



Winter 2010

**BULLETIN**

**international**  
International Programs **YMCA Canada East**

## The Ludoteca

Several Canada East associations and individuals made contributions to assist the YMCA of Honduras purchase Christmas presents to be distributed to children who attend the Honduran Y's "Ludoteca" program in the Community of San Francisco.

The Honduran YMCA recognizes the important link between play and education, and it is committed to ensuring that children, wherever they live, have the right to play.



Nadia Marelys Osorto (right) and a volunteer in front of the Ludoteca.

San Francisco is one of the poorest sectors in the city. The hillside on which it is located is steep, the streets narrow with deep drainage ditches on both sides. Wood and brick houses are squeezed

together tightly; tin roofs have large stones weighing them down to prevent them from rattling in the wind.

It is not a safe area. The YMCA staff person at the Ludoteca, a small, slight young woman with an engaging smile named Nadia Marelys Osorto, has been mugged at knife-point while walking home.

In this neighbourhood, Nadia maintains a secure environment for children to play. The Ludoteca offers arts and crafts, games, sports, drama, a library, a collection of toys, as well as having a corner dedicated to helping young people develop spiritual values.

At one time, the Ludoteca held "Cultural Evenings" in a soccer field ten minutes away. These now have to be held on the street in front of the Ludoteca because it became too dangerous for children to walk the ten minutes after dark.

Nadia and a group of volunteers also provide a Mobile Ludoteca, taking the program to other neighbourhoods. They walk to these areas carrying backpacks with a few toys like frisbees and some craft items. They gather the children together on street corners. It is an inspiring program working in the face of enormous challenges

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# YMCA Peace Week in Atlantic Canada

## Yarmouth International Dinner

The YMCA of Yarmouth has run an International Dinner during peace week for many years. The current Executive Director, Barrie MacGregor, remembers attending one in the mid 1980's when he was a member of the Y, rather than a staff person. At first the dinner was held in a room at the Y which could seat up to 100 people. In those days, the event amounted to a pot luck supper. "Food was always good," Barrie remembers. As the program grew, it moved to a number of venues outside the Y: the Fire Hall, the United Church hall, and the Community College which operates a hospitality program where the students help out as servers.

"In the two hours allocated to the dinner," Barrie writes, "we manage to have a very creative grace given by past president Joe Paquette, a good meal with some parts donated and some purchased from local restaurants. We then present a youth peace medal and an adult peace medal. Sometimes these presentations are to individuals, couples, or groups. This is often followed by an international program or presentation—could be a slide show, speech or entertainment. A recent feature of our dinners is the presence of 60 or more international students studying in schools in the Yarmouth area."

The dinner is a fund raiser. A single ticket is \$20; \$35 for a couple. "We generally come out with a net of \$1,500, almost enough to fulfill our obligation to the Honduras project. We always wrap up within two hours, and it is a very popular event."

Picture from 2008 dinner at Yarmouth United Church Hall. "Cuban Time" provides entertainment.



Yarmouth Adult Peace Medallion presented by Past-President Gloria Goodwin to the Yarmouth Fire Department



Yarmouth Youth Peace Medallion presented by Past-President Joe Paquette to Mike Duncanson

# YMCA Peace Week in Atlantic Canada

Four peace medallions were awarded in Moncton: Sister Auréa Cormier (standing, 4th from right), Dr Roger G Leblanc (standing, 3rd from right), Jeremy Plume (front row, 3rd from right), and Club Right to Play (in front).



Saint John YMCA-YWCA  
Peace Medallion recipient, Alanna Ward

Lunenburg County YMCA's float in the Christmas Parade, decorated for Peace Week



Corner Brook mayor, Neville Greeley, presents Humber County medallion to Bernice Buckle.



# YMCA Peace Week in Atlantic Canada



Peace Medallion recipient, Sister Eleanor McCloskey, and Fredericton mayor, Brad Woodside, raise Peace Week flag in front of City Hall



Carol MacNeil receives Peace Medallion from the Pictou County YMCA



Bob Lewis accepts Peace Medallion on behalf of Grand Falls-Windsor/Bishop's Falls Food Bank