

Youville Centre is an innovative Centre that inspires, educates and nurtures young mothers and their children to utilize their strengths and achieve their goals.



Youville Centre

Fall 2020 updates

**Dear Valued Youville Centre Supporter,**

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced Youville to close the doors to the building in the middle of March, we had no idea we would be embarking on such a journey!

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## Youville Centre COVID-19 Updates

Youville staff quickly transitioned to working remotely, and continued to support our young moms and their children. The school year came to an end, with students working virtually. Our annual graduation ceremony, always a very special event, was postponed until the Fall. Summer school ran, but only virtually, and our young moms did not all have access to child care. We were able to open the Child Development Program (CDP) as of July 6, for reduced capacity. We welcomed the remaining staff, students and children in September, with health and safety at the forefront.

The Centre is following strict guidelines in accordance with Ottawa Public Health & Ministry of Education recommendations. This includes, but is not limited to:

- An extensive screening procedure prior to entering the building
- Only children and essential staff enter the CDP; the rest of staff and our clients, only access the treatment & academic floor
- Enhanced cleaning schedules and other safety measures

Thank you to all our staff for the dedication to Youville's children and clients, and your hard work to prioritize everyone's health, safety and wellbeing! Thank you to all of our Youville Community Partners for your understanding, patience and support as we navigate the impacts of the pandemic on our operations!

Please note that our building is not open to visitors, volunteers or in-kind donation drop

offs at this stage in our reopening process. For up to date information please consult our website and social media posts or contact [info@youvillecentre.org](mailto:info@youvillecentre.org).

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you; may we be thankful for what we have, for the family we love, the friends we cherish, and for the blessings that will come.

Bev MacKillop  
Executive Director



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Please visit our Blog for more updates on what's happening with Youville Centre: <http://www.youvillecentre.org/blog/>

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## Your support is needed now more than ever

The hidden struggles are very real for our moms. Moms who come to Youville Centre access our Mental Health supports throughout their journey. COVID - 19 meant that treatment staff members needed to pivot quickly to offer these programs and services virtually. This meant accessing chromebooks and Wifi through our education partners, so our moms could continue to receive these vital services. When our Child Development Program was closed, moms struggled to provide the necessities for their children, to complete school work and to ensure their own mental health stability. We provided daily check-ins with our young moms, circle times for their babies, access to gift cards to purchase food, educational support from our teachers, virtual individual and group counselling sessions, and weekly fun virtual events. Our Child Care Centre reopening restrictions meant that most of our programs and services continued to be offered virtually including summer school. While bringing their child(ren) to Youville Centre using public transportation, new concerns began to surface including increased anxiety about possible exposure to COVID - 19. While school has now resumed, our clients continue to adapt to new safety procedures and protocols.



*Youville Centre staff ready to safely welcome families back to the Centre*

As we move into month eight of this unfortunate event, our moms are finding it difficult to navigate the circumstances. Your support is needed now more than ever in order for us to continue to provide our essential support to our young moms and their babies during these challenging times. Visit <http://www.youvillecentre.org/blog/help-needed-now-ever/> to read more and learn about how you can help.

Select here to donate now on Canada Helps

# 2019-2020 Annual Report

## What a year it has been!

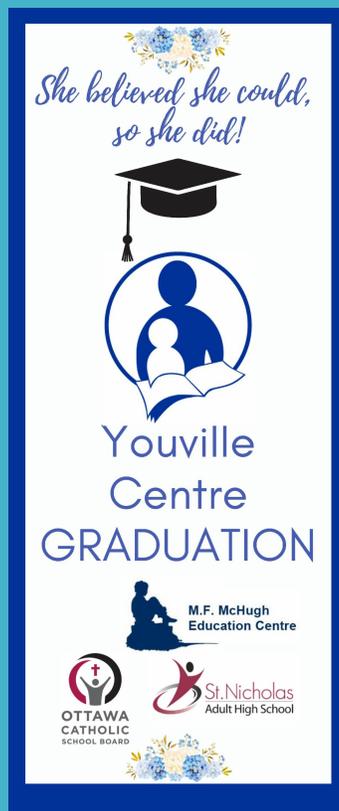
Youville Centre's Annual General Meeting was held on September 29, virtually due to the pandemic.

Board President, Shailja Verma closed the meeting with these words "Thank you all for being our family and friends, for all your support especially during this challenging year, for joining us for our AGM and for continuing to believe in Youville. The 17 young women who are graduating this year are succeeding because of all of you and your belief in them. Stay well. Stay safe and hopefully we will meet in person next year!"



Please find our [2019-2020 Annual Report here](#) on our website, or email [communications@youvillecentre.org](mailto:communications@youvillecentre.org) to request a print copy.

## Congratulations Class of 2020!



We are so proud of our 2020 graduating class, of 17 graduates, from our M.F. McHugh Education Centre and St. Nicholas Adult High

If you would like to view the video, please email [communications@youvillecentre.org](mailto:communications@youvillecentre.org) for the link or visit our social media.

Each year our graduates are so fortunate to receive generous support from our donor community in the form of bursaries, which help them to continue learning at a post-secondary level. Unfortunately we were not able to host bursary donors in person to present their bursaries to the recipients this year, but bursaries were announced for each graduate.

"As we walk through Youville's doors towards the rest of our lives, let us feel empowered, motivated and willing to continue making a brighter future for us and our children. Let our struggles be our strength, let our pain be our motivation to move forward and let

School education partners.

As you know, the Covid-19 pandemic prevented us from having our usual in-person graduation ceremony last June, with guests.

As a result, we honoured our graduates with a postponed and modified ceremony, on Friday, October 2, and were able to compile a combination of onsite video and submissions of virtual video greetings from our guest dignitaries, to create a Youville Centre Graduation 2020 Video.

our tears wash away every ounce of discouragement we may feel in our lives. We came here to do the best we could for our children and by graduating today we succeeded. Nothing can stop us now!" *Class of 2020, "Spirit of Youville" Christel Takam Ngwewa Nzokouo*

Thank you everyone who contributed to the success of this graduation celebration!

**Congratulations Class of 2020!**

## Child Development Program Expansion Launch



*Executive Director Bev MacKillop is pictured with Councillor Mathieu Fleury, for a commemorative shovel in the ground photo.*

Youville Centre is thrilled to celebrate 35 years in the Ottawa community and to announce expansion plans for 2020 which will increase the Child Development Program by 15 licensed spaces, to 70 in total. A Sod Turning event, on August 31 launched the construction phase of the expansion. In the Centre's outdoor play space, Executive Director Bev MacKillop welcomed guests and project partners from CSV Architects and McDonald Brothers Construction. Deputy Mayor Laura Dudas was in attendance and spoke on behalf of the Mayor saying "In addition to opening up much-needed child care spaces, this project will increase access to high quality,

City Councillor Mathieu Fleury offered his congratulations on the project as well, and expressed his support, saying "Youville Centre is an important partner in our community providing essential services and mentorship to both young moms and their little ones."

To read more about this project, please visit <http://www.youvillecentre.org/blog/youville-centre-2020-expansion/>.

If you would like to contribute, please email Alison Holmes at [development@youvillecentre.org](mailto:development@youvillecentre.org) or donate online to the expansion project on our Canada Helps page.



*Construction is well underway this fall!*

affordable services.”

We are excited for this new chapter in the Youville story, and we look forward to taking this journey with you by our side.

By giving to Youville, you are helping us to inspire, educate and nurture our young mothers and their children to utilize their strengths and achieve their goals. Thank you to all of our generous donors, you are making a difference in the lives of 2 generations!

Donate Now



## Youville Centre

150 Mann Ave, Ottawa, ON K1N 8P4

[info@youvillecentre.org](mailto:info@youvillecentre.org)

Phone: 613-231-5150

Contact Us