



**KNOWLES CENTRE INC.**

Helping Individuals Find Their Path: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

# INSIGHTS

Volume 26 • Number 1 • Spring 2018

An inside look at the programs and services of Knowles Centre Inc.

## Group Care opens new treatment unit

Knowles Centre's Group Care Treatment program was excited to open its new treatment unit in April and welcome its first of four female clients. The home is located in the nearby North Kildonan neighborhood and has been through extensive renovations to make it a comfortable setting for clients while also meeting stringent licensing requirements.

It is the first new treatment unit Knowles Centre has opened in almost 22 years, says Program Director Dave Purpur. It will help meet the need for long-term placements for at-risk youth, especially girls ages 12 to 17 in the Province's child welfare system.

We are especially pleased that the unit is limited to four clients, says Dave. With a rotating staff of six, and occasional support by casual workers, the home will foster increased contact between staff and youth, which is key to building the meaningful bonds that promote healing and wellness. The girls will also access services located at the agency's main campus.

As in Knowles' Centre's four other treatment units, each girl will have her own bedroom that she can dec-



orate to her tastes. Further, the girls are close to John G. Stewart School, RETSD's alternative placement school located on Knowles Centre grounds, or can attend a community school when they are ready for such a transition.

Colleen Keating has been selected as the supervisor for the new unit. She has over 20 years of experience working with youth and is recognized for her natural rapport with youth, as well as her great leadership and organizational skills.



The Board of Directors of



**KNOWLES CENTRE INC.**

Invites you to attend our

### Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, June 13, 2018  
at 12:00 noon

John G. Stewart School  
2069 Henderson Hwy  
Winnipeg, MB

All guests are invited to stay for a lunch prepared by the Culinary Arts Students following the meeting at Knowles Centre.

RSVP by June 8th  
(204) 339-1951 or  
[info@knowlescentre.org](mailto:info@knowlescentre.org)

The Group Care Treatment Program works with youth who are overcoming neglect, emotional, physical, and/ or sexual abuse, impacts of intergenerational trauma and racism, and feelings of hopelessness, symptoms which contribute to emotional and behavioural difficulties.

*Pictured above and left: Youth care worker Victoria Skovrlj.*

## SAIL success leads to expanded program

Knowles Centre celebrated the opening of nine new suites for SAIL (Supported Advancement to Independent Living) clients in its newly acquired St. Vital apartment building. The new building increases the number of young people the program can accommodate in supervised suites by more than 50 percent.

In addition, the program provides homes for 17 clients in two St. Boniface apartment buildings.



SAIL helps older youth currently living in the care of the child welfare system to develop the skills they will need to move into the community as independent young adults. The SAIL program model includes helping youth before they move into a SAIL apartment, and after they move into the community, as well.

The new SAIL building is located in a safe, residential area of St. Vital, with easy access to both Glenlawn and Nelson McIntyre Collegiates, as well as handy shopping and bus service. Each of the one-bedroom suites was recently renovated, and the building is well kept by Knowles Centre's maintenance team—making the SAIL suites an enviable first apartment for young adults.

Since it began in 2009, more than 110 youth have



benefitted from SAIL, and the response has been consistently positive from clients and their referring agencies. The program can be intense for those who come with few skills and little confidence but with the support of the caring staff, clients continue their high school, begin post-secondary education or hold a job—with some clients doing both—while they gain skills for the future.

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## TFC growing with clients needing continuing support

For many young people in foster care reaching age 18 or sometimes age 21 means moving on from the family home they've come to know and love. Thankfully, many foster families have helped these young people to prepare for this challenge and continue to maintain a relationship. Many young people look forward to the responsibilities of adulthood, as well.

But this is not true for everyone. Some young people in foster care face extra challenges and are not developmentally able to make it on their own.

Knowles Centre's Treatment Foster Care program is now extending its services to work with young adults eligible for Community Living Disability Services (CDLS). This means many young adults who need extra support can stay with the families who have been helping to care for them all along.

Program Director Andrea McKenzie explains that TFC program staff work closely with the referring agency to identify and assess potential CDLS clients. TFC will lead

a discussion with both the young adult and his or her foster parents to ensure staying in the home is best for everyone. From a clinical standpoint, this enables the continuity of care and services; but for foster parents and client, this means keeping a loving family together.



# Youth trading elbow grease for a bike of their own

For generations spring has brought the renewed freedom to jump on your bicycle, feel the wind on your face, and explore city streets and muddy trails. (Notwithstanding those hardy types who ride year round!)

For many young people living in care, having a bike of their own can be challenging. Maybe they have not been able to bring it along to various placements, or they never owned one to begin with.

Thanks to the Winnipeg Repair Education and Cycling Hub (WRENCH), and staff from Knowles Centre and John G. Stewart School, that is changing.

WRENCH's Earn-a-Bike program offers a 12-session series on basic repair for youth. It begins with the youth selecting a bike that has been donated to the program to repair and make their own. Over the next several sessions, participants learn to fix tires and tubes, hubs, bottom brackets, brakes, gears, and more on their bike. Finally, they learn about the importance of a properly fitting bike helmet before setting out to explore some of Winnipeg's bike paths, and get comfortable with shoulder checking, signaling, and rider safety.



The staff at WRENCH are amazing. They work closely with the youth to teach the kinds of hands-on skills that will be useful for life. Even more, the youth gain self-confidence, patience, respect and cooperation—lessons that carry over into the classroom and along all (bike) paths in life!

*Contributed by Pam Jansen, Recreation Coordinator*

A promotional poster for the Knowles Centre Inc. 9th Annual Croquet Classic. The poster features a blue background with white and red text. At the top, it says "Knowles Centre Inc. 9th Annual Croquet Classic". Below this is the Knowles Centre Inc. logo and tagline: "Helping Individuals Find Their Path: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow". The event details are: "September 6th, 2018 at 1:00 pm at Fort Gibraltar (866 Rue St. Joseph Street)". It also states "Space is Limited! Register now to reserve you spot! (Team of 4—\$400 or \$125 for single player)". A central graphic shows a croquet mallet and ball with a banner that says "KNOWLES CENTRE CHARITY CROQUET CLASSIC". To the right, there is a starburst graphic that says "Participate in our Alice in Wonderland Theme". At the bottom, there are logos for event sponsors: OXYGEN TECHNICAL SERVICES, Taylor McCallfrey, Western, McFadden, Thompson Wealth Management, RICHARDSON, and Gordon FOOD SERVICE. A contact box at the bottom right provides: "For more information contact Ginette: Phone: 204-339-1951 ext 160. Email: croquet@knowlescentre.org Web: www.knowlescentre.org All proceeds go to support Knowles Centre Inc."/>

**Knowles Centre Inc.**  
**9th Annual Croquet Classic**

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Space is Limited!  
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Fun, Games, Costumes, Contests  
Raffles, Prizes and Delicious Food

Event Sponsors:

**OXYGEN** TECHNICAL SERVICES  
**Taylor McCallfrey** Insurance & Advisors  
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**Thompson Wealth Management**  
**RICHARDSON**  
**Gordon** FOOD SERVICE change of your life

**Sirius** Benefits  
The Benefits of a Group Life Insurance Contract

Participate in our Alice in Wonderland Theme

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## Fit Body Boot Camp supports Knowles Centre



Thanks to RJ Padue, Michelle Braithwaite, and the Fit Body Boot Camp members for picking Knowles Centre as your charity of choice. The North Kildonan fitness centre, located in McIvor Mall at 1795 Henderson Highway, held a fundraiser in February to support the youth at Knowles Centre. In total, \$1,059 was donated, which includes funds contributed by members and a matching gift by owner RJ. It was truly a gift from healthy hearts!

Pictured (*l to r*) Knowles Centre's Grant Obirek and Michael Burdz are pleased to receive a donation from RJ Padue and Michelle Braithwaite.

## Staff News

Congratulations on **Craig Calancia**, BA, and **Colleen Keating** for being selected as new supervisors in Unit 1 and the new community group care unit, respectively. Both bring years of experience working with youth and showing leadership on the job.

The SAIL program added three new support workers to help lead youth with new skills. Welcome to **Jack Lima**, **Meghan Scammell**, and **Corene Simmonds**, BA.

The SAIL program was saddened to say goodbye to support worker **Tiffany Rios** in January 2018. Tiffany worked with clients for six years, but helped to change their lives forever with her skill and caring heart.

Knowles Centre also said goodbye to **Josh Gatta** in December after 4-1/2 years in the Group Care program. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

We offer our best wishes to two long-term employees who have moved on to busy careers as newly retired people. **Norm Vawryk** left in December after 36-plus years of service.

Although he was the longest serving employee at the time (and possibly the longest serving employee ever!), Norm was unfamiliar to many; he spent his career working the overnight shift in the Group Care program. His quiet but no-nonsense attitude earned him the respect of youth and staff alike. He will be missed by all.

**Marge Richards** began a new chapter in her life in May, after 10-½ years as the Knowles Centre receptionist and accounting assistant. Marge was often the first contact people had with the agency by telephone or in person. She was often called on to “keep an eye on” youth in the waiting room for their intake appointment and could help to put the young guest at ease by inevitably finding a topic of common interest. She also kept coworkers on their toes by ensuring necessary information made it where it needed to go, and helped keep revenue flowing with her no-nonsense collection calls. She will certainly be missed, but echoes of Marge will be with us for years to come!

Congratulations to **Marijana Dumbovic** (TFC) and **Cletus Joseph** (GCTP) on the arrival of their *twins*, Lincoln and Alexa on May 2. Mom and babies are doing great; Dad is expected to recover soon.

**Insights** is published by:



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Comments, suggestions and inquiries are welcome.