

**THE JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY'S
PROGRAMS**

**JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF ALBERTA
2001**

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INTRODUCTION

The John Howard Societies in Alberta are community-based agencies who recognize that the problem of crime and its prevention is as much the responsibility of the community as it is of government. The values generally accepted by the Societies are: 1) that each individual has inherent dignity and intrinsic worth and must be treated fairly and compassionately; 2) that every person has the right to live in a safe, secure and peaceful environment; and 3) that, since every person has the potential to become a responsible citizen, the individual as a person must always be accepted, while negative behaviour is rejected. Guided by these values, the various societies play an active role in the criminal justice process by providing a variety of programs and services, which are detailed in this paper.

The John Howard Society also recognizes that, without the support and time of volunteers, many of these programs could not operate. Each of the John Howard Societies have volunteer programs that place volunteers in a number of areas including courtroom assistance, youth worker assistance, tutors, and leisure and recreational assistance.

PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR OFFENDERS AND EX-OFFENDERS

Programs

Community Assessment and Parole Supervision

Calgary John Howard Society delivers community assessment and parole supervision as part of its work in Bedford House. More information about Bedford House can be found below in this section under the heading “Facilities.”

Edmonton John Howard Society delivers the Community Assessment and Parole Supervision (CAPS) program. Edmonton John Howard Society’s CAPS program is capable of supervising up to 75 offenders on conditional release in Edmonton communities at any given time. Supervision is provided to clients released into the community through prison authorities or through the National Parole Board. In addition, up to 40 Community Assessments are conducted through CAPS each month. Community Assessments are in-depth reports based on information gathered from interviews with the families and friends of inmates. These reports determine the amount and quality of support that will be available to an offender both during and after incarceration and they help the National Parole Board to develop appropriate parole conditions.

Medicine Hat John Howard Society delivers Community Assessments and Parole Supervision. Under contract with the Correctional Service of Canada, the Society provides supervision of Federal and Provincial offenders on conditional release in Southeastern Alberta, and conducts Community Assessments to determine available supports for offenders eligible for release.

Red Deer John Howard Society delivers community assessments and parole supervision as part of its Institutional Services. More information about Red Deer John Howard Society's Institutional Services can be found below in this section under the heading "Services–Other."

Substance Abuse

Calgary John Howard Society delivers the Choices Substance Abuse Program. The time period immediately following release is highly stressful for most offenders. For offenders who have problems with alcohol and/or other drugs, relapse to substance abuse often follows, leading to suspension of parole. Choices works to keep offenders who have problems with alcohol and/or other drugs out of prison.

Anger Management

Edmonton John Howard Society delivers the Anger Management Program at Edmonton Attendance Centre. The Anger Management Program is an educational program that helps adults to understand and change the thoughts, responses and actions that often lead to anger and to learn how to deal with anger more effectively. The program is offered at the Edmonton Attendance Centre. The program is delivered in modules over the course of three weeks. Participants may attend on weekday evenings (Monday through Thursday from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.) or on weekends (Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Participants are referred to the program through probation, the courts or provincial institutions. Those enrolled may be on conditional sentence, temporary absence permit, intermittent sentence or probation.

Edmonton John Howard Society delivers the Communicating Anger in Relationships (CARE) program at 101st Street Apartments. More information about Edmonton John Howard Society's CARE program at 101st Street Apartments can be found below in this section under the heading "Facilities."

The John Howard Society of Grande Prairie delivers the Renaissance Program (Helping men move beyond their abusiveness). The goal of this program is to significantly decrease the abusiveness of men toward their female partners in intimate relationships. The Alberta Mental Health Board became ongoing funders of the program in 1992. The John Howard Society of Grande Prairie currently offers five 16-week programs annually with four follow up sessions available to those who complete the program. Referrals can be made by the client, the client's family, community agencies or court order.

Community Reintegration

Calgary John Howard Society delivers the Release Support Program. Individuals who have come into conflict with the law and need help integrating into the community are given assistance through direct service and/or referrals. Services, which lead to the development of stability and independence, include addictions, employment, career and personal counselling, as well as resume building, job targeting and skill development.

Edmonton John Howard Society delivers the Community Reintegration Program (CRP) at 101st Street Apartments. More information about Edmonton John Howard Society's CRP at 101st Street Apartments can be found below in this section under the heading "Facilities."

The John Howard Society of Grande Prairie delivers the Client Services Program. The John Howard Society of Grande Prairie offers a variety of client services that are designed to meet the needs of clients by way of information, support and referral services. Offenders and ex-offenders receive necessary direction and support in the community. Information and assistance regarding bonding, pardons, post release concerns and general criminal justice issues is available to those affected by the criminal justice system. Client services are provided free of charge.

Lethbridge John Howard Society delivers the Release Assistance Program. Lethbridge John Howard Society performs intake work at the Lethbridge Correctional Centre to ensure that offenders receive necessary social assistance and establish links with other social programs in the community at the time of their release. The Release Assistance Program is delivered in partnership with Alberta Human Resources and Employment and the Lethbridge Correctional Centre.

Literacy/Vocational

Calgary John Howard Society operates the Drop-In School. One evening per week tutors are available to assist students in the areas of Literacy, Academic Upgrading, GED Preparation, High School exam preparation and computer skills. The Drop-In School is also listed below in the sections entitled "Programs, Services and Facilities for Young Offenders and Youth at Risk" and "Community Programs and Services" because it is available to offenders and ex-offenders as well as to youth at risk.

Calgary John Howard Society delivers the Learning Education Enhancement Program (LEEP). LEEP is an employment training program specifically designed to help people who have a criminal record, lack of training and experience, communication difficulties or a low income. Each LEEP runs Monday through Friday for six weeks. Training includes classroom instruction, computer assisted learning and work experience in the community. Participants who complete the program can obtain certification in First Aid/CPR, H2S Alive, WHIMIS, Construction Safety Training and Asbestos Abatement. LEEP is also listed below in the section entitled "Community Programs and Services" because it is available to offenders and ex-offenders as well as to the general public.

Calgary John Howard Society offers the Learning Opportunities Centre. The Learning Opportunities Centre enables students to pursue academic upgrading and educational goals in all core subject areas to the Grade 12 level, on a full or part time basis in the day or evening. Computer assisted instruction and volunteer tutors give students the opportunity to pursue their education at no cost.

Calgary John Howard Society delivers the Literacy Program. The Literacy Program provides offenders and ex-offenders the opportunity to improve their literacy levels by matching them with volunteer tutors who assist them in meeting their learning goals in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics and other areas of interest.

Edmonton John Howard Society offers assistance with job searches, resume writing and interview preparation, information on employer expectations, contacting employers and assistance handling rejection through its Intake and Employment service.

Services

Institutional Visitation

Calgary John Howard Society provides Institutional Visitation in Calgary and surrounding area. Individuals incarcerated at the Calgary Correctional Centre, the Bow River Correctional Centre, the Calgary Remand Centre and the Forensic Unit at the Peter Lougheed Hospital are interviewed on an individual basis. Services include counselling, advocacy, referrals and pre-release planning. Services also extend to accessing bank accounts for inmates, picking up pay cheques and delivering personal belongings to the institution, explaining bail conditions to those granted bail and aiding in the location of potential cash or surety sources for those who are on bail status.

Edmonton John Howard Society provides institutional visitation as part of its Intake and Employment service. Staff of the Intake and Employment service visit the Edmonton Remand Centre and the Edmonton Maximum Institution once a week. During visits to the Remand Centre, residents are provided with crisis counselling and emotional support. At the Edmonton Maximum Institution, inmates are offered crisis counselling, emotional support and help with pre-release planning. These visits are meant to prepare inmates for a safe and productive reintegration into communities once they have been released under the authority of the National Parole Board. More information about Edmonton John Howard Society's Intake and Employment service can be found below in this section under the heading "Intake."

Lethbridge John Howard Society visits the Lethbridge Correctional Centre as part of its Pre-Release services and its Release Assistance Program. Services provided by Lethbridge John Howard Society extend to accessing bank account for inmates, picking up pay cheques and delivering personal belongings to the institution, explaining bail conditions to those granted bail and aiding in the location of potential cash or surety sources for those who are on bail status.

Medicine Hat John Howard Society provides Remand Visitation. Volunteers provide community contact, information and support to youth and adults incarcerated at the Medicine Hat Remand Centre. Services include advocacy, information and referrals.

Pre-Release Planning

Calgary John Howard Society offers pre-release planning as part of its Institutional Visitation service. Individuals incarcerated at the Calgary Correctional Centre, the Bow River Correctional Centre, the Calgary Remand Centre and the Forensic Unit at the Peter Lougheed Hospital can receive assistance with pre-release planning. More information about Calgary John Howard Society's Institutional Visitation service can be found above in this section under the heading "Institutional Visitation."

Edmonton John Howard Society offers pre-release planning to incarcerated individuals as part of its Intake and Employment service. More information about Edmonton John Howard Society's Intake and Employment service can be found below in this section under the heading "Intake."

Lethbridge John Howard Society provides pre-release services at Lethbridge Correctional Centre. Services include private consultation and group programs. The services are provided in partnership with various community agencies.

Transportation

Medicine Hat John Howard Society may arrange transportation as part of its Client Services. More information about Medicine Hat John Howard Society's Client Services can be found below in this section under the heading "Intake."

Intake

Calgary John Howard Society offers intake and emergency referral services as part of its Release Support Program. More information about Calgary John Howard Society's Release Support Program can be found above in this section under the heading "Community Reintegration."

Edmonton John Howard Society's Intake and Employment service directs individuals requiring assistance to the program or service that will best meet their needs. Intake services include crisis counselling, institutional visitation, aid in the development of problem solving skills, assistance with pre-release planning, assistance with pardon applications, information on the criminal justice system and advocacy where basic necessities of life are not being met. Intake may also refer people to other programs or services within Edmonton John Howard Society or to outside agencies. Employment services include assistance with job searches, resume writing and interview preparation, information on employer expectations, contacting employers and assistance handling rejection.

Lethbridge John Howard Society provides post-release services to offenders including private consultation, low cost living information, employment readiness consultation and referrals to other community agencies and services. Assistance with pardon applications is also available.

Medicine Hat John Howard Society offers Client Services. Clients are assisted through information, referral and counselling intended to facilitate successful integration into the community. Referral to and advocacy with other community services provide for basic needs, transportation, employment, legal services, education and other needs. Direct client services may include assistance with pardon applications, filing income tax and GST forms, Driver Permit queries, obtaining personal identification, opening a bank account, obtaining housing and no fee service for Affidavits and Statutory Declarations.

Red Deer John Howard Society provides information, general counselling and referrals to ex-offenders.

Counselling

Calgary John Howard Society offers addictions, employment, career and personal counselling as part of its Release Support Program. More information about Calgary John Howard Society's Release Support Program can be found above in this section under the heading "Community Reintegration."

Edmonton John Howard Society offers counselling services to offenders through its Intake and Employment service as well as to residents of Edmonton John Howard Society's community based residential facilities and group homes. More information about Edmonton John Howard Society's Intake and Employment service can be found above in this section under the heading "Intake." More information about Edmonton John Howard Society's community based residential facilities and group homes can be found below in this section under the heading "Facilities."

Other

Red Deer John Howard Society offers a variety of Institutional Services, including parole supervision and community assessments for the Correctional Service of Canada. Red Deer John Howard Society also provides pardon application forms and can facilitate their completion.

Facilities

Calgary John Howard Society operates Bedford House. Services include a halfway house for special needs offenders, a life management educational program and supervision for federal offenders in the community. Referrals for residency and community supervision are restricted to the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) and Alberta Justice.

The Life Management Program is offered at Bedford House for residents of Bedford House and other offenders living in the community. The Life Management Program is a psychotherapeutic group to help offenders identify causes of dysfunctional behaviour and learn more effective ways of dealing with personal and interpersonal issues. It is a 32 session, 8 week program. Referrals to the Life Management Program at Bedford House may be made by any source, but priority is given to residents of the facility.

Edmonton John Howard Society operates 101st Street Apartments. 101st Street Apartments is a 32 bed community based residential facility (halfway house) for adult males. The facility consists of nine self contained apartment units and is open to both federal and provincial clients. Those most suitable for residence at 101st Street Apartments are individuals with special needs who are ready to take further positive steps in their lives with proper guidance and supervision. Anger management and community reintegration programs are available in house. All residents, as well as people referred from the community, can access these programs. Residents also have access to counselling, supervision and referral to other community treatment programs. All residents are involved in establishing a case plan to meet their own specific reintegration needs. Residents may work full or part time in addition to attending programming. Residents are encouraged to live as independently as possible by preparing their own meals, cleaning their apartments, tending to their laundry needs and taking responsibility for their decisions. Residents may earn leisure passes based on a level system that allows each resident to demonstrate his reliability and commitment to his case plan.

The Communicating Anger in Relationships (CARE) program is offered at 101st Street Apartments for residents and people referred from the community. CARE is a four week personal development program that focusses on teaching clients how to deal with anger.

The Community Reintegration Program (CRP) is offered at 101st Street Apartments for residents and people referred from the community. CRP is a basic life skills program for individuals with a mental illness.

Edmonton John Howard Society operates Independence Apartments. Independence Apartments (I.A.) is a 35 bed community based residential facility (halfway house) for adult males. Residents at I.A. are on release in the community under the authority of the National Parole Board. I.A. is centrally located, allowing for easy access to public transportation as well as to AADAC Recovery and Treatment Centre, Grant MacEwan Community College, NAIT, employment agencies and Kingsway Garden Mall. I.A. provides in house substance abuse programming, two on-site parole officers, skilled case workers and one full time employment and career counsellor. Residency at I.A. is determined by reviewing the client's attitude, the amount of programming the client has completed, the client's willingness to participate in treatment and the client's risk to the community, staff, volunteers and other clients. Through the operation of residential facilities like I.A., Edmonton John Howard Society aims to ensure that individuals coming out of correctional institutions are safe, supervised and prepared to live independently before returning to the community.

Edmonton John Howard Society operates Satellite House. Satellite House is a six bed residential group home for men suffering from mental illness. Goals for independent living in the community are set on an individual bases, and then staff and residents work together to achieve them. Residents shop for groceries, prepare meals, clean and pay rent as part of their preparation for independent living. Residents are also introduced to recreation in the community. Residents have access to the expertise of an occupational therapist, a psychiatric nurse and a psychiatrist.

PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS AND YOUTH AT RISK

Programs

Literacy/Vocational

Calgary John Howard Society operates the Drop-In School. One evening per week tutors are available to assist students in the areas of Literacy, Academic Upgrading, GED Preparation, High School exam preparation and computer skills. The Drop-In School is also listed above in the section entitled “Programs, Services and Facilities for Offenders and Ex-Offenders” and below in the section entitled “Community Programs and Services” because it is available to offenders and ex-offenders as well as to youth at risk.

Youth Advocacy

Calgary John Howard Society delivers Youth Advocacy and Support. Support and advocacy services are offered to youth, young adult and their caregivers in the areas of education, employment, housing and conflict resolution. Additionally, youth at risk of conflict with the law and those currently involved in the criminal justice system are assisted by staff and volunteers in addressing issues regarding lifestyle choices and healthy development. Referrals to services or specific programs are encouraged from the community directly from parents, caregivers, teachers or young people themselves. Referrals may also be made by community welfare and justice agencies.

Calgary John Howard Society works in partnership with the Alberta Youth in Care and Custody Network (AYICCN). AYICCN is a program run for youth by youth. Its goals are to voice the views and opinions of youth in care, promote the improvement of services for these youth, provide support and advocacy and hold the Child Welfare system accountable for its actions. AYICCN is supported by government, community and corporate funders.

Youth Justice Committees

Calgary John Howard Society works in partnership with the Calgary Youth Justice Society. The Calgary Youth Justice Society provides support to communities to establish and operate Youth Justice

Committees (YJCs). YJCs offer community based alternatives to formal justice processes. Volunteers work with young offenders and their families, victims and the community to find meaningful consequences for youth in conflict with the law. The Society is funded by private donors and the Calgary Community Lottery Board.

Medicine Hat John Howard Society works in partnership with the Medicine Hat Youth Justice Committee to implement creative and effective interventions for youth who come in conflict with the law.

Services

Edmonton John Howard Society offers Community Youth Workers. Youth workers assist community youth to make positive changes in their lives. They help youth who are at a high risk to offend, or who have offended before, in making changes to that they live crime free. Community Youth Workers help incarcerated youth people to plan for their release, reconnect with their families and gain knowledge and access to appropriate programs. Community Youth Workers also perform a transition service for young offenders returning to the community from the Edmonton Young Offender Centre and Edmonton group homes. Youth Workers help youth to integrate successfully back into their families, peer environments and society with the hope that this assistance will reduce the likelihood that the youth will relapse into criminal behaviour. Community Youth Workers may refer youth to other programs and services offered by Edmonton John Howard Society or elsewhere in the community. Community Youth Workers may also work with the families of high risk youth to help families prevent the youth from engaging in criminal behaviour.

Facilities

Edmonton John Howard Society operates Howard House Group Home. Howard House is a twelve bed open custody residence for male young offenders. Howard House is located in a residential neighbourhood in central Edmonton. Neighbours are aware of the house and understand its function. The goals of Howard House are to help residents learn how to live a healthy, crime free lifestyle and to give residents alternative choices and healthy activities to replace those that have led them to their involvement in the criminal justice system. To facilitate these goals, residents receive education, work experience, living skills development and recreation. Counselling is also available to residents.

Red Deer John Howard Society operates the Red Deer Youth Residential Centre. Located in Red Deer, the Youth Residential Centre (YRC) is a ten bed open custody group home for young male offenders. The YRC's programs are designed for youth between the ages of 12 and 17. Youth may be admitted to the Centre after receiving an open custody disposition from the Youth Court or a transfer from another facility.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR FAMILIES OF OFFENDERS

Transportation

Calgary John Howard Society offers transportation services as part of its Institutional Visitation service. Family and friends of incarcerated individuals are given free weekend transportation to and from the Calgary Correctional Centre, the Bow River Correctional Centre and the Calgary Youth Offender Centre. This service encourages the preservation of community and family support systems through the facilitation of regular contact with family and friends. Transportation services are subject to volunteer availability. More information about Calgary John Howard Society's Institutional Visitation service can be found above in the section entitled "Programs, Services and Facilities for Offenders and Ex-Offenders" under the heading "Institutional Visitation."

Family Information

Red Deer John Howard Society offers referrals, support and assistance to families of offenders.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

General

Community Education Programs

Calgary John Howard Society operates the Drop-In School. One evening per week tutors are available to assist students in the areas of Literacy, Academic Upgrading, GED Preparation, High School exam preparation and computer skills. The Drop-In School is also listed above in the sections entitled "Programs, Services and Facilities for Offenders and Ex-Offenders" and "Programs, Services and Facilities for Young Offenders and Youth at Risk" because it is available to offenders and ex-offenders as well as to youth at risk.

Calgary John Howard Society delivers the Learning Education Enhancement Program (LEEP). LEEP is an employment training program specifically designed to help people who have a criminal record, lack of training and experience, communication difficulties or a low income. Each LEEP runs Monday through Friday for six weeks. Training includes classroom instruction, computer assisted learning and work experience in the community. Participants who complete the program can obtain certification in First Aid/CPR, H2S Alive, WHIMIS, Construction Safety Training and Asbestos Abatement. LEEP is also listed above in the section entitled "Programs, Services and Facilities for Offenders and Ex-Offenders" because it is available to offenders and ex-offenders as well as to the general public.

Edmonton John Howard Society delivers the Alternative Learning Program (ALP). ALP is a private, accredited school, offering integrated educational opportunities in literacy development, academic upgrading and personal development. Individual educational goals are defined collaboratively with teacher and learner. Those enrolled in the program have access to one on one tutoring, group work, computer assisted learning and specialized workshops. To attend ALP you must be an adult who is motivated and committed to learning.

The John Howard Society of Grande Prairie delivers the Criminal Justice Education Program. The focus of the Criminal Justice Education Program is to increase knowledge of the criminal justice system in our community and throughout rural northwestern Alberta. We offer a variety of programs to youth and adults emphasizing public involvement and understanding of the criminal justice system. The John Howard Society of Grande Prairie has been involved in public education since 1980 and the demand for the service is continually increasing. The Criminal Justice Education Program is funded by the Alberta Law Foundation. The Criminal Justice Education Program is also listed below in this section under the heading “Youth–Criminal Justice Education Programs” because it is provided to both adults and youth.

Red Deer John Howard Society delivers Criminal Justice Education. School and community programs encourage awareness and discussion of issues regarding crime, laws and the operation of the criminal justice system. Free presentations provide a variety of resource materials. Red Deer John Howard Society’s Criminal Justice Education is also listed below in this section under the heading “Youth–Criminal Justice Education Programs” because it is available to both adults and youth.

Red Deer John Howard Society provides Student Placement and Work Integration. The Society provides practical education and experience for post-secondary students and people coming back into the work force.

Other Programs

Calgary John Howard Society works in partnership with the Calgary Community Conferencing Project. The Calgary Community Conferencing Project seeks to provide a meaningful way for everyone affected by a crime to participate in a process where all parties can determine consequences for the harmful behaviour. The process involves a meeting between the offender and the victim along with their respective families and supporters. The meeting is organized and guided by a facilitator. The process is based on a family group conferencing model. The project consists of a court component and a school component.

Calgary John Howard Society delivers the Crime Impact Program. The Crime Impact Program focusses on raising awareness of the impact of crime on individuals, families and communities. It provides opportunities for young people with offending behaviour to fully understand and gain insight into victim issues and to take ownership and responsibility for their actions.

Calgary John Howard Society works in partnership with Crossing the Divide (CtD), a no cost wilderness program for youth and adults who do not have access to wilderness camping due to life circumstances. The focus is on experimental education, skill building in an unfamiliar environment, environmental awareness and challenge. Activities over 3 to 5 days include hiking, canoeing, top-roping and mountain biking. All equipment, food and transportation is provided to interest community services providers and groups.

Calgary John Howard Society delivers the Victim/Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP). VORP is available to individuals dealing with conflict resulting from offending behaviour. Victims and offenders meet face to face in a safe and supportive environment. Trained volunteer mediators help the participants come to a fair solution that meets everyone's needs. Participation is voluntary and referrals are accepted from any source.

Edmonton John Howard Society operates the Family Violence Prevention Centre (FVPC). Established in 1997, the FVPC grew out of a community consultation process to address gaps in services related to family violence. The FVPC offers outreach support, a furniture and moving program and exploration of ways to meet the needs of a diverse community with respect to family violence. Outreach support includes information, emotional support, advocacy and referrals to programs and services. The furniture and moving program includes: pick up of donated used furniture; distribution of donated furniture to people leaving abusive situations; and assistance with moving basic household items for people leaving abusive situations on a non-emergency basis. Needs are assessed through liaison with the community to develop strategies to respond to family violence.

Edmonton John Howard Society delivers the Victims' Assistance Program (VAP). VAP is a free, confidential program that provides victims and witnesses of crime with information, support, advocacy and appropriate referrals that can lessen the trauma of being victimized. Volunteer Court Support Workers are available to assist victims and witnesses of crime through criminal court education and orientation, court accompaniment, emotional support and referrals. Court Support Workers can also provide information on victims' rights, the progress of a court case, preparing a Victim Impact Statement, applying for financial benefits or restitution and general information about criminal justice and community sentencing. VAP commonly deals with spousal abuse, child abuse, sexual assault, robbery, break and enter, property crimes, homicide and stalking victims. VAP uses the Child Witness Court Preparation Program that was designed by the Alberta government and the Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse to assist children and youth who are required to testify in court.

The John Howard Society of Grande Prairie delivers the Parenting After Separation Seminar (PASS). PASS targets separating or divorcing parents who have issues with custody, access or child support. The seminars provide parents with information regarding the effects of separation or divorce on the family, techniques to communicate more effectively, general legal information and explores the use of mediation to resolve disputes as an alternative to the more traditional adversarial approach through the courts. Each seminar is 6 hours in length and there is one seminar per month.

Lethbridge John Howard Society participates in the Crime Prevention Roundtable, a meeting of interested community agencies and individuals, including offenders, to address the issue of reducing crime through social development.

Lethbridge John Howard Society delivers the Lethbridge Harm Reduction Program, a program to prevent and reduce the risk of harm to those individuals addicted to drugs and/or alcohol or who use drugs and/or alcohol in a potentially harmful way.

Red Deer John Howard Society offers Victim-Offender Reconciliation. When someone accepts responsibility for wrongdoing, a safe opportunity is presented to meet with those who have been harmed. With the help of trained mediators, participants will gain an understanding of the incident and of each other, and participate in deciding how the harm should be repaired.

Services

Edmonton John Howard Society offers Volunteer Services. Edmonton John Howard Society volunteers are a link between the criminal justice system and the community. Volunteer Services screens applicants who wish to volunteer for the agency and matches them to an area of interest within the agency that is appropriate given the applicant's preference, skills and experience. Edmonton John Howard Society recruits volunteers as tutors in educational programs, as Court Support Workers for the Victims' Assistance Program and to assist with leisure programs, the young offender group home, administration and special projects. Volunteers must be at least 21 years of age and be willing to commit one year of volunteer service at a minimum of 3-4 hours a week.

Lethbridge John Howard Society raises community awareness about issues in the justice system through speakers in the community and special seminars.

Red Deer John Howard Society offers a Volunteer Program. Citizens of Red Deer and area are invited to contribute their skills and interest in the delivery of John Howard Society Programs. Volunteers have a variety of opportunities to participate with an enthusiastic team working toward a just community for all.

Red Deer John Howard Society holds public forums on request or by referral on topics of concern to the community.

Youth

Criminal Justice Education Programs

Calgary John Howard Society delivers the Community Justice Education Program. School age youth in Calgary and surrounding areas are offered a better understanding of the criminal justice system and community responsibility. The Program Coordinator also acts as a resource person to teachers on

criminal justice issues. Bookings may be scheduled by teachers or interested agencies whose focus is youth. Please visit our youth justice website at <http://www.justice4youth.com>.

Edmonton John Howard Society delivers the Public Education Program. Students in Edmonton and area schools have the opportunity to learn about crime and its consequences in a way that is meaningful to them. Criminal Justice Educators travel to elementary schools to deliver the STAR (Start Taking Action and Responsibility) Program or to high schools to deliver the Criminal Justice Education Program. Information for junior high school students is available through the Edmonton John Howard Society website. The Junior High Justice Web Site is a free resource for teachers wishing to include criminal justice education in their social studies, ethics, legal studies, health, language arts or mathematics programs. Information can be downloaded free of charge and used at the teacher's discretion from <http://www.johnhoward.org/education>.

The John Howard Society of Grande Prairie delivers the Criminal Justice Education Program. The focus of the John Howard Society of Grande Prairie's Criminal Justice Education Program is to increase knowledge of the criminal justice system in the Grande Prairie community and throughout rural northwestern Alberta. We offer a variety of programs to youth emphasizing public involvement and understanding of the criminal justice system. The John Howard Society of Grande Prairie has been involved in public education since 1980 and the demand for the service is continually increasing. The Criminal Justice Education Program is also listed above in this section under the heading "General-Community Education Programs" because it is provided to both adults and youth.

Lethbridge John Howard Society delivers the Justice Education Together (JET) Program. JET is a grade 4 program about values, rules and laws and a grade 6 program entitled, "The Law of the Land." The program is delivered by Lethbridge John Howard Society in rural and urban districts.

Medicine Hat John Howard Society delivers the Criminal Justice (CJE) Program to elementary, junior high and high school students throughout the Palliser Health Region, intended to inform and education young people about the criminal justice system and to encourage responsible, law abiding behaviour.

Red Deer John Howard Society delivers Criminal Justice Education. School and community programs encourage awareness and discussion of issues regarding crime, laws and the operation of the criminal justice system. Free presentations provide a variety of resource materials. Red Deer John Howard Society's Criminal Justice Education is also listed above in this section under the heading "General-Community Education Programs" because it is available to both adults and youth.

Other Programs

Calgary John Howard Society delivers the Alternatives to Violence Educational Program for Youth (AVEPY). AVEPY is a unique two day workshop offered to grade seven students in Calgary. The workshops focus on conflict resolution, communication skills, respect for self and respect and caring

for others. Workshops are conducted by a team of trained facilitators. Interested schools and community groups should contact the AVEPY Coordinator.

Calgary John Howard Society works in partnership with S.A.F.E.S.T. (Support, Advocacy, Friendship, Esteem Services for Teens), a group program for youth ages 12 to 18 and, where possible, an adult caregiver. The program helps participants to understand the roles they play in family and peer dynamics using concurrent groups for both youth and adults. Group facilitators lead youth through exercises and discussions that focus on behaviours and attitudes that may hinder their growth toward responsible independence while adults learn techniques that can assist their child's growth and enhance their own feelings of parental competency. There is no cost for the program. S.A.F.E.S.T. is funded by the Office of the Commissioner of Services for Children and Families.

The John Howard Society of Grande Prairie delivers Anger Management for Youth. With funding from the Alberta Mental Health Board, the John Howard Society of Grande Prairie and Odyssey House have partnered to offer two Anger Management for Youth programs per year. The program consists of 10 sessions that are targeted at youth ages 11 to 17 who are experiencing problems at school, at home and in the community due to inappropriate anger and aggression. The goal of the program is to improve the social and emotional health of youth at risk and focuses on teaching youth alternatives to violence by increasing skills in conflict resolution, problem solving and anger management. Referrals can be made by the client, the client's parents, court order, schools or other community agencies. All referrals are screened for suitability for acceptance into the group through an intake appointment.

The John Howard Society of Grande Prairie delivers the EUREKA Program. EUREKA is a two day, community based workshop aimed at Grade 7 students. The goal of the program is to offer youth an opportunity to develop healthy conflict resolution skills through experiential learning, communication and community building. The John Howard Society of Grande Prairie is currently partnering with Odyssey House and Crossroads to offer 10 EUREKA workshops per year.

The John Howard Society of Grande Prairie delivers the Re-Integration Program. This program is aimed at youth ages 13 to 16 who are recent or potential school leavers and who have the capacity and commitment to complete their education. Students are enrolled full time and receive instruction in the academic subjects of Language Arts and Mathematics as well as attention to their personal development. The personal development portion of the program is concentrated on issues that may be affecting students' success in the regular school system.

Medicine Hat John Howard Society delivers Dare to Care–Bullying Awareness and Prevention (BAP) Program. This education program is intended to foster awareness in order to identify bullying behaviour and to promote effective prevention and intervention strategies. The BAP Program uses a trained itinerant instructor to deliver (up to) three sessions per class, available to all schools in the Palliser Health Region. Additional in-service information sessions are available to school personnel, parent and community groups to identify and deal with bullying.

Medicine Hat John Howard Society provides CONNECT–Youth Outreach Worker in partnership with the City of Medicine Hat and various community stakeholders. CONNECT provides support, guidance, information outreach support for street involved youth, including support, guidance, information and appropriate interventions to young people to assist them in developing and maintaining successful, pro-active contact in the community and in reducing negative and/or anti-social behaviour.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing provides an outline of the various programs provided by the John Howard Societies in Alberta. It being meant only as an outline, the accompanying descriptions of the various programs were necessarily brief. Further information about any of the above programs is available and can be obtained from the John Howard Society offering the program in question.

APPENDIX A

John Howard Societies in Alberta

John Howard Society of Alberta

2nd Floor, 10523 - 100 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5J 0A8
Phone: (780) 423 - 4878
Fax: (780) 425 - 0008
e-mail: info@johnhoward.ab.ca

John Howard Society of Calgary

917 - 9 Avenue S.E.
Calgary, AB T2G 0S5
Phone: (403) 266 - 4566
Fax: (403) 265 - 2458
e-mail: info@johnhoward.calgary.ab.ca

*This office does not provide client services.

John Howard Society of Edmonton

#301, 10526 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5J 1Z7
Phone: (780) 428 - 7590
Fax: (780) 425 - 1549
e-mail: info@edm.johnhoward.org

John Howard Society of Grand Prairie

9909-112 Avenue
Grand Prairie, AB T8V 1V5
Phone: (780) 532 - 0373
Fax: (780) 538 - 4931
e-mail: jhsgp@telusplanet.net

John Howard Society of Lethbridge

#7, 909 - 3 Avenue N.
Box 1568
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4K3
Phone: (403) 327 - 8202
Fax: (403) 320 - 6613
e-mail: ljhsbwg@telusplanet.net

John Howard Society of Medicine Hat

#208, 535 - 3rd Street S.E.
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 0H2
Phone: (403) 526 - 5916
Fax: (403) 526 - 4636
e-mail: mhjhs@telusplanet.net

John Howard Society of Red Deer

5018 - 50 Street
Red Deer, AB T4N 1Y3
Phone: (403) 343 - 1770
Fax: (403) 346 - 8740
e-mail: rdjhga@ccinet.ab.ca