



YOUVILLE CENTRE

Spring 2023 Updates

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The construction sign is up and the work starts soon! Thanks to joint funding from the Governments of Canada and Ontario for community and culture infrastructure projects, Youville Centre's plans for a new Roof and upgraded HVAC system are underway.

Executive Director Message

PETER EMBLETON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Since I moved into the role of Executive Director in early January, there have been many exciting moments, and I have learned something new each and every day. Despite being a small organization, Youville Centre provides many great programs for the young women and children who come to us for services. After one of the coldest weekends of the winter, our Child Development Program staff were greeted early Monday morning with gushing water from a frozen and burst pipe in the children's dining room. The staff quickly worked together to make the area safe to welcome families and ensure there were no interruptions to services. Our Child Development Program Manager, Diana, was able to secure a temporary child care license and staff turned the gym into an alternate toddler program during the emergency repair. The staff will continue to work creatively together during the next phase of the repair to ensure we are able to continue to meet the needs of our children and families.

We are also in the beginning stages of work for the Roof & HVAC Project, with the majority of construction happening between May to August. While we know there will be disruptions, we will continue to work together as a team to navigate the construction process.

We continue to reach out to community partners to establish relationships and seek new funding opportunities. I am very proud to be the Executive Director and work with the dedicated team of staff and volunteers to help our clients create a brighter future, for themselves and their children.

Thank you to our community of support helping us achieve this goal every day!

Ujima Project at Youville Centre

Liz Briggs, the Early Literacy Specialist, provides resources and support to young moms whose children are on waitlists for speech and language assessment. Assistance completing the First Words Communication Checkup as well as ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE is also provided. Ideas and activities are offered to support language development and play opportunities at home.

In partnership with Rural Family Connections EarlyON agency, Liz facilitated the First Word's Chat Room Playgroup program. This 7-week program was offered at Rural Family Connection's Metcalfe location with Erin Smith, RECE. It was well attended and the feedback received was very positive.

As a new initiative Liz has begun small group "Talking About" sessions and drop in circle times with Youville students and their children. These sessions are being offered every second week and topics vary depending on the students interests and children's needs.

Coming up:

- Starting in May, in partnership with Mothercraft Ottawa, Liz will be facilitating a 4-week version of the Chat Room Program. This will be offered virtually to parents and caregivers of children from birth to 4 years of age.
- Talking About sessions will be offered virtually to Youville's Child Development Program (CDP) community families.
- CDP Educators - Reflective practice sessions will resume and be offered virtually. Upcoming topics may include: Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health; Move to Learn: How Movement Supports Brain Development; Supporting Happy Eaters in Childcare Programs; Trauma Sensitive Child Development Programs

Samar El Faki joined our team as our new Family Navigator in February, and is assisting families in system navigation, advocacy, referrals and supportive services within the community.



Read more about the Ujima Project on our website here:

<https://www.youvillecentre.org/programs-services/family-navigator-and-early-literacy-specialist/>

Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement (CWELCC)

Youville Centre is very excited to be enrolled in the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement. In its early stages, eligible families have been issued applicable refunds and are now paying reduced fees. With increased affordability of licensed child care, the next stages will include increased access with a focus on workplace retention and recruitment in the early years sector. The Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system supports quality, accessibility, affordability and inclusivity in licensed child care. CWELCC is a five-year plan that is being implemented in stages, to make child care more accessible and affordable. Fees will reduce every year, reaching an average fee of \$10/day by 2025-2026.

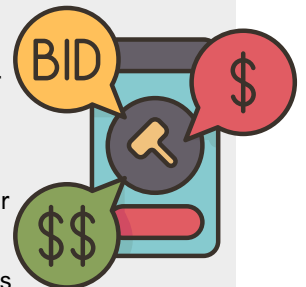
CWELCC will:

- Create more affordable, quality licensed child care spaces;
- Support the early childhood workforce through enhanced compensation, training, and professional learning opportunities; and
- Improve accessibility by addressing barriers to providing inclusive and flexible child care.

Spring Online Auction in May

Youville Centre is holding an online auction fundraising event in May 2023 alongside our usual Mother's Day campaign! Look for details coming soon on our social media & website. We have a variety of great items available, including a Napoleon BBQ & an outdoor Dining/Fire Table for 6! Instructions on how to participate will also be sent to our Enews list. (If you want to sign up, send an email to info@youvillecentre.org)

Help us reach our goal of **\$10,000**, to cover the costs for the recent flood damage repairs that were not covered by our insurance.



Professional Learning Pilot

The Professional Learning Pilot is a new opportunity as part of a Child Care and Early Years Workforce Program for Ottawa. Our Professional Learning Leader, Sophie Rayner-Grignon, plays an important role in delivering staff learning and development and mentorship in the four identified priority areas to increase quality and responsiveness within the child care and early years system. Each week Sophie creates an internal newsletter to share highlights of the ongoing professional learning opportunities, upcoming training and spotlights on ECE pedagogy. Staff are able to access training materials, resources and learning through our CDP Padlet. On March 17th, as a result of this pilot, the entire **Child Development Team participated in a full day of professional learning.** (pictured below) Educators and program staff engaged together to learn and focus on leadership and capacity building.



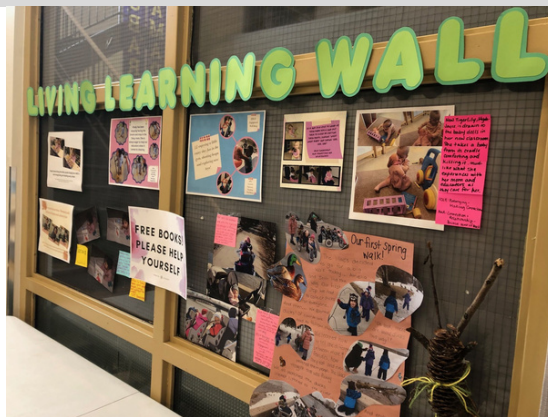
Child Development Program Updates

Our Child Development Program is operating at capacity, providing early learning and care to 70 children each day. In our 4 Infant programs, we recognize that infants are curious little beings that want to connect with the world around them. Infants learn through experiences and relationships so supporting infants' natural discovery, exploration and a sense of belonging is a focus of our infant programs. The Educators reflect on each infant's individual development and interests to ensure inclusive programming and planning. In our 2 toddler programs, curiosity and discovery are still an essential part of the day but with a new element of more structure and routine in their days. We encourage group activities and open-ended play opportunities for toddlers to connect with their community and build social skills. We offer a variety of programming and supervise low-level risky play allowing toddlers to experiment with the abilities of their bodies.

Our CDP Team continues to strive for innovative ways to share and document the children's development and learning and create a sense of community. The **Living Learning Wall**, (pictured below) a form of pedagogical documentation, is in its early stages at Youville Centre. The Living Learning Wall supports the notion of a "curriculum-as-lived experience" that honours children and gives them a voice through collection and interpretation of their artwork, dialogue & imaginative play scripts.



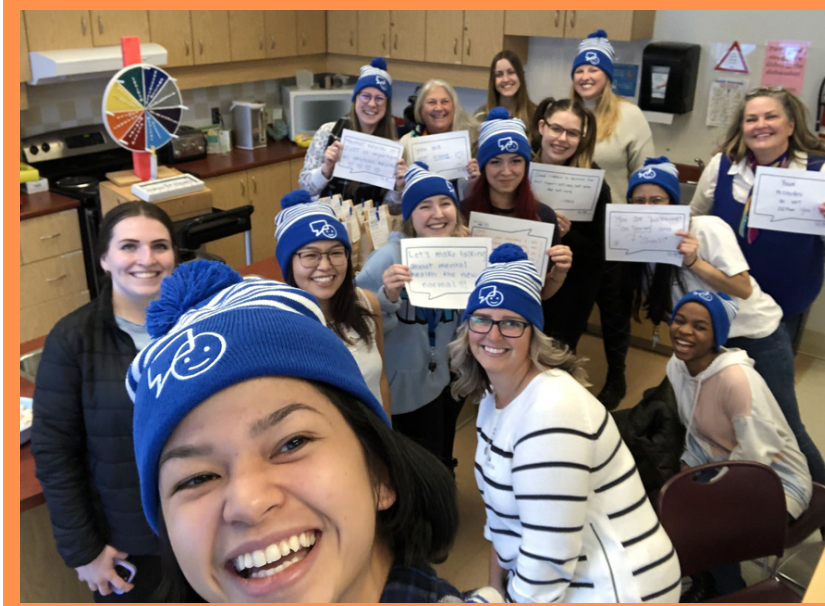
Clients Caitlin and child Connor (above) during an early literacy circle time; Abby and child Delilah (below)



Intensive Treatment Support Program Update

The Intensive Treatment Support Program (ITSP) Team has been busy with many activities and special events. Since the new year, clients continue to engage with ITSP services and treatment groups have resumed. We are grateful to be able to provide our clients with access to on-site supports from community partners such as Ontario Works, LEAP, Dr. Harrison from CHEO, Ottawa Food Bank, iSisters, and Famous 5 Lunch n' Learn activities.

As the spring weather arrives, and with summer around the corner, clients are preparing to wrap up their school year, with graduation approaching for many.



Bell Let's Talk Day 2023



Bell Let's Talk Day group activities in January 2023; clients and staff pictured in the Collective Kitchen. The Sources of Strength (SOS) peer leaders led activities focusing on mental health on Bell Let's Talk Day

Valentine's Day Treats & National Women's Day Tote Bags



Giving Grammas with an Easter donation for our clients - Thank you Margie & Deb!



Client Christine & her child with their Giving Gramma Easter treats



Creativity Cafe: "Stained Glass" tissue paper art activity for Ramadan





Clients & staff participants "pictured" with frames they made in a hands on workshop

Education Partner Updates

MF MCHUGH EDUCATION CENTRE & ST.NICHOLAS

In February, students attended "**Skilled Trade and Technology Days for Young Women**" at Algonquin college; an opportunity for students to explore career pathways and build their networks through educational activities.



Students Shahed (left) & Rawan (centre) present on Ramadan with iSisters mentor Fadwa (right)

In March, students led by mentor Fadwa from iSisters group prepared and delivered a presentation to staff and students at Youville Centre on **Ramadan**, an important religious event for Muslims. Creativity Cafe held in Collective Kitchen focused on making Ramadan decorative lanterns as well as suncatchers. (*pictured below*)



Above: a student using a sawzall as part of an interactive demonstration



This past winter, we got our **Garden Tower** up and running. Directly connecting the start-up, maintenance, and harvesting of the garden tower to various curricula is an effective engagement strategy for students. By pulling in cross-curricular connections, we can reach a number of students and build some excitement around this venture. Working on horticultural activities provides an opportunity to build self-esteem, gain a sense of purpose, take responsibility, nurture and care for something.

Three of our students are currently taking part in the **dual credit program at Algonquin College**. Students take a course at Algonquin college and earn both a college credit and a high school credit for their work. This year students have selected some exciting areas of study; taking courses in photography, digital marketing, and criminology.



Thanks for the support Youville Centre Community!



Ottawa-Vanier MPP Lucille Collard (second to left) visited the Centre in April; pictured here with Youville's E.D. Pete (left), Karen (second to right) and Board V.P. Andre (right)



Ward 12 Rideau-Vanier Councillor Stéphanie Plante (left) pictured with a Daffodil Baby and Child Development Program R.E.C.E. Elisa, while on a tour through the Centre



Knights of Columbus Council 10470 members Michael (second to left) & Fred (far right) were onsite for a tour and cheque presentation for a recent donation to the Centre

Upcoming fundraiser event:

Knights of Columbus Annual Charity GOLF TOURNAMENT
May 23rd 2023
Loch March Golf Course
1755 Old Carp Road

Register your team now!
Don't have a foursome?
Register early and we will enter you on a team!

In Support Of:
• Shepherds of Good Hope
• the Youville Centre
• the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
• the Kanata Food Cupboard

Visit our website here for more details and the link to register:
<https://www.youvillecentre.org/ways-to-give/fundraising-for-youville-centre/>

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 9544!



This Mother's Day, help us make an impact on two generations; young mothers and their children



"I can't even begin to tell you how proud I am of my mom..."

My mom Amy wouldn't be the person she is today without the support of Youville and without people like you. You see, my mom attended Youville back in 2005 when I was just five months old and she graduated from Youville when I was 18 months old.

Today, I'm 18 years old and I can tell you wholeheartedly that Youville Centre changed our lives.

We're telling our story today, in honour of Mother's Day, because I want you to see firsthand the real and meaningful difference that your generosity is having on the lives of young moms and their babies when you support Youville."

Christopher, a Second Generation Client



*Class of 2007:
Amy & her son Christopher*

Visit our website now to read about Christopher's appreciation for his mom's determination to succeed!
<https://www.youvillecentre.org/ways-to-give-help-us-grow/>



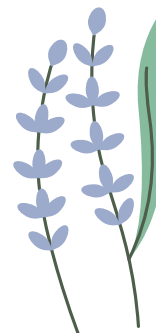
Youville Centre

**150 MANN AVE,
OTTAWA ON K1N 8P4**

www.youvillecentre.org

613.231.5150

communications@youvillecentre.org



If you wish to update your contact information, or be removed from our mailing list, simply contact us at: communications@youvillecentre.org.