



Our Vision: NO YOUTH IS LEFT BEHIND

Our Mission: To provide outreach support and services to youth in our communities.

Our Mandate: To develop and deliver innovative programs and services for youth who may be disadvantaged, marginalized, or at-risk, and create opportunities for youth to reach their full potential.

2009 ANNUAL REPORT





Jerome Bouvier



Tom Lewis

Welcome to PoCoMo Youth Services Society (PoCoMo). This report reflects PoCoMo's accountability to you, the members of the Tri-City community.

It has truly been an honour to lead an organization that, over the past 6 years, has emerged as an innovative, award winning, youth serving agency. The past year reflects the hard work of a dedicated staff and board. PoCoMo has gained a reputation for its innovative programming, passionate approach to youth engagement, creativity in the creation of programs, and it's leadership in youth support and services. With each new year, new challenges present themselves. With the economic climate being the way that it is, and the high demand for services, this year was no exception.

Having said that, PoCoMo had a very successful year due to our ability to recognize change, our ability to adapt, identify and obtain resources, and creativity in meeting the demand for our outreach support and services. PoCoMo's award winning programs, and innovative approaches to youth engagement, has continued to be recognized locally and provincially.

We are proud to have grown to where we are with limited ongoing funding. This speaks to the commitment of staff and board, support from our funders and community supporters, and the need for our programs.

"The ability to respond to change is not determined by ones strength, rather by ones ability to adapt to change." - Unknown

With the changing times, PoCoMo has grown and evolved, creating new school and after-school programs to compliment our award winning mobile outreach program, Project Reach Out.

These programs have increased the number of youth that PoCoMo has been able to reach and provide services to. This reflects the steady increase in the number of youth that PoCoMo has been able to support. With the success of our programs locally, PoCoMo is looking to the future by pursuing the possibility of expanding our programs provincially.

We have also begun a new corporate rebranding initiative that includes a marketing kit, strategic vision, website, and overall appearance. PoCoMo is excited to be moving forward in such a positive way.

Most importantly, the number of youth that we have been able to support has steadily increased. With our award-winning program Project Reach Out, we connected with over 4400 youth in 2009 who were on the street after-hours providing a safe and trusting place for them to go.

In addition, PoCoMo has created two new innovative school and after-school programs. The success of the school programs has been extraordinary, reaching over 1600 youth in 2009.

Our successful philosophy continues to be "relationship-based first, and issue-based second."

"One positive & personal connection can be the catalyst for youth-at-risk to reach for support and initiate change."-unknown

A Great Beginning into 2010:

In the fall of 2009, PoCoMo was nominated for Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce Not for Profit of the Year award along with five other organizations. It was then that we were honoured by making the final three. On January 15 of 2010 at the Chamber Gala, we received the award. Thank you to the community and the chamber for your vote of confidence.

A special "shout out" to the other 5 nominees for their invaluable contributions to our communities.

2009/2010 Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence award for Not For Profit Of The Year



PoCoMo will continue to strive for excellence in programming and to provide much needed support and services to the youth of our communities.

A huge thank you goes out to all those who help to make this possible; our volunteer board, our staff, our partners and funders and finally to the youth we work with. We hope you can say that PoCoMo made a difference for you.



Jerome Bouvier, M.A.



Tom Lewis

PROGRAMS

The following are brief overviews of PoCoMo programs, their impact and successes. We built upon our success in 2008 and enhanced our programs in 2009.

PoCoMo programs are provided at no cost, with the exception of a small fee for the ACRiX program.

Project Reach Out:

Project Reach Out, our core program, continues to have a significant impact in the lives of youth, and our communities. A beacon in the night, a 'safe home', our outreach bus reached over 4000 street involved youth in 2009. Operating after-hours, project Reach Out has successfully kept our youth safe, reduced crime, vandalism, drug use, reconnected youth with community, provided drug and health promotion education to over 400 youth in 2009.

At one school alone, Project Reach Out's presence and ability to engage youth has **saved the school over \$80,000** a year in vandalism costs.

YOUTH SERVED:

2005 - 1,280 2006 - 1,789 2007 - 2,347
2008 - 4,602 2009 - 4,400

"Thank you for your presence at Mary Hill Elementary, Vandal Watch has noticed the difference already. Thank you for the service you provide our communities."

-S/Sgt John LASEUR, Community Policing Services

"The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned." - Maya Angelou

SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

We are proud to say Westminster Savings Foundation will fund both school programs in 2010.

I AM The Change:

The I AM the Change program is a 10-week program that targets middle school ages youth and creates the opportunity to explore change. The program provides the opportunity to engage in conversation and activities focused on social responsibility in the areas of personal, school, and community change. The goals are to **LOOK** at what's going on in their life, school, community, to **THINK** of positive actions that will assist them in moving forward, and, to **ACT** as a living example of how they truly wish to be in the world.

Over 1,100 middle school students have been reached, and impacted by the program. We are anticipating the program to be in high demand in the coming years, locally and provincially.

Testimonials:

"I feel more positive with myself and this made me have more friends." -Michelle, grade 6

"The program really helped me learn how to make a change. I didn't know that 1 person can make a change. This was the best school program ever!" -Nicholas, grade 7

Start of Program: "I think that you should talk about divorces, and losing someone, because that's what happened to me."

End of Program: "I believe I can achieve my dreams if I put my mind to it." - Shauna, grade 6

Highlights:

The following highlights show the impact of the I Am the Change program on 120 middle school students.

PROGRAM	Start	End
	Agree & Totally Agree	
I feel I can make a difference	31%	51%
I am a better problem solver	31%	49%
I can resist negative peer pressure	49%	65%
I do better in school	55%	81%
I get more involved in my community	24%	57%

Street Wise:

Street Wise is a new school program using improvisation as the medium to bring "real life" scenarios, and safety strategies to middle and high school students. Facilitated by a team comprised of adults and youth, this program draws on the experience and knowledge gained through PoCoMo's award winning program, Project Reach Out.

The pilot presentation will begin in March of 2010.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

Applied Circus: Radically Extreme Program (ACRiX):

ACRiX is partially funded by the Chris Spencer foundation.

ACRiX is a program of Gymnastics BC that has been adapted through PoCoMo Youth Services, and is operated out of Club Aviva in Coquitlam. It is a 10-week program for youth ages 8 to 17. It provides fun and physical challenges for "at risk" youth who wouldn't usually access traditional sports. Participants learn juggling, acrobatics, group pyramids, balancing, trampolining and performing along with other circus skills. At the end of the program, participants will put together these skills to perform a show for family and friends.

Led by Dale Bryant, our volunteer Program Coordinator, and dedicated staff, Stacey, Laura and Kelly, ACRiX has grown in popularity and success. We thank SD 43 for their support and student referrals. Over 15 schools referred youth to our program. **797 youth participated in ACRiX in 2009.** Most returned after their first experience. There is a small fee of \$22 for a ten-week session.



ACRiX at the Teddy Bear Picnic in Coquitlam

"During the past year, I have been active in the circus ACRiX program and it has been thoroughly helpful to personal development. I personally think that without ACRiX, my grades would be lower, I'd be less confident, I would probably dislike myself, I would still be a follower. Not the leader that led our school to victory many a time." - Jason

PROGRAMS Cont.

Detour Youth Theatre



Detour is an after-school theatre program that is open to all youth ages 14 to 18. Youth are given the opportunity to identify a theme relevant to them, write the script the play, and present it. Detour provides a nurturing, safe environment where youth can share their voices, be listened to, learn strategies to help make positive choices, and use the medium of theatre to share their world to the communities.

Detour runs from August to June each year and is open to any youth interested. There are no try-outs or auditions, youth show up, be consistent, they are in.

"I learned it's okay to be yourself" - Mandana

"It was a great experience meeting new friends and building my acting skills. Everyone was always there when I needed to talk. I love Detour"-Becca

"This acting Detour group was an amazing experience and I can't always afford acting or take it in school. It's helped me emphasize the issues that me and a lot of my friends have, and help me express those feelings to others. I learnt more leadership skills. But most of all I feel accepted by these Detour people"-Shelby

PoCoMo Wheelchair Tennis Classic:

The PoCoMo Wheelchair Tennis Classic is in its 15th year. It is the ONLY professional wheelchair tennis tournament solely organized and run by youth. Professional wheelchair tennis players come from all over the world to experience this event. An organizing team of 8 youth, along with 15 volunteers for the weekend, hosts the event. They gain valuable job and life skills, while at the same time having fun.

The event partners include the City of Coquitlam, BC Wheelchair Sports, Tennis Canada, Coquitlam Tennis club, and many other community organizations and individuals.



This year's tournament is held at the Coquitlam Tennis Club. From July 16-18, 2010.

To volunteer contact David Doucette at davidd@pocomo.org.

Come out and witness amazing tennis and the youth run a quality event. For more information, or to sponsor part of the event, contact jerome@pocomo.org.

Youth-Drug Outreach Prevention & Education (Y-DOPE)

Y-Dope is an experientially based, interactive presentation for middle and high school students about decision-making and personal choices. PoCoMo's Executive Director, Jerome Bouvier, facilitates this presentation. Jerome brings over 20 years experience in drug counselling, prevention and education. He has spoken to over 100,000 youth over a 10-year span. Jerome is affectionately referred to as "The Youth Whisperer" because of his ability to connect with youth.

Themes are; decision-making, myths & realities, possible consequences, drug facts, and strategies to keep safe.

Y-Dope is also available for parent and community information presentations.

For more information about booking Y-Dope, contact PoCoMo's office at 604-525-1888, or email admin@pocomo.org.

"It is rare that a speaker can hold the attention of 200+ grade 8 students for one hour, and have them wanting more. Jerome used personal anecdotes, humour and serious stories to engage the students. I was truly impressed." - Former Principal of Banting Middle.

Youth Action Team



The Youth Action Team (YAT) is made up of a core group of diverse youth representing the Tri-Cities area that have a passion and interest in the services and programs PoCoMo offers.

The YAT provides input into PoCoMo programs, as well as creates their own youth-driven initiatives. Some initiatives included,

- Raising money for the Women's Resource Centre
- Gratitude Day at Coquitlam Centre Mall
- Planning and implementing the 2009 PoCoMo Wheelchair Tennis classic (over 20 youth volunteers).

YAT is looking for new youth recruits and project ideas. If you want to be part of making a difference, have a voice, advocate for youth, and contribute to the community, contact us at davidd@pocomo.org or volunteer@pocomo.org.

We give a huge shout out to all the young people who have stepped up and truly made a difference in their community. Here are some examples,

- Lucien for writing & producing PoCoMo's theme song "PoCoMo Knows." Check it out on our web site.
- Frank for painting both our buses. A fabulous job.
- Elisa for leading the Wheelchair Tennis Tournament for over 5 years.
- 4 youth volunteers with project Reach Out.

You are all hero's and shero's. Thank you for sharing the gift of YOU with PoCoMo.

Thanks To Our Funders & Partners. 2008/2009

Supporters & Partners:

GOLD SPONSORS:

- * BC Social Ventures Partners
- * City of Coquitlam-Capital Fund
- * CKNW Orphans Fund
- * Coast Capital Savings
- * Vancouver Foundation
- * Windsor Plywood Foundation

SILVER SPONSORS:

- * Chris Spencer Foundation
- * G&F Financial
- * John Mitchell Hardie Foundation
- * Ministry of Children and Family Development
- * Westminster Savings Foundation

BRONZE SPONSORS:

- * Club Aviva
- * Coquitlam Foundation
- * Coquitlam Fire Department
- * Diskin Images
- * Emily Carr Film (Erin Sindell & Kirsten Aubrey)
- * Gymnastics BC
- * Off The Wall Productions (Mike Wall)
- * Pasta Polo
- * Petro-Canada
- * Pilot Brand Marketing
- * PoCo Inn & Suites
- * RBC
- * Scotiabank
- * Sunrise Coquitlam Rotary
- * TD Bank Foundation

FRIENDS of PoCoMo:

- * Artrageous Screen Printing
- * BC Wheelchair Sports
- * City of Coquitlam
- * City of Port Coquitlam
- * City of Port Moody
- * Coquitlam RCMP
- * Coquitlam Grill
- * Coquitlam Parks & Recreation
- * Coquitlam Tennis Club
- * Diane Thorne, MLA
- * Go West RV Centre
- * Jeff Pennington- ReMax
- * Maple Leaf Self Storage
- * Port Coquitlam Youth Services
- * Purified Water Store-Water to go (Port Moody)
- * RadiSys
- * RP Diagnostic Service Centre (Port Coquitlam)
- * Starbucks (Coquitlam Centre)
- * Tennis Canada
- * Tri Counselling Services
- * Van City PoCo Branch

We appreciate all of our current partnerships and look forward to welcoming new organizations & individuals to our growing community of supporters.

We apologize if we had missed any of our contributors.

How you can help:

As people learn about the issues that youth face after-hours, and the outreach services PoCoMo provides, they ask, "What can I do to help?"

PoCoMo has worked tirelessly to provide much needed services to street involved youth in our communities. We rely solely on foundations, community donations, and individual support.

We are grateful for the interest and support from the community and have outlined below ways that you can make a difference in the lives of youth. Regardless of your age, income, or current knowledge of the issue, everyone can help in some way.

AN INVESTMENT IN PoCoMo, IS AN INVESTMENT IN THE YOUTH OF OUR COMMUNITIES.

Here are some ways you can invest in our future:

- * **Join:** Become a Member of PoCoMo and get involved with the board, committees, or volunteer.
- * **Be the Change:** Fundraise on your own, attend special events, or help raise awareness.
- * **Opportunities:** Employment, Volunteer, and Practicum positions.

GIVING OPTIONS:

Donate: Make a financial or in-kind contribution: To make a monthly donation, or one time donation, go to <http://www.canadahelps.org>

Make a single gift:

Play a valuable role in providing outreach support and services to at-risk youth in our communities. All contributions, even those of modest amounts, help PoCoMo continue to grow and protect children and youth in new ways.

Become a monthly donor:

Help create a more sustainable future for our much needed outreach programs. Giving on a monthly basis provides a stable source of income for PoCoMo, which allows us to better anticipate the amount of funding we will receive for the year, and plan more efficiently. This type of support is invaluable to our long-term future. Go to the CanadaHelps web site listed above, or go through PoCoMo's web site to make a donation.

CanadaHelps (online):

To make a secure online gift: It is fast, safe and simple. Canada Helps will provide an immediate tax receipt. We encourage donors through Canada Helps site listed above to provide contact information with your online donation in full so we can keep you updated on our news and events.

To get more involved:

To contribute more and play a significant role in investing in the youth of our community, contact PoCoMo to discuss the many possibilities.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT

PoCoMo's impact in the Community

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS/AWARDS:

- 2010 "Not For Profit of the Year" Award from the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards.
- 2009 "Creating a Safer Community" award from the Tri-City REACH Awards.
- 2009 "Innovative Spirit" award from the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards.
- Project Reach Out - "2008" Community Safety and Crime Prevention Award from the Ministry of Community Safety and Solicitor General's office.

SOCIAL IMPACTS OF OUR SERVICES:

- Decreased isolation
- Strengthen connection to community
- Increased sense of value
- Increased sense of belonging
- Increased connection to resources
- Reduced dependence on drugs
- Reduced community violence
- Reduced community vandalism

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BUS IMPACT SURVEY:

Over 100 youth surveyed.

As a result of my involvement with the youth bus.

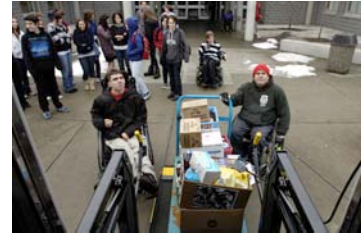
- I feel a greater sense of belonging 81%
- I feel valued 78%
- I make better life choices 82%
- I feel safer 84%
- I have greater success in school 67%
- I avoid crime & vandalism 90%
- My drug use has decreased 33%
- I respect community more 74%
- I feel better about myself 87%

Minnehada Middle School reported saving approximately \$80,000 in vandalism costs annually thanks to the bus having a consistent presence in the area.



"The bus rocks. They accept us & listen to us. They are a safe place for us to go. The workers have made a difference in my life. Thank you for being out there for us." - Jen

PoCoMo Gives Back



PoCoMo assists a student with delivering food to the SHARE food bank.

- PoCoMo and NEC donate 2 wheelchair accessible speaker podiums to the city of Coquitlam.



PoCoMo hosts the FUN DAY IN THE PARK

- PoCoMo raises food for the Tri-City Women's Resource Centre

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS/EVENTS:

PoCoMo's RUN for YOUTH. In partnership with the Runners Den in Port Moody, PoCoMo is in the process of the developing a new fundraiser, a 1K & 5K RUN. The date TBA. Stay tuned for location.

Crazy Shirt Golf Tournament: This will be PoCoMo's 5th golf tournament held to benefit the youth we serve. The tournament will be held June 13th. STAY TUNED and check out our web site for details.

A NEW SIGNATURE EVENT IS ON THE WAY. PoCoMo is in the planning stages to launch our first signature event/fundraiser. We feel it will be a very unique and first of its kind event for the Tri-Cities.

Fun Day in The Park: Every August, PoCoMo holds a free BBQ held in Lions Park, to say thank you to the community for all its support. As always, it will be a Great Time.

WISH LIST

- On-Going funding
- Committee volunteers
- Space to run our after-school programs
- Office supplies (paper, Laser printer & ink, etc.)
- Give-away items for our youth positive passes program (skateboards, t-shirts, hats, ipods, etc)
- Items for our fundraisers
- World Peace

Serving the Tri-City Community since 1992

No Youth Is Left Behind.



PoCoMo Youth Services Society
Fernwood Lodge, 2601 Lougheed Hwy.
Coquitlam, BC V3C 4J2
O: 604.525.1888 F: 604.525.1852
www.pocomo.org