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Kingston Learning Centre:

Programs for students passionate about improving the lives of children

By Frank Giorno

Kingston Learning Centre (KLC)

is committed to training skilled classroom Educational Assistants and Child and Youth Workers who can help special needs children and youth succeed in the classroom and in life.

The Educational Assistant program is designed to provide dedicated men and women with the attitudes, skills and knowledge necessary to assist special needs children in a school setting. The Child and Youth Worker program trains people to work with individuals and families facing behavioural issues. In each case, candidates are individuals interested in making a difference in the lives of children and young people facing major life challenges.

Education Assistant Program

"We are looking for ways to expand our approach to training future educational earn their CYW diploma. It is a fast growing field of study, offering graduates a wide variety of career opportunities" says Rick Skinner, Program Supervisor.

Graduates can expect to find employment in the following areas:

- o residential treatment centres
- o children's mental health centres
- o group homes/youth detention centres
- o educational services (Boards of Education)
- o day treatment centres
- o social service agencies (Family and Children's Services)
- o self-employment initiatives

At this point the Child and Youth Worker Program is offered only through the Smiths Falls campus.

The staff includes Debbie Jonkman, M.S.W. and Richard Skinner, Principal (retired), Upper

assistants to work with children with autism," says Norman Rudd, Program Supervisor for the EA program in Whitby and Richmond Hill. "Currently the Whitby and Richmond Hill campuses provide a three day course from the Geneva Centre."

The EA program also provides training in First aid, CPR, non-violent crisis prevention and intervention that is specific to dealing with children with Autism. These additional important components to the Educational Assistant program are taught by guest speakers who are experts in the field. Supervisor and instructor Norman Rudd was a Special Education administrator and consultant. He has received the Educational Leader of the Year Award from the Council for Exceptional Children. The rest of KLC's outstanding EA program staff in Whitby and Richmond Hill includes:
Allan Ashby, Principal (retired) and Special Education Administrator, Durham District School Board
Judy McLeod, Special Education Consultant (retired), Durham District School Board
Wendy Murchie, Special Education Consultant (retired), Toronto District School Board
Susan DiClemente, Special Education Consultant (retired), Durham Catholic District School Board

Child and Youth Worker Program

The CYW program prepares students to provide frontline treatment to emotionally troubled and disturbed children and youth. Students receive specific training related to child

Canada District School Board.

KLC programs are unique in that they offer a condensed curriculum, allowing the EA students to graduate in one year and the CYW students in two years. KLC curricula comply with all Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities requirements, and KLC students complete

the classroom and placement portions of the program in compliance with all Ministry regulations. The shorter time period allows graduates to enter the work force sooner.

In order to assist KLC graduates find employment, both programs include a job readiness course to prepare students for their job search. Topics covered include, resume writing, cover letter and interview skills—a vital component for securing a job.

At KLC students learn in a supportive and stimulating environment:

"My whole experience with KLC was amazing. The knowledge I gained concerning special education and the skills I learned in dealing with students with extreme behaviours has paid off time and time again. I use this knowledge and these skills daily at my job. I was hired 3 months after graduation and have been told in more than one interview that I have a greater understanding of children with special needs than many others with many more years' experience than I. The small class sizes and the career oriented curriculum and the more than knowledgeable staff make KLC a top rate choice in college education." Lori Wilson (EA graduate)

management techniques, family support interventions, therapeutic relationships, designing treatment programs (for both individuals and groups) and working within multi-disciplinary teams. They specialize in supporting change with children, youth and their families who have a range of social, emotional and behavioural challenges, and they learn how to implement a range of prevention, intervention and treatment strategies including crisis intervention, conflict management, problem solving, counselling, activity programming and group work. "This course is presented through a combination of online, independent and classroom study; this format allows students to continue to work while they	Students with a passion for helping to improve the lives of children and youth may enrol for the EA program and the Youth Worker Program now for the September sessions. Students who are accepted into KLC's EA and Youth Worker programs may be eligible for assistance under the Ontario Student Assistant Program. At KLC we are constantly improving the courses we offer. In the future we hope to extend our programs to accommodate individuals who wish to work with autistic children. Our proposed courses for training specialists in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) and Intensive Behaviour Intervention (IBI) are with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities for certification. Stay tuned for developments.