

SHYFTING TIMES

SHYFT Youth Services Society—www.shyft.ca

Volume 2, Issue 2

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Staff Appreciation Dinner

The success of SHYFT Youth Services in supporting homeless and at-risk youth is due entirely to the skills and commitment of our staff to provide a 24/7 service. So SHYFT's Board of Directors hosted the entire staff to an Appreciation Dinner on 12 April, including family members, at the SHYFT house. Although it is sad to face the closure of the residence, we celebrate the many success stories and congratulate everyone on a

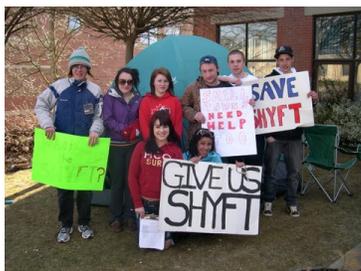


job well done. In the photo (above/right), backrow (left to right): Richard DesVignes, Stephanie Jarvis, Aaron Allen, Sandra Nickerson, Jennifer German, Lisa Dulong; Front row: Audrey Sears, Helen Paquette and Krista Pothier. Missing from photo: Rayshell Hattie, Nicole Fiander.



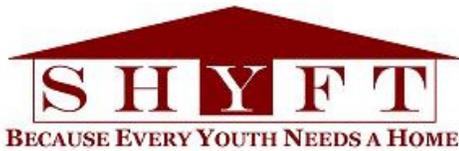
Youth Tent City Continues

Following the High School Student Rally on Friday afternoon, 30 March, on the Town Hall lawn, some youth stayed on site through the whole weekend. They slept in tents and cardboard boxes to draw attention to the closure of the SHYFT residential service. Then, through the long Easter weekend, the occupation resumed with even more participants. Public support for the youth has been amazing with cash donations for SHYFT, food and drink for the youth themselves and over 1,600 names on a petition supporting SHYFT. You can check out this Facebook group page for more details of the youths' efforts: "Students & Parents against the closing of SHYFT". In the photo (left) youth protest the closure of SHYFT residence with a Tent City on the lawn of Yarmouth Town Hall.



SHYFT Day Service

As of 2 April, SHYFT's hours of operation changed to Monday to Friday, 8.00 am to 4.00 pm, including a youth drop-in service from 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Overnight accommodation is presently unavailable due to the lack of government financial support. SHYFT's Board of Directors continue to explore other funding possibilities and hope to restore the residential service for at-risk youth from the Tri-county area.



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Community Continues to Rally Around SHYFT

SHYFT-A-THON

Four N.S.C.C. students recently organized a 5 km walk, run, bike event for all ages and abilities, in aid of SHYFT. It was a real family-fun event and 22 participants raised \$ 306. The students presented a power-point report to their Organizational Behaviour Class, a part of the Office Administration Programme. A wonderful effort. Thank you. In the photo (right) Rod Moores, SHYFT Treasurer, accepts the cheque from (l. to r.) Candice Stone, Tenesitee Robbins, Elizabeth Falls and Tara Fisher.



Investors' Group Buys In

The staff of I.G. Yarmouth Division chose SHYFT to receive a \$ 400 donation from I.G. Financial Services Corp. We do appreciate this recognition of the importance of SHYFT to the Tri-County area and thank them for their support. In the photo (left) Helen Paquette, SHYFT Project Manager, accepts I.G. donation from (l. to r.), Nicole MacKenzie, Randy Saulnier (Division Manager) and Tracy Lusk.



Local Businessman Issues Challenge

Dane Devine, manager of Property Guys Yarmouth, recently made a wonderful donation to SHYFT of \$ 500, together with a challenge for other local businesses to match it. As a local resident himself, Dane knows how vital a service like SHYFT is to this area of Nova Scotia and, in light of insufficient government funding, feels local businesses need to get involved. Thank you, Dane. In the photo (left) Helen Paquette accepts Dane Devine's generous cheque.

SHYFT Sets the Record Straight

This letter was sent to correct statements made recently by Denise Peterson-Rafuse, Minister of Community Services.

SHYFT Youth Services Letterhead

April 12, 2012

Dear Minister Peterson- Rafuse,

It has come to our attention that response letters have been going to concerned citizens in our community regarding SHYFT in which you are explaining your decisions in regards to SHYFT and the services that are to be funded in our area. We are concerned to note that you have stated that we have "refused to continue this partnership" with your department.

At no time have we refused this partnership with your department. We have disagreed with your department as to how services for homeless youth in our community should be delivered, however this disagreement does not constitute a refusal. In fact, we have a signed agreement with your department in which it states we will continue to partner with your department by offering your new youth outreach position for our area through SHYFT. Disagreement, debate and honest dialogue are paramount in a democratic society.

By expressing our community's belief that a 24/7 model of service was still needed in our community and that funding for SHYFT should be provided, as no other consistent

and supportive overnight option is available, we were not refusing to work with the department. We continue to see the Department of Community Service as an important partner in the work that has been done and continues to be needed to be done in our community.

We have hired our Youth Outreach Worker and she commenced providing services on Monday April 2nd. from the SHYFT House location.

Sincerely,

Jude Fulton

Co-chair SHYFT Youth Services Society

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