



THE JOHN HOWARD  
SOCIETY OF MANITOBA  
2010 -2011  
ANNUAL REPORT



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## WELCOME

We are pleased to present our 2010-2011 annual report, covering the period of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Please see our **WHAT'S NEW AT JHS** section for our most recent and exciting news.



## REPORT FROM THE CHAIR



This has been a very exciting year for the John Howard Society of Manitoba. Our organization has experienced much growth, notably the establishment of a new Bail Assessment, Support and Supervision Program. Our building, the Justice Resource Centre, is undergoing extensive renovations in order to accommodate this new program.

While I have been a board member for some years now, this has been my first year as the Chair. My interest in social justice began many years ago. In 1989, I was arrested at a non-violent protest in Ottawa protesting low-level NATO training flights, in solidarity with the struggle of the First Nations Innu people of Nitassinan (northern Quebec and Labrador).



Today, my hair is much shorter (and grayer), but I remain committed to the ideals of social justice, as embodied by the work of the John Howard Society of Manitoba.

Unfortunately, the legislative agenda at the federal level remains retrograde. JHS Board members have played an active role in advocating for a justice system based on the principles of restorative justice. I would like to mention a couple of the numerous public interventions made by Board members.

On November 22, 2010, Board member Barrett Fraser appeared before the Parliamentary Public Safety Committee, with our Executive Director, John Hutton to testify about proposed changes that would have made it far more difficult or even impossible for those with a record to get a pardon:

"When do I or 400,000 other people stop being ex-offenders and start becoming citizens?" asked Barrett. "You're removing a tremendous piece of motivation to people like me."

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011, on very short notice, Board member Melanie Nimmo, accompanied by Kate Kehler, JHSM Assistant Executive Director, appeared before the Standing Committee on the Status of Women. They addressed the issue of violence against Aboriginal women, and emphasized the need to address the root causes of the violence, and communicated that restorative justice is an effective alternative to our current system, with proven results.

In closing, I would like to thank two members who are stepping down from the Board, Wahlea Croxen and Darren Sawchuk, for their valuable contributions to our work. The growth of our organization is in no small part due to the leadership of our Executive Director, John Hutton. As well, I must congratulate our amazing staff and volunteers, for their tremendous team effort, without whom none of our work would be possible.

**David Alper,**  
Chair of the Board of Directors



## REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In last year's report, I observed that we were moving into a phase of planning new initiatives and programs. During the 2010-11 year, this planning paid off in a number of ways. We began a major new program

expansion and at the same time saw the profile of our organization grow nationally in the area of advocacy. We also created a new partnership with one of our collateral agencies, Ogiijita Pimatisiwin Kinamatwin (OPK).

In late August of 2010, we submitted a proposal to the provincial government for funding to create a Bail Assessment, Support and Supervision Program (B.A.S.S.P.) with a residential component. The program is designed to work with up to 75 clients at a time, 20 of whom may live in a residence being created in our building. In February of this year, we received confirmation that the funding had been approved and implementation began immediately. The bail program is the first major new program for JHSM since Restorative Resolutions was created almost 20 years ago. B.A.S.S.P. will provide men on bail with supports and services to address risky and problematic behaviour and increase community safety. A more detailed description of the B.A.S.S.P. can be found at the end of the annual report.

In October of 2010, we partnered with the Association des juristes d'expression française du Manitoba, the Faculty of Social Work of the Collège universitaire de St-Boniface, the Comité consultatif clientele judiciarisée adulte of Quebec (CCCJA) on a two day event, held in both French and English, that focused on the impact of a criminal record. We received funding from Correctional Service of Canada to stage this event, attended by more than 100 people, over the two days. The guest speaker was an airline pilot, Captain Piche, famous in Quebec for making a safe landing on a small island airbase after his engines died over the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. In the publicity that ensued, the captain's criminal past became known as well. As his arrest and conviction took place in the United States, having a criminal record did not prevent him from resuming his career as a pilot in Canada, but many Canadians do face barriers related to having a



record. The conference examined how those with a record could be encouraged to move on while acknowledging the barriers they face.

Also in October, JHS Manitoba was proud to host the annual meeting of JHS Canada here in Winnipeg. Board members and executive directors from the various provincial associations arrived in Winnipeg for three days of meetings, and received a warm welcome from our staff and board members. Representatives from JHS Brandon attended as well and joined us in making a presentation to the delegates on the work being done by the John Howard Society in Manitoba. As special guests, we invited staff from Stony Mountain Institution's Ni Miiikana Aboriginal healing range to speak about their work and display art and handicrafts created by the inmates.

Since receiving a grant from the Manitoba Law Foundation in 2009 to develop a plain language guide to getting a pardon, the John Howard Society of Manitoba has been active in creating more awareness around the issue of pardons. When the federal government introduced legislation in 2010 that would have denied pardons altogether in certain cases, we lead a campaign against the proposal and our concerns at the national level. Last November, we organized a delegation from Manitoba that included staff and clients from Opportunities for Employment, BUILD and a board member from JHSM with a criminal record. We travelled to Ottawa to speak against the legislation to the House of Commons Committee on Public Safety. Our presentation was well received by opposition MP's and the legislation was buried in committee where it died on the order paper when the most recent election was called. However, we understand changes to the rules for pardons will likely be part of the new omnibus legislation expected to be introduced by the Federal Government over the next few weeks, and we may have to speak out on this issue again.



Many of the initiatives we took part in over the last year were done in partnership with other agencies or organizations:

We joined with Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba in observing Prisoner Justice Day in August and work closely with the Lifeline “In-reach” worker employed by the St. Leonard’s Society. We also worked with a number of organizations, including Elizabeth Fry, Onashowewin, Just TV and Mediation Services to organize events for Restorative Justice Week in



November. As the year came to a close, we had a different kind of opportunity to partner with a ‘collateral agency’.



Ogijiita Pimatiswin Kinamatwin (OPK) has worked for many years providing occupational training to ex-offenders, many of whom are also ex-gang members. As a result of funding changes, OPK had to downsize their administrative structure. They approached JHSM about providing financial administration for their program and to provide office and class room space for them in our building. We were happy to accommodate the request and look forward to working more closely with this group in future, as they operate out of our offices.

We could not accomplish as much as we do without having such a terrific staff. I have also become more aware this last year of some of the challenges staff face, particularly those who work inside the correctional centres with little or no control over their working conditions. “Codes” (emergencies) which can interrupt an interview or class without warning, lack of space for meeting with clients, and having little privacy for these meetings make a challenging job even more difficult. But despite this, JHSM staff continue to provide the highest level of service to clients at all times.

I would like to express my thanks to all the staff at JHS and in our Restorative Resolutions program for their commitment, ability and the dedication that they bring to our work. Over the 2010-11 year (and 2011 summer) we said goodbye to Shauna Faye (again!), Jennifer MacLean, Tania Wiebe, Jenna Drabble and Marlene Aguilar; and to Marvie Gordon and Edwin Wood from the Restorative Resolutions program. At the same time we welcomed Bob Godin, Amy Lamb, Ade Bodunrin, Bernice Praymack, and Rhonda Gosselin to our new bail program, B.A.S.S.P; Chuck Wilson as our new Literacy Program Assistant, Lexi Van Dyck as our summer intern in 2010 ( and who returned as a summer student this year), Elvira Lausman as our new reintegration worker and Christie Martin as the newest member of the RR team.

As always, I would like to thank our funders for their support:

- *Manitoba Justice* which already funds our reintegration department, Restorative Resolutions and is now supporting our bail program and residence;
- *The United Way of Winnipeg* who has funded us for 46 years and offers additional support through the Day of Caring Program. This year United Way provided an additional one time grant of 2% over and above our core funding which was much appreciated, all the more so as they did so without being asked.
- *Adult Literacy and Learning*, which continues to support our Literacy department;
- *Correctional Service of Canada* who provided funding for a second community forum – this one dealing with the *impact* of a criminal record.
- *The Winnipeg Foundation* who provided the salary for a summer intern position through its Youth in Philanthropy – Summer Internship
- *Canada Summer Jobs*, who allowed us to hire a summer student in our Reintegration department.

- *Manitoba Law Foundation* for its expanded support of our pardon project.
- *Assiniboine Credit Union* who provided funding that allowed us to develop new literacy workbooks
- *Project Peacemakers* whose donation allowed us to expand our library especially in the area of restorative justice.

And lastly I would like to acknowledge and thank the many individuals who supported our work last year with donations – you know who you are!

John Hutton, Executive Director



## RESTORATIVE RESOLUTIONS



Restorative Resolutions is a community based sentencing program that has been operating in Winnipeg since 1993. It is a unique partnership between Manitoba

Justice and the John Howard Society of Manitoba. Based upon restorative justice principles, the high success rate of the program can be attributed to the marriage of restorative justice principles and the 'what works model' of intervention, providing a viable alternative to incarceration.

To date, we have prepared community-based plans for 917 clients. Judges have come to rely on these reports and trust the information and recommendations presented. In fact, 95% of the plans have been accepted by the courts, with 89% of the clients successfully completing the program without reoffending. In terms of restorative processes, our clients have completed 54,545 community service work hours and 458 clients have provided their victims with a letter of apology. Our clients have also paid over \$1,590,000.00 back to their victims.

In terms of re-integrative work, the majority of our clients take part in groups which address cognitive errors and victim empathy. We have also

worked with the John Howard Society to develop the entrepreneurial training program, Beyond Bars, to offer clients who are thinking of entering the business world. In addition, our staff addresses issues related to literacy, education and employment, relationships and addictions. All of our clients are involved in treatment programs, educational upgrading, or employment searches. Clients often contact the staff after their sentences are complete for support and advice.

Restorative Resolutions continues to receive high marks in terms of client satisfaction, with extremely low rates of recidivism

Lana Maloney, Director of Restorative Resolutions



## REINTEGRATION PROGRAM



Over the past year, information on our services and programs, here in the community and in the institutions, continues to be in great demand. We have also seen an increase in walk-in clients, men, women and youth, who are in need of clothing and seeking food and shelter resources. While we are mandated to work with men over the age of 18, involved with the criminal justice system, we try to help whomever we can as much as we can. The lack of resources for men who are homeless, men with mental health and/or addictions issues, when coming out of jail or prison greatly interferes with their attempts to lead healthier, crime and addiction free lives.

We continue to work with our incarcerated clients on release plans that address addictions and rehabilitation, employment, housing, community supports, and safety for both the client and the community. The increase in reported gang activity and the fear it creates is making it increasingly difficult to find resources for men with mental health issues (commonly FASD) who have gang

affiliations. We visit the Winnipeg Remand Centre (WRC) and Headingly Correctional Centre on a weekly basis and Stony Mountain and Rockwood Institutions on a monthly basis to do intakes and determine the services our clients need. Our clients in the provincial system on remand status are sometimes transferred to the federal system once sentenced and we do everything we can to maintain the continuity of care. I have attended several parole hearings to demonstrate to the parole board our agency's support of our clients. We continue to see a rise in the number of our clients who are dealing with immigration and deportation issues.

Here in the community, our anger management course is always full. We maintain a waiting list and offer the course as often as we can. Along with the clothing closet, with funding from the Winnipeg Foundation's Youth in Philanthropy and donated cloth bags from the Mennonite Central Committee, we have created 'Fresh Start Kits'. These kits contain a variety of basic hygiene products in a hand sewn bag that that our clients can then keep. We continue to offer support and resources to our clients who have been incarcerated at our offices once they are released.

The Networking meetings that we began are a complete success with over 50 agencies involved. We continue to learn from each other so that we might all better serve our clients.

Yearly we accept requests from universities for their students to complete their practicum work with our agency. This term six students, Mamie Kifwala Brad Klassen, Brittany McIntosh, Karen Markham, Kibrom Tesfazion, Melanie Walegham, and Tania Wiebe have worked in reintegration and they have been a great help to the John Howard Society. These students have come from the University of Manitoba, Inner City Social Work Program, Booth College, Herzing , CDI and the St. Boniface College.

**Linda Campbell, Reintegration Program  
Coordinator, Student Supervisor**



## LITERACY REPORT



During the 2010/2011 program year, the John Howard Society literacy program served 71 students. This included students incarcerated in the Winnipeg Remand Centre, students staying at a residential treatment program called Forward House Ministries, and students visiting our drop-in literacy space at the office. We offer learners a combination of several different instruction types, including one-to-one work, inmate peer-tutoring, and group course participation. Learners work toward a broad range of goals, everything from basic reading and writing, to literacy for everyday living or employment, to reading comprehension, creative writing, problem solving, or GED preparation.

Seventeen volunteers worked with our program this year, contributing a total of 305 hours. The majority of these volunteers are tutors, spending one or two hours per week with students in the Remand Centre. However, we also have one volunteer who manages the JHSM lending library, and one who manages a program called "Get the Story Out", where incarcerated fathers can record themselves reading storybooks to their children and then have the book and recording sent to the child as a gift. Volunteers also attend regular trainings and orientations, help to co-facilitate group classes or develop new literacy materials, and participate in John Howard Society's annual holiday party in Remand Centre.

In addition to the volunteers, the literacy program comprises one full-time coordinator, myself, one part-time literacy worker, and one social work student. Our social work student this year was Jackie Horeczy of the University of Manitoba.

We made several changes to our programming model this year which have improved both the quality of instruction for students and the quality of experience for volunteers. We have reduced the

number of students in the program, but increased the number of hours of instruction available to each. We have reorganized our volunteers' schedules so that all tutoring takes place at the same time and in the same room, providing better support and supervision for volunteers. We have doubled the number of volunteer trainings, from two to four per year. Finally, we have begun training inmates to act as tutors, so that they can assist their peers outside of regular programming hours.

Our students have had many successes this year, both in formal academic achievements and in sharing their excellent literacy work with the wider community. One student, who had been taking distance ed courses through the partnership we've formed with the Louis Riel Institute, was



awarded his high school diploma during a small ceremony at the Winnipeg Remand Centre in the summer of 2010. Another student completed his GED successfully later that year. Still another finished a university level course in anthropology. Students made their voices heard when they wrote personal accounts to be read aloud at the International Day against Police Brutality in March of 2011. Another student participated in the Graphic Designers of Canada's 5<sup>th</sup> PechaKucha night, putting together a collection of writings and powerful visuals meant to convey some of the harsher truths about incarceration. JHS literacy ran its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Speaking Out From the Inside" poetry contest this year, and published nearly 50 fantastic entries from all over the province. Celebrity judges Shaneen Robinson, Fresh I.E., and Steven Ratzlaff had a nearly impossible time deciding between them!

As a staff, we continue to strive to provide our students with engaging literacy materials that are relevant to their daily lives. Our personal development workbooks are a collection of plain language books meant to help students practice their

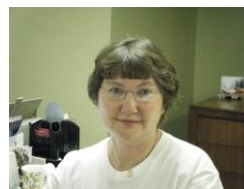
reading and writing skills while at the same giving them the opportunity to read about topics of interest, such as parenting, substance abuse, anger, restorative justice, and employment. This year we completely revamped our gang awareness workbook. The new version, *Gangs: Learning About Them, Living Without Them*, is the product of several interviews with current and former gang members, and plenty of student input in the form of both feedback and original artwork for the book. We are presently at work on a workbook on the topic of "community participation", which encompasses voting, volunteering, activism, and prisoners' rights.

Literacy continues to be in high demand both in and beyond Remand Centre, so we are often looking at ways of expanding the reach of our program. In June and July 2010 we ran an eight-week literacy pilot program in Headingley Correctional Centre, working with 15 students and receiving overwhelmingly positive reviews from both students and staff. In the future, we should look at not only maintaining the good relationship we have with our existing students, but growing that relationship to include others who require these services.

Jacquie Nicholson, Literacy Program Coordinator



## BUILDING and VOLUNTEER REPORT



### Volunteer Management:

The majority of our volunteers are involved in our literacy program at the Winnipeg Remand Centre as tutors. Many of our volunteers are studying either at the University of Winnipeg or the University of Manitoba, predominately in Criminology or Education. Volunteering with us allows them the opportunity



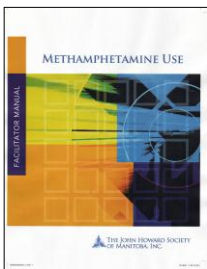
to further discern their chosen career path of supporting individuals involved with the criminal justice system. Prospective volunteers gain the opportunity to learn about our services and programs. It also allows them to gain some insight into the realities of the lives of our clients. The focus is also on identifying the needs of the volunteer in terms of their interests, abilities and career development. In some cases I am able to suggest areas of service that more clearly reflect their interests.

There are also opportunities to volunteer assisting in the office or with our reintegration department. Of the 34 regular volunteers of 2010/2011, 20 volunteers served on our board of directors, one in reintegration and 13 worked in the literacy program

In May we had a volunteer training night which included dinner. We also held training sessions in January and November.

Volunteers were also invited to participate in activities surrounding Restorative Justice Week, our Jail House Blues fundraiser in February and to assist with our Pancake Breakfast in August.

### Workbook Orders:



From April 2010-March 2011 we had 22 workbook orders totalling \$11,871.58. A third of this was sales of our new Harm Reduction Series. As in past years a sizeable proportion of these were from native communities in

Northern Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.

### Justice Resource Centre Building:

The building received a new tenant in September. The Daniel McIntyre St. Matthews

Community Association moved into our building for six months while they prepared to relocate to their new office, the former West End Library. Our long standing tenants the West Central Woman's Resource Centre were finally able to move into their own building just down the street. We will now be using the basement for John Howard Society programs. Frank Ostrowski opened a leather works atelier on the second floor.

### Volunteers (not including board members):

Matthew Auger, James Bernardin, Evan Bowness, Gavin Donatelli, Shauna Fay, Christie Fischer, Joseph Kornelsen, Chantelle Martens, Robert McGregor, Agnes Pawlowska, Joel Schlessinger, Lexington Slater, Susan Sparrow, Rhys Williams

### THANK YOU!

Janet Johnson, Administrative Assistant, Volunteer Program Coordinator, Building Manager



## JHS STAFF and STUDENTS 2010/2011

### The John Howard Society Staff:

John Hutton, Executive Director

Kate Kehler, Assistant Executive Director

Shuping Zhang, Accountant

Janet Johnson, Administrative Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator, Building Manager

Linda Campbell, Reintegration Program Coordinator

Jacquie Nicholson, Literacy Program Coordinator

\*Shauna Fay, Literacy Program Assistant

\*Jenna Drabble, Literacy Program Assistant

\*Jennifer McLean, Literacy Program Assistant and Reintegration Worker

\*Tania Wiebe, Reintegration Worker

\*Marlene Aguilar, Reintegration Worker

### 2010 Summer Students:

Marlene Aguilar and Lexi van Dyck

\*resigned



## Thank you to our 2010/2011 Community Partners

The John Howard Society of Manitoba, Inc. gratefully acknowledges the support of our community partners, private donors and members. Your contributions play a large part in enhancing our existing services and ensuring the continued growth of our agency.

Our thanks to you all.

### The Province of Manitoba



Department of Justice

Manitoba Adult Learning and Literacy

### Foundations and Friends:

The John Howard Society of Canada

United Way of Winnipeg

The Winnipeg Foundation

The Manitoba Law Foundation

The Assiniboine Credit Union



## WHAT'S NEW AT JHS

### NEW COMPUTERS!

Thanks to a generous grant from the Winnipeg Foundation, we were able to replace all of our old computers, provide new ones for our growing staff and upgrade our server. Our old system was 'temperamental' at the best of times and JHSM staff are now able to count on access to the information and communications essential to our work.

We also have a new awning and security light for outside of our building.

Jacque, JHSM's Literacy Coordinator, took part in the planning of and spoke at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual march for the International Day Against Police Brutality, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011.



On April 19<sup>th</sup>, John was asked to speak at the Red Tent March supporting real investment for safe, social housing during the last federal election.

Now along with our anger management and Triple P Parenting classes, we have a new course to offer our clients. It is called Beyond Bars: JHSM's entrepreneurial training program. This is an intensive thirteen session course that teaches the skills required to identify a marketable business idea, develop a business plan and then implement that plan in a logical, practical way.

With funding and help from the Winnipeg Foundation and Restorative Resolutions, we adapted the course material and developed our own, Canadian based workbook. Our two pilot projects were very successful. We are actively looking for

funding so that we can continue to offer this course both inside the institutions and in the community.

We were very grateful to receive the news in April that our application to Community Places was approved. These funds will help us with some very necessary upgrades to our aging building.

And finally, please meet TEAM BASSP! Bob, Amy, Rhonda, Ade and Bernice. Our Bail Assessment, Support and Supervision Program staff.



Our bail program will serve up to 75 men, 20 of who will be residing in our building. BASSP will help our clients develop a bail plan to present to the court and then support them in the community so they can follow through on that plan. It is our hope that our clients will both benefit from having the necessary support to make positive changes in their lives while demonstrating to the court that they can safely remain in the community.

BASSP is slated to begin taking clients in October, with the residence component added once the necessary renovations to our building are complete. Please look forward to our 2011/2012 annual report for our BASSP's Program Supervisor, Bob Godin's, first report on this exciting new initiative.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010/2011

**David Alper** (Chair)

**Ted Mariash** (Treasurer)

**Dr. Sophie Levina-Shulman** (Board Member)

**Kelly Jones** (Board Member)

**Jean Claude Bernheim** (Board Member)

**Evan Bowness** (Board Member)

**\*Dave Remilliard** (Board Member)

**\*\*C. Wahlea Croxen** (Board Member)

**\*\*Darren Sawchuck** (Board Member)

**Allen Bleich** (Board Member)

**Barrett Fraser** (Board Member)

**Ken Sirkis** (Board Member)

**Melanie Nimmo** (Board Member)

**Steven Plenert** (Board Member)

\*Resigned September 2010

\*\*Resigned September 2011

We look forward to hearing your questions and comments either here at our AGM, at (204) 775-1514 or [office@johnhoward.mb.ca](mailto:office@johnhoward.mb.ca).

The John Howard Society of Manitoba is a non-profit justice organization dedicated to working with offenders, victim and the community to resolve conflict, repair harm, and restore peaceful relations. Your contribution can help us achieve our goals.

Dear Mama

I sit within these concrete walls  
My world had crumbled  
Yet you stand by me, most beautiful of all

I think back these 16 years  
My college days, my paralegal career

How life can change  
How quick one falls  
Still yet you stood by me through the worst of it all

Since dad had passed, you've been so strong  
All my regrets, I've done so wrong

You've given me strength  
You've seen me through  
Dear Mama, I've realized my true friend is you

I know Dad is looking down from the sky  
He's shaking his head and wondering why

How could I be so foolish, so dumb  
I was raised well where I came from

I've surely found me within this prison cell  
I've done it all wrong, but I can still make it well

This time I must be the daughter you need  
This is how dad had left it  
Dear Mama, it is just you and me

I can never bring back our cheated years  
I can never dry up those crying tears

I can only now cherish our remaining days  
And make the best of new memories in so many ways

I've written this poem, solely for you  
Please carry it with you and I'll carry mine too

There is now nothing that'll take me astray  
I love you, I need you  
Dear Mama, your friend's here to stay

I thank you for everything that you have done  
It's never too late, a daughter you've won.

Thanks Mom,  
Love Sherri

**(JHSM's *Inside Scoop's* Poetry Contest Winner)**



## WELCOME

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While I have been a board member for some years now, this has been my first year as the Chair. My interest in social justice began many years ago. In 1989, I was arrested at a non-violent protest in Ottawa protesting low-level NATO training flights, in solidarity with the struggle of the First Nations Innu people of Nitassinan (northern Quebec and Labrador).



Today, my hair is much shorter (and grayer), but I remain committed to the ideals of social justice, as embodied by the work of the John Howard Society of Manitoba.

Unfortunately, the legislative agenda at the federal level remains retrograde. JHS Board members have played an active role in advocating for a justice system based on the principles of restorative justice. I would like to mention a couple of the numerous public interventions made by Board members.

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"When do I or 400,000 other people stop being ex-offenders and start becoming citizens?" asked Barrett. "You're removing a tremendous piece of motivation to people like me."

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In closing, I would like to thank two members who are stepping down from the Board, Wahlea Croxen and Darren Sawchuk, for their valuable contributions to our work. The growth of our organization is in no small part due to the leadership of our Executive Director, John Hutton. As well, I must congratulate our amazing staff and volunteers, for their tremendous team effort, without whom none of our work would be possible.

**David Alper,**  
Chair of the Board of Directors



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record. The conference examined how those with a record could be encouraged to move on while acknowledging the barriers they face.

Also in October, JHS Manitoba was proud to host the annual meeting of JHS Canada here in Winnipeg. Board members and executive directors from the various provincial associations arrived in Winnipeg for three days of meetings, and received a warm welcome from our staff and board members. Representatives from JHS Brandon attended as well and joined us in making a presentation to the delegates on the work being done by the John Howard Society in Manitoba. As special guests, we invited staff from Stony Mountain Institution's Ni Miiikana Aboriginal healing range to speak about their work and display art and handicrafts created by the inmates.

Since receiving a grant from the Manitoba Law Foundation in 2009 to develop a plain language guide to getting a pardon, the John Howard Society of Manitoba has been active in creating more awareness around the issue of pardons. When the federal government introduced legislation in 2010 that would have denied pardons altogether in certain cases, we lead a campaign against the proposal and our concerns at the national level. Last November, we organized a delegation from Manitoba that included staff and clients from Opportunities for Employment, BUILD and a board member from JHSM with a criminal record. We travelled to Ottawa to speak against the legislation to the House of Commons Committee on Public Safety. Our presentation was well received by opposition MP's and the legislation was buried in committee where it died on the order paper when the most recent election was called. However, we understand changes to the rules for pardons will likely be part of the new omnibus legislation expected to be introduced by the Federal Government over the next few weeks, and we may have to speak out on this issue again.



Many of the initiatives we took part in over the last year were done in partnership with other agencies or organizations:

We joined with Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba in observing Prisoner Justice Day in August and work closely with the Lifeline "In-reach" worker employed by the St. Leonard's Society. We also worked with a number of organizations, including Elizabeth Fry, Onashowewin, Just TV and Mediation Services to organize events for Restorative Justice Week in



November. As the year came to a close, we had a different kind of opportunity to partner with a 'collateral agency'.



Ogijiita Pimatiswin Kinamatwin (OPK) has worked for many years providing occupational training to ex-offenders, many of whom are also ex-gang members. As a result of funding changes, OPK had to downsize their administrative structure. They approached JHSM about providing financial administration for their program and to provide office and class room space for them in our building. We were happy to accommodate the request and look forward to working more closely with this group in future, as they operate out of our offices.

We could not accomplish as much as we do without having such a terrific staff. I have also become more aware this last year of some of the challenges staff face, particularly those who work inside the correctional centres with little or no control over their working conditions. "Codes" (emergencies) which can interrupt an interview or class without warning, lack of space for meeting with clients, and having little privacy for these meetings make a challenging job even more difficult. But despite this, JHSM staff continue to provide the highest level of service to clients at all times.

I would like to express my thanks to all the staff at JHS and in our Restorative Resolutions program for their commitment, ability and the dedication that they bring to our work. Over the 2010-11 year (and 2011 summer) we said goodbye to Shauna Faye (again!), Jennifer MacLean, Tania Wiebe, Jenna Drabble and Marlene Aguilar; and to Marvie Gordon and Edwin Wood from the Restorative Resolutions program. At the same time we welcomed Bob Godin, Amy Lamb, Ade Bodunrin, Bernice Praymack, and Rhonda Gosselin to our new bail program, B.A.S.S.P; Chuck Wilson as our new Literacy Program Assistant, Lexi Van Dyck as our summer intern in 2010 ( and who returned as a summer student this year), Elvira Lausman as our new reintegration worker and Christie Martin as the newest member of the RR team.

As always, I would like to thank our funders for their support:

- *Manitoba Justice* which already funds our reintegration department, Restorative Resolutions and is now supporting our bail program and residence;
- *The United Way of Winnipeg* who has funded us for 46 years and offers additional support through the Day of Caring Program. This year United Way provided an additional one time grant of 2% over and above our core funding which was much appreciated, all the more so as they did so without being asked.
- *Adult Literacy and Learning*, which continues to support our Literacy department;
- *Correctional Service of Canada* who provided funding for a second community forum – this one dealing with the *impact* of a criminal record.
- *The Winnipeg Foundation* who provided the salary for a summer intern position through its Youth in Philanthropy – Summer Internship
- *Canada Summer Jobs*, who allowed us to hire a summer student in our Reintegration department.

- *Manitoba Law Foundation* for its expanded support of our pardon project.
- *Assiniboine Credit Union* who provided funding that allowed us to develop new literacy workbooks
- *Project Peacemakers* whose donation allowed us to expand our library especially in the area of restorative justice.

And lastly I would like to acknowledge and thank the many individuals who supported our work last year with donations – you know who you are!

**John Hutton, Executive Director**



## RESTORATIVE RESOLUTIONS



Restorative Resolutions is a community based sentencing program that has been operating in Winnipeg since 1993. It is a unique partnership between Manitoba

Justice and the John Howard Society of Manitoba. Based upon restorative justice principles, the high success rate of the program can be attributed to the marriage of restorative justice principles and the 'what works model' of intervention, providing a viable alternative to incarceration.

To date, we have prepared community-based plans for 917 clients. Judges have come to rely on these reports and trust the information and recommendations presented. In fact, 95% of the plans have been accepted by the courts, with 89% of the clients successfully completing the program without reoffending. In terms of restorative processes, our clients have completed 54,545 community service work hours and 458 clients have provided their victims with a letter of apology. Our clients have also paid over \$1,590,000.00 back to their victims.

In terms of re-integrative work, the majority of our clients take part in groups which address cognitive errors and victim empathy. We have also

worked with the John Howard Society to develop the entrepreneurial training program, Beyond Bars, to offer clients who are thinking of entering the business world. In addition, our staff addresses issues related to literacy, education and employment, relationships and addictions. All of our clients are involved in treatment programs, educational upgrading, or employment searches. Clients often contact the staff after their sentences are complete for support and advice.

Restorative Resolutions continues to receive high marks in terms of client satisfaction, with extremely low rates of recidivism

**Lana Maloney, Director of Restorative Resolutions**



## REINTEGRATION PROGRAM



Over the past year, information on our services and programs, here in the community and in the institutions, continues to be in great demand. We have also seen an increase in walk-in clients, men, women and youth, who are in need of clothing and seeking food and shelter resources. While we are mandated to work with men over the age of 18, involved with the criminal justice system, we try to help whomever we can as much as we can. The lack of resources for men who are homeless, men with mental health and/or addictions issues, when coming out of jail or prison greatly interferes with their attempts to lead healthier, crime and addiction free lives.

We continue to work with our incarcerated clients on release plans that address addictions and rehabilitation, employment, housing, community supports, and safety for both the client and the community. The increase in reported gang activity and the fear it creates is making it increasingly difficult to find resources for men with mental health issues (commonly FASD) who have gang



affiliations. We visit the Winnipeg Remand Centre (WRC) and Headingly Correctional Centre on a weekly basis and Stony Mountain and Rockwood Institutions on a monthly basis to do intakes and determine the services our clients need. Our clients in the provincial system on remand status are sometimes transferred to the federal system once sentenced and we do everything we can to maintain the continuity of care. I have attended several parole hearings to demonstrate to the parole board our agency's support of our clients. We continue to see a rise in the number of our clients who are dealing with immigration and deportation issues.

Here in the community, our anger management course is always full. We maintain a waiting list and offer the course as often as we can. Along with the clothing closet, with funding from the Winnipeg Foundation's Youth in Philanthropy and donated cloth bags from the Mennonite Central Committee, we have created 'Fresh Start Kits'. These kits contain a variety of basic hygiene products in a hand sewn bag that that our clients can then keep. We continue to offer support and resources to our clients who have been incarcerated at our offices once they are released.

The Networking meetings that we began are a complete success with over 50 agencies involved. We continue to learn from each other so that we might all better serve our clients.

Yearly we accept requests from universities for their students to complete their practicum work with our agency. This term six students, Mamie Kifwala Brad Klassen, Brittany McIntosh, Karen Markham, Kibrom Tesfazion, Melanie Walegham, and Tania Wiebe have worked in reintegration and they have been a great help to the John Howard Society. These students have come from the University of Manitoba, Inner City Social Work Program, Booth College, Herzing , CDI and the St. Boniface College.

**Linda Campbell, Reintegration Program  
Coordinator, Student Supervisor**



## LITERACY REPORT



During the 2010/2011 program year, the John Howard Society literacy program served 71 students. This included students incarcerated in the Winnipeg Remand Centre, students staying at a residential treatment program called Forward House Ministries, and students visiting our drop-in literacy space at the office. We offer learners a combination of several different instruction types, including one-to-one work, inmate peer-tutoring, and group course participation. Learners work toward a broad range of goals, everything from basic reading and writing, to literacy for everyday living or employment, to reading comprehension, creative writing, problem solving, or GED preparation.

Seventeen volunteers worked with our program this year, contributing a total of 305 hours. The majority of these volunteers are tutors, spending one or two hours per week with students in the Remand Centre. However, we also have one volunteer who manages the JHSM lending library, and one who manages a program called "Get the Story Out", where incarcerated fathers can record themselves reading storybooks to their children and then have the book and recording sent to the child as a gift. Volunteers also attend regular trainings and orientations, help to co-facilitate group classes or develop new literacy materials, and participate in John Howard Society's annual holiday party in Remand Centre.

In addition to the volunteers, the literacy program comprises one full-time coordinator, myself, one part-time literacy worker, and one social work student. Our social work student this year was Jackie Horeczy of the University of Manitoba.

We made several changes to our programming model this year which have improved both the quality of instruction for students and the quality of experience for volunteers. We have reduced the

number of students in the program, but increased the number of hours of instruction available to each. We have reorganized our volunteers' schedules so that all tutoring takes place at the same time and in the same room, providing better support and supervision for volunteers. We have doubled the number of volunteer trainings, from two to four per year. Finally, we have begun training inmates to act as tutors, so that they can assist their peers outside of regular programming hours.

Our students have had many successes this year, both in formal academic achievements and in sharing their excellent literacy work with the wider community. One student, who had been taking distance ed courses through the partnership we've formed with the Louis Riel Institute, was awarded his high school diploma during a small ceremony at the Winnipeg Remand Centre in the summer of 2010. Another student completed his GED successfully later that year. Still another finished a university level course in anthropology. Students made their voices heard when they wrote personal accounts to be read aloud at the International Day against Police Brutality in March of 2011. Another student participated in the Graphic Designers of Canada's 5<sup>th</sup> PechaKucha night, putting together a collection of writings and powerful visuals meant to convey some of the harsher truths about incarceration. JHS literacy ran its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Speaking Out From the Inside" poetry contest this year, and published nearly 50 fantastic entries from all over the province. Celebrity judges Shaneen Robinson, Fresh I.E., and Steven Ratzlaff had a nearly impossible time deciding between them!

As a staff, we continue to strive to provide our students with engaging literacy materials that are relevant to their daily lives. Our personal development workbooks are a collection of plain language books meant to help students practice their



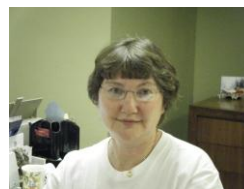
reading and writing skills while at the same giving them the opportunity to read about topics of interest, such as parenting, substance abuse, anger, restorative justice, and employment. This year we completely revamped our gang awareness workbook. The new version, *Gangs: Learning About Them, Living Without Them*, is the product of several interviews with current and former gang members, and plenty of student input in the form of both feedback and original artwork for the book. We are presently at work on a workbook on the topic of "community participation", which encompasses voting, volunteering, activism, and prisoners' rights.

Literacy continues to be in high demand both in and beyond Remand Centre, so we are often looking at ways of expanding the reach of our program. In June and July 2010 we ran an eight-week literacy pilot program in Headingley Correctional Centre, working with 15 students and receiving overwhelmingly positive reviews from both students and staff. In the future, we should look at not only maintaining the good relationship we have with our existing students, but growing that relationship to include others who require these services.

Jacquie Nicholson, Literacy Program Coordinator



## BUILDING and VOLUNTEER REPORT



### Volunteer Management:

The majority of our volunteers are involved in our literacy program at the Winnipeg Remand Centre as tutors. Many of our volunteers are studying either at the University of Winnipeg or the University of Manitoba, predominately in Criminology or Education. Volunteering with us allows them the opportunity

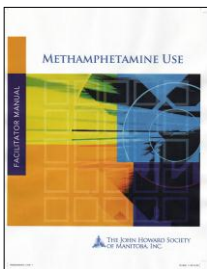
to further discern their chosen career path of supporting individuals involved with the criminal justice system. Prospective volunteers gain the opportunity to learn about our services and programs. It also allows them to gain some insight into the realities of the lives of our clients. The focus is also on identifying the needs of the volunteer in terms of their interests, abilities and career development. In some cases I am able to suggest areas of service that more clearly reflect their interests.

There are also opportunities to volunteer assisting in the office or with our reintegration department. Of the 34 regular volunteers of 2010/2011, 20 volunteers served on our board of directors, one in reintegration and 13 worked in the literacy program

In May we had a volunteer training night which included dinner. We also held training sessions in January and November.

Volunteers were also invited to participate in activities surrounding Restorative Justice Week, our Jail House Blues fundraiser in February and to assist with our Pancake Breakfast in August.

### Workbook Orders:



From April 2010-March 2011 we had 22 workbook orders totalling \$11,871.58. A third of this was sales of our new Harm Reduction Series. As in past years a sizeable proportion of these were from native communities in

Northern Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.

### Justice Resource Centre Building:

The building received a new tenant in September. The Daniel McIntyre St. Matthews

Community Association moved into our building for six months while they prepared to relocate to their new office, the former West End Library. Our long standing tenants the West Central Woman's Resource Centre were finally able to move into their own building just down the street. We will now be using the basement for John Howard Society programs. Frank Ostrowski opened a leather works atelier on the second floor.

### Volunteers (not including board members):

Matthew Auger, James Bernardin, Evan Bowness, Gavin Donatelli, Shauna Fay, Christie Fischer, Joseph Kornelsen, Chantelle Martens, Robert McGregor, Agnes Pawlowska, Joel Schlessinger, Lexington Slater, Susan Sparrow, Rhys Williams

### THANK YOU!

Janet Johnson, Administrative Assistant, Volunteer Program Coordinator, Building Manager



## JHS STAFF and STUDENTS 2010/2011

### The John Howard Society Staff:

John Hutton, Executive Director

Kate Kehler, Assistant Executive Director

Shuping Zhang, Accountant

Janet Johnson, Administrative Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator, Building Manager

Linda Campbell, Reintegration Program Coordinator

Jacque Nicholson, Literacy Program Coordinator

\*Shauna Fay, Literacy Program Assistant

\*Jenna Drabble, Literacy Program Assistant

\*Jennifer McLean, Literacy Program Assistant and Reintegration Worker

\*Tania Wiebe, Reintegration Worker

\*Marlene Aguilar, Reintegration Worker

### 2010 Summer Students:

Marlene Aguilar and Lexi van Dyck

\*resigned



## Thank you to our 2010/2011 Community Partners

The John Howard Society of Manitoba, Inc. gratefully acknowledges the support of our community partners, private donors and members. Your contributions play a large part in enhancing our existing services and ensuring the continued growth of our agency.

Our thanks to you all.

### The Province of Manitoba



Department of Justice

Manitoba Adult Learning and Literacy

### Foundations and Friends:

The John Howard Society of Canada

United Way of Winnipeg

The Winnipeg Foundation

The Manitoba Law Foundation

The Assiniboine Credit Union



## WHAT'S NEW AT JHS

### NEW COMPUTERS!

Thanks to a generous grant from the Winnipeg Foundation, we were able to replace all of our old computers, provide new ones for our growing staff and upgrade our server. Our old system was 'temperamental' at the best of times and JHSM staff are now able to count on access to the information and communications essential to our work.

We also have a new awning and security light for outside of our building.

Jacque, JHSM's Literacy Coordinator, took part in the planning of and spoke at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual march for the International Day Against Police Brutality, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011.



On April 19<sup>th</sup>, John was asked to speak at the Red Tent March supporting real investment for safe, social housing during the last federal election.

Now along with our anger management and Triple P Parenting classes, we have a new course to offer our clients. It is called Beyond Bars: JHSM's entrepreneurial training program. This is an intensive thirteen session course that teaches the skills required to identify a marketable business idea, develop a business plan and then implement that plan in a logical, practical way.

With funding and help from the Winnipeg Foundation and Restorative Resolutions, we adapted the former course material and developed our own, Canadian based workbook. Our two pilot

projects were very successful. We are actively looking for funding so that we can continue to offer this course both inside the institutions and in the community.

We were very grateful to receive the news in April that our application to Community Places was approved. These funds will help us with some very necessary upgrades to our aging building.

And finally, please meet TEAM BASSP! Bob, Amy, Rhonda, Ade and Bernice. Our Bail Assessment, Support and Supervision Program staff.



Our bail program will serve up to 75 men, 20 of who will be residing in our building. BASSP will help our clients develop a bail plan to present to the court and then support them in the community so they can follow through on that plan. It is our hope that our clients will both benefit from having the necessary support to make positive changes in their lives while demonstrating to the court that they can safely remain in the community.

BASSP is slated to begin taking clients in October, with the residence component added once the necessary renovations to our building are complete. Please look forward to our 2011/2012 annual report for our BASSP's Program Supervisor, Bob Godin's, first report on this exciting new initiative.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010/2011

**David Alper** (Chair)

**Ted Mariash** (Treasurer)

**Dr. Sophie Levina-Shulman** (Board Member)

**Kelly Jones** (Board Member)

**Jean Claude Bernheim** (Board Member)

**Evan Bowness** (Board Member)

\***Dave Remilliard** (Board Member)

\*\***C. Wahlea Croxen** (Board Member)

\*\***Darren Sawchuck** (Board Member)

**Allen Bleich** (Board Member)

**Barrett Fraser** (Board Member)

**Ken Sirkis** (Board Member)

**Melanie Nimmo** (Board Member)

**Steven Plenert** (Board Member)

\*Resigned September 2010

\*\*Resigned September 2011

We look forward to hearing your questions and comments either here at our AGM, at (204) 775-1514 or [office@johnhoward.mb.ca](mailto:office@johnhoward.mb.ca).

The John Howard Society of Manitoba is a non-profit justice organization dedicated to working with offenders, victim and the community to resolve conflict, repair harm, and restore peaceful relations. Your contribution can help us achieve our goals.