

Assisting youth with their employment journey

by Stella Shepard

Youth Outreach

Stacy Bernard from the Belfast area graduated from high school in 1997. Over the years, she worked at low-paying and unrewarding jobs. She came to a turning point in her life where she wanted more meaningful employment options.

Stacy was inspired by her mother and grandmother, who were nurses, to consider a career in healthcare. She recognized that she would have good employment prospects because of the demand for more workers in the healthcare sector.

However, Stacy lacked the academic post-secondary requirements to enroll in a nursing program. She contacted the **Adult Education** program in Montague for more information about upgrading. An educator with the program referred Stacy to **Youth Outreach Services**.

Guidance for youth

Youth Outreach Services is run by the **Morell Region Community Learning Centre**. The service assists youth ages 15 to 30 in Queens and Kings Counties who are facing barriers to employment. It also helps youth discover their full potential and create an action plan for the future.

Youth Outreach Workers **Linda Campbell** and **Renée Hewitt** met with Stacy to discuss career choices. They offered assistance with developing an action plan to achieve her career goal in the healthcare field. They also took care of the necessary paperwork that allowed Stacy to enroll in an Adult Education program.

In 2008, Stacy enrolled in the **Holland College Adult Education program** in Montague. She is upgrading math and biology credits to meet the requirements of the **Practical Nursing** college program.

“Linda and Renée processed the entrance forms in a very timely fashion,” says Stacy. “This was wonderful since I was anxious to start working toward my career goal right away. They also helped me prepare a résumé, which was an admission requirement for the Practical Nursing program. They have been great, very supportive and very helpful.”

The Youth Outreach service

“The service works because we are out in the community where the youth are,” says Linda. “We receive referrals from schools, probation services, and social services.”

“We go to where youth are to connect with them in a way that is as less intimidating as possible. Youth are sometimes overwhelmed by the thought of going to government offices to ask for help. This is why we meet the youth in a neutral setting where everyone feels comfortable. This is big part of the reason for the success of the service.”

“We also provide links to community services and resources to meet the existing needs of youth. We continue to meet with them to address any problems or concerns they are having in the workplace or in the programs they are part of.”

“It’s a good feeling to assist youth and watch them succeed to their full potential.”



Stacy Bernard is a client of Youth Outreach Services. She credits it for helping her take steps towards achieving her career goal. “I highly recommend the Youth Outreach Service,” says Stacy. “In fact, I’ve given their contact cards to people I know who would benefit from the service.”

Youth Outreach Workers help clients with:

- ✓ career decision making
- ✓ job search
- ✓ employment maintenance
- ✓ skills development

Services provided

“Youth Outreach Workers will provide transportation to clients wanting to drop off résumés,” says Renee. “We also provide transportation to job interviews.”

Other services provided

- ✓ résumé writing
- ✓ applying for Skills Development through Service Canada
- ✓ re-entering the regular school system
- ✓ referrals to other community-based programs
- ✓ referrals to Skills Link projects funded through Service Canada
- ✓ processing the paperwork for entrance into adult education programs and post-secondary institutions

For more information, contact **Youth Outreach Services** toll free at **1-866-233-9444**.

Youth Outreach Workers are: **Linda Campbell** and **Renée Hewitt**, **Kings County**, 393-8735.
Jessica Gallant and **Kerry Dougan**, **Queens County**, 393-8736.