Youth Group Looking To Become Incorporated

by Dawn Currie

This community has a core of young people who are determined to establish a youth center, a place where young people can gather. About to be incorporated under ACT for Change (Adolescents Coming Together for Change), the group has received a grant from HRDC to hire a co-ordinator and to begin the process of establishing a not-for-profit facility, for young people, run by young people.

"We want the community to know that we are very serious about this effort," Jennifer Henderson, Tanya Joe and Rory Elliott, speaking on behalf of their group proclaimed during an interview last week. "We are seeking both moral and financial support from the community, and we are open to any suggestions and comments on this endeavour."

They explained, "Our prime goal is to establish a youth center where youths can come and feel welcome and safe. Although the center would be available for recreational activities, it will be much more than that. It will be a place where various organizations and services, with youth-oriented functions, can meet with youths and provide their services in a non-threatening, friendly setting — a place where youths feel that can go to get help and support. It will be a place where students can go after school for tutoring and to attend workshops on various topics relevant to youth."

ACT for Change representatives Jennifer Henderson (left), Tanya Joe and Rory Elliott are part of a group of young people in the community who hope to establish a youth center, where the youth of the community can gather, to obtain information and to share ideas and activities with one another.

With this goal in mind, ACT for Change has begun a series of fundraising activities. Last summer the group sponsored a barbecue at SuperValu, and letters have gone out to local businesses and individuals for their support. Other fundraising activities are planned.

Youth representatives point out, "We have established that there is a need for such a facility. Young people have nowhere to go where they feel they are truly accepted. Our goal is to provide such a place where information can be had on a one-to-one as well as group basis. That's where the workshops come it. We plan to hold sessions dealing with stress, peer education, sexual assault information, harassment information, self-defense, substance abuse, etc."

"We want something that is really ours. A place we have worked for, established, and maintain. Youth will take care of it. We feel if it belongs to the youth, then the youth will respect what they own. We hope that the community will be behind us in this effort," the youth representatives conclude.

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