

RESPECTING OUR HERITAGE, SALUTING A NEW HOME

The *Journal of Child and Youth Care* has always been “the youth workers’ *Journal*.” A space where people who actually work on the line in direct care of children and youth can air their thinking, test ideas, and report innovations from the field.

Along the way as youth work has emerged as a professional field, our leadership has emerged along with it. We now run whole centers and agencies, teach and study youth work, and work directly with children, youth families, and communities in a myriad of different kinds of venues—youth clubs, residential treatment centers, schools and hospitals, on the streets, and in private practices. We are confident in our ability to utilize the relationships of every day life to teach the young the skills and competencies necessary for success as healthy and productive members of their families, neighborhoods, and society.

In the earliest days, literally, this journal was the product of sweat equity from youth workers who would come after their long shifts with the youth and give their time in writing, critiquing, and then helping other youth workers to write. Not only did it take scholarship, but each new edition of the *Journal* would come over in huge bundles from the printer to the Child and Youth Care Learning Center. Every mailing label had to be affixed by hand in appropriate zip code order.

The workers who carried the hard work of the *Journal* in those days were mostly from the Wisconsin Association of Child and Youth Care Work, including places like St. Aemilian, Lakeside, where Eva Burmeister started out, St. Charles and others. All were growing centers of the movement to professionalize youth work. More than any other colleague, Mark Krueger loved the *Journal* into existence as every morning at the coffee shop on the Eastside he spent long hours writing and editing. Most importantly, he encouraged others.

Mark used to travel the country directly asking youth workers to write. If it took one visit or ten, he was there at your agency’s doorstep challenging and cajoling you to write by offering to read and encourage every draft. It was on a trip like that when Mark found me on the playground of Edgewood Children’s Center—“a little busy at the moment, thank you very much,”—attempting to organize the activities for the day. He would not take “no” for an answer. He told me, as he had other workers, that my article had already been scheduled for publication sight unseen and I had to get it in. Of course, he failed to mention a little thing called “peer review” and correcting many drafts, but that would come latter.

So after every shift on the line in Diamond Cottage, I wrote the daily log, the individual logs, and then did a little more on my article. It would become a classic, “*Strategic Activity Planning for Emotionally Disturbed Children and Youth*.” It has been used over and over, all over the world. More than two decades latter, it’s still in current use. And so I kept going, next with an article in *Research and Evaluation in Group Care*, which I wrote with Holly Kreider, and then with my dissertation at Harvard, the first on residential treatment since Al Trieschman.

Today as vice president at the Center for Youth Development in Washington, D.C., I am a leader in the continued movement to build youth work as a field. I am

where I am because of the *Journal*, Mark Krueger, and all of the other youth workers who helped, guided, and encouraged me along the way. And with this debt of gratitude, and in the legacy of our youth worker heritage, I am delighted with this issue to hold in trust the collaborative role as editor of the *Journal of Child and Youth Care Work*.

Together with me on this journey is newly named co-editor, Dr. Dale Curry, who we also welcome aboard. I remember the time Dale and I hit the road with Karen Vander Ven at the wheel for at least a hundred miles or more down "alligator alley," the two lane swamp road that crosses Florida. Of course, we had finished our presentations at the youth work conference and were off on an adventure that had been organized by fellow workers for each other, much like we organize trips with the youth in our care. But, that is a story for another time!

The main point is that we will always remember Dale sitting in the back seat and telling us every in and out of his dissertation on training and how committed he was to understanding the transfer of knowledge in our field. Today, Dale is one of the master trainers respected in our field, who also recently achieved tenure at Kent State University. At Kent State, he and his research team took on the arduous task of conducting the validation study of the new certification exam for youth and youth care practitioners. And so the *Journal* has published Dale's seminal work over the years and the work of trainers like him for the good of the field as a whole. As an emerging profession we not only needed to found certification, but to keep the professional association and this journal going strong!

I would be remiss without also appreciating Professor Karen Vander Ven at the University of Pittsburgh and Professor Varda Mann-Feder at Concordia University. Our field recognizes their trend-setting contributions to editing the *Journal*. Mark passed the baton to Karen who immediately took the *Journal* to Harvard for a special edition on risk and prevention, which broke new ground in contemporary developmental approaches to milieu work. Karen passed the baton to Varda, who in many ways brought the *Journal* to the highest standards of excellence: It has become increasingly respected in colleges and universities as an essential tool for teaching and research. Varda also opened our pages to a world of youth work authors contributing from programs, agencies, centers, and institutions of higher learning around the globe. The next *Journal* will be read by those committed to youth work in more than 100 countries!

With this edition, the *Journal* moves from the University of Wisconsin to The University of Oklahoma National Resource Center for Youth Services. With this changing of the guard, we thank the *Journal* teams over the years at the UWM Youth Work Learning Center, especially the leadership of Mark Krueger, Peter Tompkins-Rosenblatt, and Quinn Wilder. To the fold, we welcome Oklahoma with open hearts, a savior of sorts, as the world of publishing journals has become a brutal business. Our shared endeavor here is for knowledge and the love of the children, youth, and youth workers, and not for individual profit or gain. Peter Correia, with more than 25 years leadership in child welfare, and Jean Carpenter-Williams, the president-elect of the Association of Child and Youth Care Practice, have stepped up to take

on the role of encouraging, cajoling, and promoting the very highest standards of excellence for writing, research, and innovation.

Chip Bonsutto from Parmadale in Ohio, the outgoing president of the Association, and Jean Carpenter-Williams have worked hard for more than a year and delivered a new operating agreement that gives life to the *Journal* into the next generation of the work. The University of Oklahoma is a most appropriate place for this journal because it is one of the nation's percolating hubs of youth worker training and talent development, known well all over the country for consultation, conferences, and capacity building. Peter and Jean, as fellow workers, are recognized for their integrity and commitment. We welcome the chance to become a part of the National Resource Center for Youth Services' community of practice and research.

This edition features work by many of the presenters at the 8th Triennial International Child and Youth Care Conference in Montreal, which had as its theme, "Beyond Borders." As youth work practitioners and scholars we want to take down the barriers-political, cultural, and socioeconomic-that prevent change. Instead we want to promote the development of healthy relationship in our milieu so that children and youth can heal, succeed, thrive, and grow as our hope for the future. Come with Dale, Jean, and me as we set forth the newest adventure in generating and transferring knowledge: the *Journal of Child and Youth Care Work*. We expect to see your article in the next edition!

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Editor