It does, but I prefer to look at it as a gift of faith because I knew that if I found the job I was called to do, that the rest of the details would fall into place. In the past four years, I have not only worked in the Mizpah Transition house, but the Chetwynd Transition house, and most recently occupy a permanent position at JL residence, with the occasional relief shifts at RC, and Mizpah. I have weathered five layoff notices, five addition changes in programming hours, a 6 month hiatus due to a workplace injury, and of course my 22 month old is now two months shy of her 6<sup>th</sup> birthday, and is a self-proclaimed 'grown up kindergarten kid'. Still not finding my life crazy enough, I also sit as an employee representative on the Occupational Health and Safety Committee, and was elected Chief Shop Steward this summer. On my days off I drive the 'Step up N' Ride' bus two days a week...and get much satisfaction from providing

service to seniors and school kids of Dawson Creek.

When I am not busy working, or ignoring my housework, I also enjoy scrap booking the thousands of baby pictures and memorabilia of Makalia, and of course I have an extensive list of television shows I can not live without seeing faithfully. I have on occasion been found shoveling out a stranded co-worker, helping my daughter pass out cupcakes or cookies in the office, or selling Girl Guide cookies, or soliciting someone to buy my water at Costco next time they go.

I am a testament to my upbringing; I do believe that mountains are scary to drive through, paying a premium for your care card is just fundamentally wrong (remember Tommy Douglas...he was born in Weyburn), and anything other than country music is just noise (The Johnner Brothers were born and raised 20 minutes from Weyburn), and of course there is nothing more breathtaking than a prairie sky.

In closing to this long winded biography I would like to answer some of the ever recurring questions all about me... (okay, secretly I hope that I never have to write another biography ...)

**You come from where again?**

Weyburn, Sask....population 11,000 an old farming town, also close to the oil patch. 100 km's SE of Regina, the capital city of Sask. Did you know that Saskatchewan is 101 years old?

**Do you have family here?**

Nope, I am not related to Tim and Debbie Love... although they do attend my church. My grandmother, mother, younger sister, and five nieces all live in Weyburn. My older sister and



her husband have settled in Saskatoon Sask.

**Why did you come here?**

For a job at Mizpah.

**So how did you end up in Community Living?**

The government cut funding to the Chetwynd Transition house.

**When are you going home again?**

For Christmas this year, gone for 8 days.

**How long is the trip?**

The length of the trip depends on the mode of transportation: 18-20 hours by car, 18-24 hours by bus, 4.5 hours flying time from Grande Prairie (but the day takes 12 from start to finish including layover). I take a variety of these options depending on road conditions, seat sales, and time of year.

**Do you have the last episode of the Amazing Race on tape?**

You would have to ask Patricia if she still has it somewhere in her office.

*Submitted by  
Fran Love*



# Meet our staff

## Sharla Sullivan

Hi! My name is Sharla Sullivan. I was born in Dawson Creek on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, 1978. (for those of you that are like me and are running to find your calculator—that makes me 28 years old). I've lived here all of my life and collected many great memories over the years. I have worked at SPCRS for 6 years. I have particularly enjoyed working with MY and all the staff. I am now looking forward to a new challenge as the temporary Personnel & Practice Coordinator.

As everyone knows, I'm a lover of all animals. Currently, I have a Rottweiler named "Max", two cats named "Bailey" and "Gilby" and a rabbit named "Dizzle". Sadly, my cat, "Hudson" and my tarantula, "Tairy" recently passed away. If I had a bigger house I'm sure I would fill it with an assortment of furry creatures.



That leads me to my love of music. I love all kinds of music. My favourite band is Guns N Roses. All of my cats are named after the members of the band. And just between you and me, I'm always singing loudly, but badly, when no one is around. So if you see me driving down the street, bopping from side to side and my lips moving, I'm really not talking to myself. I swear!

I also love to travel. A few years ago I discovered Las Vegas. I'm fortunate enough to go there every 6 months and I always find something new and exciting to do there. This February, I'm going to Honolulu for my birthday. I'm looking forward to the Mai Tai's and relaxing on the beach. On the way down, I'm stopping in Phoenix to go to a Rock Star Supernova concert to support our Canadian winner, Lukas!

Another closely guarded secret of mine is that I watch wrestling. I grew up with an older brother so I guess it was inevitable. I also like to watch hockey, whether it is the local Senior Canucks or the Edmonton Oilers. Go RAFFI TORRES! I also like to golf. I'm not a pro yet but am still enjoying working at it. My favourite golf tournament



is the nighttime Glow Ball that takes place every September. It's all about a good time and the odd accidental over-turned golf cart!

I share my life with a wonderful man named, Dave. We have been together for 14 years now. We don't have any kids, but he shares my love of animals. He works for Jock's Restoration as the Senior Project Manager. We bought a carpet and vent cleaning/restoration business 2 years ago. It is based out of Grande Prairie. We have a good time being business partners as well.

Well that's a little glimpse into me. I hope you learned a little something new.

*Submitted by  
Sharla Sullivan*



# The Winner



Leona Clark was the winner of the 32" plasma television that SPCRS gave away at Chances Gaming Centre, as part of the week-long event organized to thank the Northern Lights Bingo Association for their support of SPCRS programs.

Many thanks go out to Jason Larocque, Ron Collington, Jane Harper, Deanna Sudnik, Jennifer Talson, Maureen Cristall, Lurind Jeaneaux, Fran Love, McKinley Mathias and Diane Tutin for the time and energy they put into making this a successful week. Due to their efforts, SPCRS met the required 8.55 volunteer hours, which had to be spent at the Gaming Centre to ensure continued support.

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# Lack of housing has Mizpah operating at double capacity

**KEN GOUSSEAU**  
DAILY NEWS

From the street, it looks like any of the other two-story residential homes on the block.

But for women and children fleeing abusive relationships in Dawson Creek, the Mizpah Transition House is a beacon of salvation – a place of refuge in a life torn by chaos.

For the past six months, though, the women's shelter has had to deal with a crisis of its own. Mizpah has been operating at more than double-capacity (14 or more clients) for nearly 200 days now.

The number of women and children seeking asylum from abusive relationships in Dawson Creek has not significantly increased, according to personnel and practice coordinator Deanna Sudnik.

However, the volume of clients seeking shelter due to a lack of accommodations has increased, drastically.

In 2004, the number of women who accessed the Mizpah Transition house for non-abuse reasons was 27. From April to September 2006, 125 women accessed the transition house for the same purpose.

"We have had cases where we have women sleeping on couches in the basement. We have families doubled-up in a room...We have kids sleeping on (foam mattresses)," Sudnik said.

"The other thing that has happened is that we have turned people away. This is where the crisis point is happening. If women are calling to come into the transition house and they need to come because they're unsafe, it is our policy that we may have to ask somebody to leave who is just staying there for accommodations."

Mizpah has only two staff members, each working a 12-hour shift per day. Employees are finding it difficult to single-handedly provide support, crisis intervention and other services for 16 people each day, Sudnik said.

Staff have been putting in extra hours and skipping lunch to ensure that the quality of service at Mizpah has not diminished.

And from a financial perspective, South Peace Community Resources Society has been providing twice as many groceries and other supplies to clients than had been budgeted.

Sudnik blamed a lack of low-income housing in Dawson Creek for the sudden explosion in clients seeking accommodations. She said simply increasing rent subsidies would not remedy the situation.

"Even if the (province) at this point said, we'll give you \$700 per month instead of \$400, it wouldn't necessarily change anything," Sudnik said. "We have staff who are making a decent hourly wage and are unable to find a place to live because there just physically aren't any units to move into."

*Peace River Block News, November 21, 2006*