

UNYA NEWS

IN MEMORIAM

The Board of Directors and staff of the Urban Native Youth Association were very saddened to learn of the passing of Grace Mirehouse in May 2002. We would like to acknowledge the great contributions that she made to UNYA during her time as President of our Board of Directors. Grace was very instrumental in ensuring that youth voice was heard both through our Board of Directors and in the community at large. She was also a major force in ensuring that there was quality educational opportunities for all Native people from kindergarten to post-secondary.

We are very grateful for all of the teachings that she passed on to us, as well as many other individuals and organizations in the community. We wish her family well and thank them for sharing her with us.

For those who would like to help continue the great work that Grace Mirehouse did in the field of education, you can donate to the Grace Mirehouse Memorial Scholarship Fund. Contact Info: Still to be announced. Please contact the Native Education Centre or the First Nations House of Learning for more info.

CORRECTION & APOLOGY

Unfortunately in our last newsletter we failed to acknowledge Britannia Community Centre when reporting on the success of our youth basketball camp. Britannia was very gracious and helpful in allowing us to use their gym space for our Youth Spring Break Basketball Camp. Thank you for your support in this very successful program.



*Check
out our
website to
get info
on our
programs
& services
at*

www.unya.bc.ca

FULL CIRCLE

Recently we launched 'Full Circle' which is a manual on sexually exploited Native youth issues. It includes information for youth, schools, parents/guardians, service providers, and any others who live or work with Native youth. Thank you to the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority for their help with funding. You can get a copy by dropping by our office at 1640 E. Hastings Street. We will also be holding one or two community presentations on the manual in the near future. Please watch for the announcement. The front cover of the manual was done by a Native youth named Vanessa Webster.

YOUNG SPIRITS DAYCAMP

Once again this year we offered a summer daycamp for 11 – 14 year old Native youth. This is an educational focused daycamp for youth who are willing and able to commit to six weeks of fun, learning, and social interaction. We focus on teaching youth about resources in the community, social skills, how to utilize school resources, how to work together as a group, and other useful information. Together with the Vancouver Native Housing Society we hosted 30 youth from July 2 – August 16. Thank you to all those who made this camp possible: the Aries Project, ACCESS, HRCC, FNES, volunteers, the Native Youth Drop-in Centre, Britannia Community Centre, McDonald Elementary School, UNYA School Support Team, UNYA First Nations School Success Project, UNYA Prevention /Outreach Team, and of course our Youth Summer Students who were excellent role models.

SACRED CONNECTIONS

UNYA and the Chehalis Band have now successfully completed four programs at Sts'ailes Lhawathet Lalem. The first program was a one-week pilot project, the second program was co-ed, the third program was for males, and the fourth group was for females.

As a finale, the staff invited all the youth back to celebrate their accomplishments by singing, dancing, evaluating the program, sharing a potluck dinner, and ending the occasion with a dance. Staff and youth had a great time!

Highlights of the program were: attending the Chilliwack & Trout Lake Powwows, Longhouse and community gatherings, a wedding in N. Vancouver, the Full Moon Gathering, a fashion show, funeral services, the Chehalis Riverboat Tour, art celebration at UBC, hikes up Chehalis River, making button blankets and drums, carving, arts & crafts, auctions, computers, movie night in Mission, and numerous other activities.

The staff believes the program was successful because of the cultural component that served as the backbone of the program. Program activities were based on the principles of the medicine wheel (spiritual, emotional, physical, mental). Other key factors were the utilization of the seven laws of life and the many resource people who helped out.

JERRY ADAMS ARRESTED

Our Executive Director, Jerry Adams was recently detained by the Inner-city Foster Parent Program as a fundraiser. Jerry had to raise \$600 in 'bail' money before he would be released. We are happy to say that we now have Jerry back after he raised a whopping \$900 for this important program.

BYRC YOUTH PROGRAM

The Aboriginal Youth Worker at the Broadway Youth Resource Centre continues to provide much needed support to Native youth in the Mt. Pleasant area. He will be offering a youth program on Thursday evenings and some other activities during the week. BYRC is at the corner of Fraser and Broadway.

Did You Know?

That the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre is looking for youth volunteers to sit on their advisory committee for their recreation programming? If you want a say in the types of programs that are offered, to who, when, and for how long, be sure to call them at 251-4844 for more info.

ALICIA KEYS TICKET WINNER

The board of UNYA donated two tickets to be drawn for youth participants at the UMACY Sweet Space Forum on June 22. We'd like to congratulate the lucky winner, Jaden Simeon. Hope you had lots and lots of funnnnnn.

ALERT BAY CANOE GATHERING

Our Native Youth Drop-in Centre brought eight youth to Woss Lake, which is a part of the traditional territories of the KwaKwaKaWawk Nation. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves while learning about the cultural practices and traditions of the host Nation. Way to go guys and gals. Keep up the hard work (which, we know, is really more fun than anything).

KITS FOR KIDS

Through a partnership with Bladerunners, ACCESS, FNES, and Sport Chek we were able to provide 25 start-up kits for Native youth entering high school. There was a community celebration where the 25 youth, their families, and other community members shared food, heard older role models share their high school experiences, and the youth received their kits which included a Nike bag, pens, pencils, an agenda, the Helping Hands Resource Manual, a lock, some binders, and other goodies. We wish all youth in school, a good year filled with fun and new experiences.

HOMEWORK CLUBS

Our Homework Club Team has helped to set up six Homework Clubs in five EastVan schools. The schools are Strathcona Elementary, Templeton Secondary, Grandview Elementary, McDonald Elementary, and Britannia Elementary and Secondary schools. The focus of the Homework Clubs are to help youth learn study skills, to help youth with their homework, to model good group and social skills, and to provide older Native youth with the opportunity to be positive role models by tutoring. As each of these Homework Clubs becomes stable and self-sustaining, we will move to another school to help set up one there. We will also be providing workshops for youth and/or parents on subjects that they identify as useful for helping Native youth do well both academically and socially in school.