



Stardale Women's Group Inc. Foundation[©]

Congratulations to the Members of the *Melfort Youth Council* along with The Melfort Youth Initiative Leadership Team for their new youth centre (formerly the Bulych Home Centre), which opened this past December 2007. This was a long time coming, but finally it was established.

Stardale would like to thank RESOLVE Sask. and Renita Picton (Picton Associates Inc.). Stardale initiated a community based – research project in 2004. The project was called **“Defining the Future: Embracing our Girls”**. This project examined the rising girl violence, as well as the girl gang mentality. Both RESOLVE Sask and Renita Picton took a forward thinking approach to solve what the girls/ other youth deemed as important to empower the youth. The number one recommendation in the report addressed what the girls believed the community could benefit from. This was a Melfort youth centre.

“To address the lack of positive social activities available for youths in Melfort, it is proposed that a youth-run youth centre be created. The centre would require start up funds to secure an appropriate building as well as pay for necessary utilities and any initial equipment such as a pool table. There are presently a number of unoccupied buildings within Melfort that may be available for youths to create a safe positive environment for socializing. The suggestion was that the centre would be created by the youths, for the youths. It was thought that if the centre was created by the youths, they would have a vested interest in maintaining it. The youths would need to be committed to fundraising within the community to keep the centre open, as well as soliciting in-kind contributions from local businesses for supplies such as paint and used furniture. Although the centre would have to be supervised by an adult volunteer, the centre would essentially run by rules set up by the youths. It has been suggested that the centre be non-denominational.” (Rebecca Harriman, R (2004) *Defining the Future: Embracing our Girls*, 21-22