



# Youville Centre *News*

*An innovative centre that motivates, educates and nurtures young mothers and their children to become self-sufficient, contributing members of society.*

## Our Fall/Winter, 2012 Newsletter

### Coming Events

#### **Youville Centre Appreciation Tea**

Tuesday, February 26, 2013,  
1:30 PM – Kinsella Hall,  
Youville Centre

This event is an opportunity for our students to directly thank key donors and volunteers who have provided support in the past year. Invitations will be sent shortly.

#### **Youville Centre Graduation**

Friday, June  
21, 2013

#### **Shepherd's Fashion Show and Auction**

Fall 2013

### Youville Centre Celebrates 25 Years of Service

On Thursday, October 25, 2012, approximately 200 people gathered together at the **Hampton Inn Conference Centre** to celebrate Youville Centre's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The room was filled with Youville Centre alumnae, current and former staff and board members, donors, volunteers and community partners; it was a beautiful show of support for Youville Centre's young mothers and their children.

We were very honoured to have Youville Centre's Founder and former Executive Director, **Sister Betty Ann Kinsella**, in attendance and we were pleased to present her with the "Nurture" Award, as part of our first set of awards presented

presenting them with these awards, inspired by our mission statement.

Youville Centre Angel Awards were presented for the first time to nine individuals who have demonstrated unwavering support and constant advocacy for Youville Centre's young mothers and children during the past 25 years. The Youville Angel Awards were presented to: **The Honourable John Baird, Donald and Jean Eldon, Steve Georgopoulos, Dr. Tom Harle, Dennis Jackson, Max Keeping, Hassa Mirchandani and Marlene Shepherd.** Their contributions and support has been invaluable to our Youville community.



*Judith Sarginson (l), Sister Betty Ann Kinsella (c), and Sister Maco Cassetta (r)*

The gift of time was recognized with the presentation of 14 Youville Centre Volunteer Angel Awards presented to dedicated volunteers: **Beryl Callum, Ria Challen, Jeanne Charron, Flo Crosbie, Eldred Hayes, Bill Lewis, Joanne Lewis, Carol MacLeod, Lynne Nicolson, Caroline Pidgeon, John Reeder, Rita Robillard, Claudia Siefer and Pat Slight.**

The evening's festivities were greatly enhanced by our three very special speakers. Youville Centre Alumna **Jennifer-Anne Gibson**

was first to speak, as she shared her own personal story. Speaking with passion and emotion, Jennifer-Anne shared how Youville Centre impacted her life and the life of her daughter, allowing her to move closer to her goals and dreams, and to become the successful career woman and loving wife and mother she is today.

that evening. Former Executive Director **Sister Maco Cassetta** received the "Motivate" Award, and **Judith Sarginson**, our most recent Former Executive Director received the "Educate" Award. It was important for us to honour the three women who charted Youville Centre's course to date by



*Youville Centre motivates, educates & nurtures young mothers and their children.*

---

Our second speaker of the evening was Nicholas Lynda, a graduate of our Child Development Program. Nick and his mother Nathalie attended Youville Centre while he was a toddler in the early '90s.

Now twenty years old, Nick showed pride for his mother's hard work to build their future and the lessons she learned from being at Youville. With dreams of entrepreneurship, Nick is currently completing his fourth year at the University of Ottawa studying business and economics with assistance from Youville Centre's Second Generation Bursary.

We were quite honoured to have **Shannon Gorman, National Director of Community Affairs** at TELUS as our Keynote Speaker for the evening. For the first time publicly, Shannon shared her own personal story as a young, single mother who worked hard to succeed in business while parenting her son, Ryan. Shannon's deep understanding of Youville Centre's young mothers' struggles was eloquently expressed in her speech. Her inspirational words reminded us all to applaud young mothers as they struggle and work hard to raise their children and make their dreams a reality.

**Leanne Cusack**, a long-time Youville Centre supporter, was our Emcee for the evening's festivities. She added an enthusiastic, professional touch to the event. Leanne's colleague **Michael O'Byrne** paid us a surprise visit, presenting a **United Way Community Builder Award** to **Caroline Pidgeon**, a

dedicated, hard-working Youville Centre volunteer for the past 18 years. To say that Caroline was surprised and delighted would be an understatement. We are thrilled that

the **City of Ottawa** and **United Way** recognize the value of Caroline's contribution as much as we do.

The evening had another surprise in store, as after Shannon spoke, she called her friends **Debbie O'Brien (The Don & Shirley Green Family Foundation)**, **Barbara Crook (The Danbe Foundation)** and **Dennis Jackson** up to the podium for a few surprise announcements. Tears were shed and hearts swelled as Shannon, her colleagues and friends announced their extremely generous donations for a proposed **Youville Centre Mentorship Program**, support for our core programs and services, and the gift of empowerment through Christmas gift cards for our students.



*Caroline Pidgeon and Michael O'Byrne*



*Shannon Gorman, our Keynote Speaker for the evening*

organizations behind us as we continue to motivate, educate and nurture young mothers and their children to become self-sufficient, contributing members of society.

The evening was punctuated by a slideshow of photographic memories, a silent auction with thirty items from community and corporate donors and a special prize provided by **Porter Airlines**. It was truly inspiring to witness the community support for Youville Centre's young mothers and their children. Over the past 25 years we have been fortunate to have many generous individuals and

## Alumnae and Former Staff Reunite

On Tuesday, October 23, 2012 Youville Centre former staff and alumnae dating back to Youville's beginnings 25 years ago visited our centre to reconnect and celebrate. The centre was full of smiles, laughter and even a few tears as everyone in attendance enjoyed reminiscing and reuniting. It was very special to have former Executive Directors, Sister Maco Cassetta and Judith Sarginson in attendance, with Sister Maco having traveled many miles to be here. Photo collages lined the walls, alumnae success stories were displayed, and a "museum" of Youville Centre artifacts was artfully arranged in the boardroom.

Staff and alumnae enjoyed writing messages on our Youville Centre "Yearbook Banner" to commemorate the evening. It was a lively reception and everyone enjoyed a retrospective slideshow matched to contemporary music from the time period. Alumnae had fun spotting themselves, their former classmates and their children in the photos displayed. Tours of the childcare rooms and classrooms were given

to allow alumnae and their children to re-live their time spent at Youville Centre.

This event was an interesting opportunity for alumnae and former staff to see how Youville Centre has evolved over the past 25 years. It was a joy to see some of Youville



*Writing messages on the Yearbook Banner*

Centre's former "babies" who are now school-aged children, and it was wonderful to acknowledge Youville Centre alumnae and the accomplishments they have made since they graduated.

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of the staff and volunteers who lent their time and energy to the planning and execution of this event. Special thanks to the five alumnae who shared their personal stories that

were posted on the walls for all to see: **Lisa Riopelle, Tammy Charette, Jennifer-Anne Gibson, Brianne Marvin and Jennifer Littlemore.** Please check our blog at [www.youvillecentre.org/blog](http://www.youvillecentre.org/blog) as we will be sharing these alumnae stories in the weeks and months to come.

---

## Local Realtors Care about Youville Centre

Thanks to the initiative of local realtor **Rachel Hammer** and the generosity of the **Ottawa Real Estate Board** on behalf of the **REALTORS Care Foundation**, Youville Centre is now the proud owner of two SMART Boards. SMART Boards are interactive digital learning tools that function much like white boards but they use touch-screen computer technology.



*A SMART board enhances learning*

Improved technology in our classrooms here at Youville Centre will bring our students into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and allow them to thrive as digital learners both in the classroom, and in the world of work. It is our hope to have a SMART Board in each of our classrooms in the future to enhance our students' learning opportunities and fully equip them for their future endeavours.

## Youville Centre Holiday Giving Guide

### **Some Ways You Can Help:**

Each year we are very fortunate to receive wonderful support from the community for our young mothers and their children leading up to Christmas. This year we have decided to shine a light on the most pressing needs of our clients by compiling a Holiday Giving Guide to assist you with your Christmas giving.

If you are considering a Christmas donation to help our young mothers and their children, please feel free to contact us at (613) 231-5150 Ext. 128 if you require one of our drivers to pick up your donations or if you would like to discuss your drop-off date.

Please note that our last day for receiving donations for the holiday season is Monday, December 17th.

.....



Provide a financial contribution to directly support our innovative programming – go to [www.youvillecentre.org](http://www.youvillecentre.org) to donate online through Canada Helps, call (613) 231-5150 Ext. 128 or send your donation in the mail made out to Youville Centre, 150 Mann Avenue, Ottawa ON K1N 8P4.



Empower a young mom to buy gifts for her child by donating gift cards for: Babies R Us, Toys R Us, Loblaws, Metro, Shoppers Drug Mart, Chapters, Wal-Mart etc.



Organize a “Diapers & Wipes” Drive at your workplace or holiday party! Sizes 4, 5 and 6 are needed most.



Donate baby's essential needs: diaper cream, formula, children's thermometers, soothers, soother clips, bibs, warm winter clothing for children ages 2 months to 3 years. Contact us for more information by emailing [communications@youvillecentre.org](mailto:communications@youvillecentre.org).



Provide a treat for mom: fitness clothing, running shoes, skates, snow pants and winter jackets, cosmetics, hygiene products, picture frames, mitts and scarves, mugs, hot chocolate and other items suitable for young moms ages 15-21.

## We Couldn't Have Done it Without You

Our humble gratitude goes to the following individuals and organizations for their recent significant contributions to Youville Centre's young mothers and their children:

**TELUS**  
**The Don & Shirley Green Family Foundation**  
**MBNA**  
**The Danbe Foundation**  
**Dennis and Dorothy Jackson**  
**Label Innovation Inc.**  
**Mr. Fred Bowie**

**Ottawa Dental Society**  
**Carol and Peter Gusen**  
**Congregation de Notre Dame of Bedford, Nova Scotia**  
**George Michael Simpson Professional Corporation – Chartered Accountants**  
**Momentous Corporation**

*To receive this newsletter in electronic format, please contact [communications@youvillecentre.org](mailto:communications@youvillecentre.org)*