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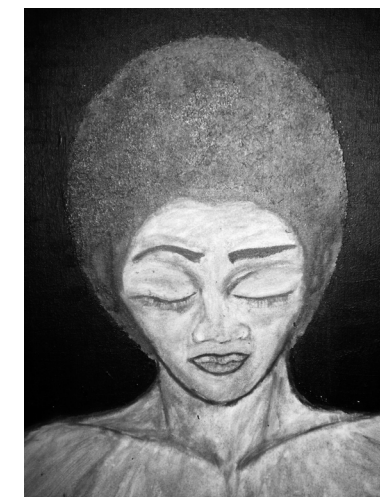
WINTER 2008

LIFELINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE LESBIAN GAY BI TRANS YOUTH LINE

A Volunteers Voice

The Youth Line just finished their fall volunteer training and with that we have gained 17 new peer support volunteers, Kim being one of them. Kim is 22 and resides in Toronto, I had to chance to talk to Kim and ask her about how she felt about being a first time volunteering at the Youth Line and this was her response:



Have you ever felt like coming home when you've never even been to that place before? That's what Youth Line felt like to me. I am a recent out of the closet lesbian, well its still a work in progress and I was looking for somewhere to meet other queer people, somewhere I could learn things about the community and give back to it in some way. Having tried the bar/club scene a few too many times I wanted something with a little bit more substance, I found that at Youth Line. I found the passion the people there have for its cause and the wonderful purpose it serves in lives of so many. This passion and impact can really never be explained until you see it. I walked in there with my own concepts and conclusions still battling the whole idea that being gay was in some way wrong and now I am proud to say I have been saved! Life is never easy, being proud of who you are is that much harder but Thank God for Google, it led me to Youth Line and Thank God for Youth Line, it makes the steps on my journey in life fall a little more easily.

Peer Support volunteers at the Youth Line are given the opportunity to learn from each other and from Youth Line staff. The volunteers at the Youth Line, leave with more then just transferable skills that can bring with them in the careers. They leave with a fuller sense of self, a community of people they can relate to and a sense belonging, free from isolation, and that is a goal of the Youth Line.

YES! I believe that LGBTQ youth in Ontario need the Youth Line.

NAME: _____ \$20 \$50 \$100 \$250 OTHER: \$ _____

ADDRESS: _____ I would like to make a ONE TIME donation by my Credit Card

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Donor information is confidential and never shared without the consent of the donor. My cheque is enclosed.

Yes, the Youth Line can recognize my donation in newsletters and annual reports

Future correspondence: Please make cheques payable to:

Mail Email Do Not Send Correspondence **The Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line**

P.O. Box 62, Station 'F'
Toronto, ON M4Y 2L4

Donate online at: www.youthline.ca





LINE ART 2008

Why Sudbury?

“Why Sudbury?” he asks, and around the room, heads nod in unison, and turn towards me for an answer. “Out of all the cities in Ontario, what made the Youth Line choose Sudbury for this project?”

This isn't the first time I've heard this question, and I am certain it won't be the last. As an MSW practicum student, I have the exciting opportunity to coordinate the Youth Line Loves Sudbury Outreach Project, building relationships with queer youth, their allies, and community agencies in this diverse, fast-growing community. A province-wide service, we're working with local groups, to coordinate a fun, youth-driven event which will promote an awareness of our services in Sudbury and surrounding areas.

Why Sudbury, indeed? Beginning with a shared 'gut feeling' in our first planning meeting, we began contacting folks in the community to gauge support for the project. It immediately became clear that Sudbury's LGBT community is welcoming, proud, passionate, and committed to building connections between groups, individuals, and social institutions.

On October 15, I met with community members from a number of organizations and groups, including Sudbury Women's Centre (SWC), Access Aids Network, Metis Nation of Ontario, Sudbury Pride, and Laurentian University. Our luncheon meeting, graciously hosted by Rose and Barb of the SWC, quickly became an Advisory Committee of sorts, where we could discuss not only the event, but future ways of connecting queer youth to resources and allies in their communities. Next stop was the weekly youth group at Access AIDS, where the young people brainstormed event ideas, from “Ginormous Twister” to an information fair and workshop for parents.

I came away from my whirlwind tour of Sudbury with a newfound answer to that nagging question. Why Sudbury? Because, by partnering with Sudbury's enthusiastic, welcoming, dedicated LGBT community to promote the Youth Line through a youth-driven event, we're creating an event that promotes respect, inclusivity, and collaboration.



Let's Start the Bidding

Envision walking into an event where you can enjoy an evening of art, culture and community, where everyone is welcome; a night where you have the opportunity to bid on a work of art from an internationally known and established artist and also from a local emerging youth artist. This year the Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line has partnered with the Art Gallery of Ontario to bring you our ninth annual event on December 11, 2008 - only two short weeks after the AGO unveils its new and special building.

With the help of our amazing Guest Curator, Sharon Switzer, we have been able to bring together the generous contributions of more than 70 artists including Cecelia Berkovic and Ginger Brooks Takahashi, Wendy Coburn and April Hickox, Kim Dorland, Andy Fabo, Paige Graitland, Luis Jacob and Chris Curreri, G.B. Jones, Terence Koh, Nina Levitt, Micah Lexier, Ed Pien and Steve Reinke. This unique collection will feature queer, beautiful, challenging and impressive artwork, across many different media and techniques. The Line Art 2008 collection will be open to the public starting on December 2nd, with a preview party 7:30-9:30pm. Images of many of the works are already available for viewing on our website at www.youthline.ca/lineart

This year the night will also include a silent auction so be ready to be blown away by our experience-focused silent auction. You could bid on a week-long stay at a spacious chalet near Mont Tremblant, or an opportunity to have a day of beauty followed by a sitting with a professional photographer to capture you at your best. We've got lots of other ideas we're building on, and they range from the sublime to the ridiculous. There will be something for that lucky someone on your holiday shopping list.

We hope to see you at Line Art 2008. If you would like to attend the event or would like more information, please contact Lindsay Sweeney at donate@youthline.ca.

