

Macdonald Youth Services

Program Summaries

Macdonald Youth Services (MYS), established in 1929 under our official name of Sir Hugh John Macdonald Memorial Hostel. MYS fosters hope and opportunities to empower children, youth and families throughout Manitoba to grow and heal through safe, caring, respectful and collaborative relationships. In 2007-2008, MYS served over 5,700 clients in Winnipeg, The Pas and Thompson through the following services:

Adolescent Resources in Community Homes (ARCH)

The ARCH programs have a lengthy history of providing service in Winnipeg. The ARCH services specialize in the areas of assessment and treatment. ARCH operates seven different community programs, six located in Winnipeg and one near the community of St. Pierre, Manitoba. The homes are staffed with a team of Youth Care Workers and a Senior Youth Care Worker. A Program Manager and Therapist work together to oversee the operation of the homes.

Alternative Parent Home (APH)

The APH Program combines the normalizing influence of foster family-based care with specialized treatment interventions, thereby creating a therapeutic environment in the context of a nurturing home. The APH Program provides short- or long-term placement for high needs children and youth with full-time, professional foster parents.

Kisewatisiwin Services

MYS has been providing service in Thompson since 1992. The services provided by MYS, including the Community Based Healing Homes Program, the Alternative Parent Homes Program, the Individual Treatment and Support Program and the Recreational Wilderness Programming, are crucial to addressing adolescent emotional, mental, physical and psychological needs. The name, Kisewatisiwin, is a Cree term that means kindness and reflects our programming and simply, our reason for being.

Specialized Individual Placements (SIP)

The SIP Program provides care for youth with high behavioural and/or emotional needs who have exhausted all other less intensive settings. SIP has five treatment homes, two transition homes, a Work and Life Skills program and an Independent Living with Supports program, as well as a new home base known as The Learning Centre. Each home is shift staffed by experienced youth care workers who work within strength based approaches.

Youth Emergency Crisis Stabilization System (YECSS)

YECSS is an intersectoral, interagency service which includes Intake, Mobile Crisis Teams (MCT), Clinical Follow-up Facilitators (CFF) and the Brief Therapy Team (BTT) provided by MYS. Home Based Crisis Intervention Services (HBCIS), Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU) and Youth Emergency Education Services (YEES) are provided by partner agencies. Intake is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Crises are referred to the MCT, which is a community response team responsible for delivering services to children, adolescents and their families. The BTT is a multidisciplinary team who provide time-limited, solution-focused treatment addressing the issues and events that lead up to a crisis. CFF assists children, families and their support systems in accessing the services they need in order to carry out the intervention strategies developed by the MCT.

Youth Resource Centre/Shelter (YRC/Shelter)

The YRC/Shelter offers short-term, overnight, emergency shelter to youth 12 to 17 years of age. Crisis intervention counselling, food, hygiene needs, shower, clothes and case management are all services offered to youth accessing a shelter bed. The YRC/Shelter also offers referral, advocacy, resources, information and short-term basic needs services to youth 12 to 20 years of age on a walk-in basis.

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Positive Alternatives for Youth (PAY) (4 projects)

1. Support Towards Education/Employment Participation (STEP)

Youth between the ages of 15 and 20 who are not attending school and are unemployed can apply to participate in the program and receive a stipend equivalent to minimum wage. The project's goal is for youth to build their skills in order to transition to involvement in school, a training program or employment.

2. Mentor Training and Support (MTS)

Adult mentors play an integral role in the quality and delivery of service to youth in all areas of the PAY program and the MTS project focuses on preparing these mentors to build healthy, trusting and safe relationships with youth. It also prepares them to handle issues and support youth to develop their skills and work towards their goals.

3. Youth Positively Involved in the Community (YPIC)

YPIC provides youth between the ages of 12 and 20 an opportunity to be involved in positive evening programming which helps prevent involvement or re-involvement in the criminal justice system.

4. Community Service Support Project (CSSP)

Youth who have court-ordered community service work and are identified as high-risk of not completing their hours work in supported teams at various locations in Winnipeg, such as Winnipeg Harvest, the Winnipeg Humane Society and Fred Douglas Lodge. They have access to employment and life skills clinics as well.

5. Vehicle for Change (VFC)

VFC began in March 2008. Vehicle for Change (VFC) is a project geared towards youth ages 12-18 who are on the cusp of involvement in auto theft. VFC seeks to engage and connect with youth through the provision of interactive, fun and educational workshops which will provide youth with information and tools to assist them in making healthy decisions. These workshops will provide a forum for youth to explore and examine the consequences of auto theft as well as assist them in identifying and connecting to positive resources within themselves and their communities.

6. Fine Option / Community Service Orders

The Department of Justice contracts with Macdonald Youth Services via PAY, to provide a Community Resource Centre in the Fort Rouge, Crescentwood, and Riverview area of Winnipeg for youth and adults with fines and/or court ordered community service. PAY staff register, monitor and provide placement and resources to these clients as they work to complete their community service. In most instances, clients with Fine Option/Community Service Orders are placed external to PAY (in other community organizations).

Life Train

The Life Train Program provides an individualized approach that supports adult participants (18-29 years of age) to develop their "skills for life", pre-employment, job search, and self advocacy skills. We also assist with career planning.

Participants receive help with basic needs and also become familiar with computers and other resources in the community as a result of their participation in our program. We help participants find work and support them while they are on-the-job. We are also linked to Community Connections and can provide a message service at no cost to participants so that when they are looking for work employers have some way to contact them. There is also a follow-up component participants can access if they need support after they have exited the program.

Asset Building Program

The Life Train Program joined in partnership with SEED Winnipeg in 2008 to provide the Saving Circle component of the Asset Building Program. The "Saving Circle" Program provides 15 participants with an opportunity to learn about money management and to save money. For every dollar the participant saves it is matched with three dollars. At the end of the program participants have the potential of saving up to \$250.00 dollars with matched funds of \$750 dollars, for a total of \$1,000 dollars. The participants then get to use the money saved and matched funds to purchase an item that would help improve their quality of life. In order for the participants to earn the matched dollars, they need to attend a 10 week money management training program.

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