



YOUVILLE CENTRE

Spring 2024 Updates

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Executive Director Message **PETER EMBLETON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Spring has arrived and we are looking forward to the warmer weather and the sense of renewal and energy that comes with it. Since we updated you in the late fall, there have been so many great moments experienced in the Centre. The generosity of our local community this past holiday season ensured our clients were able to make magical memories and provide gifts/food for their young families, and the fact that the Roof & HVAC project officially reached it's final completion, are just a few to mention. You will find more department updates shared in this issue of our newsletter.

We recently acknowledged National Volunteer Week in April, and as this year's theme of "Every Moment Matters" states – we are grateful for the helping hands who support our work; our volunteer Board of Directors, Child Development Program and SWAP volunteers. Your time is an invaluable resource to us as we work to ensure young mothers and their children receive the support they need on a daily basis. We also appreciate all our community partners who collaborate on many projects and initiatives, and we are hopeful this spring is a time of growth, connection, and joy for everyone involved in the Centre.

As we look ahead to the coming months, we will be celebrating Mother's Day in May, planning our special graduation ceremony for June, and summer school for July. Stay tuned for updates on our upcoming activities and ways to support the Centre; be sure to read Christiana's Story of hope being shared for Mother's Day this year. Thank you for believing in the work we do to **inspire, educate** and **nurture** young women and their children to utilize their strengths and achieve their goals.

Thanks to the Ujima Project funding, 40 families were provided with a complete turkey dinner with all of the fixings, along with diapers and wipes during the holidays.

The Ujima Project recently shared the infographics to the left, updating on the project's impact across the Ontario hubs. You can find them on our website as well.

The Ujima Team at Youville Centre has opened the Parenting Room at lunch time for students to work on individual scrapbooks and also offer Mom and Me playtime with our young infants who are not resting.

Read more about Ujima Project on our website here: <https://www.youvillecentre.org/programs-services/family-navigator-and-early-literacy-specialist/>

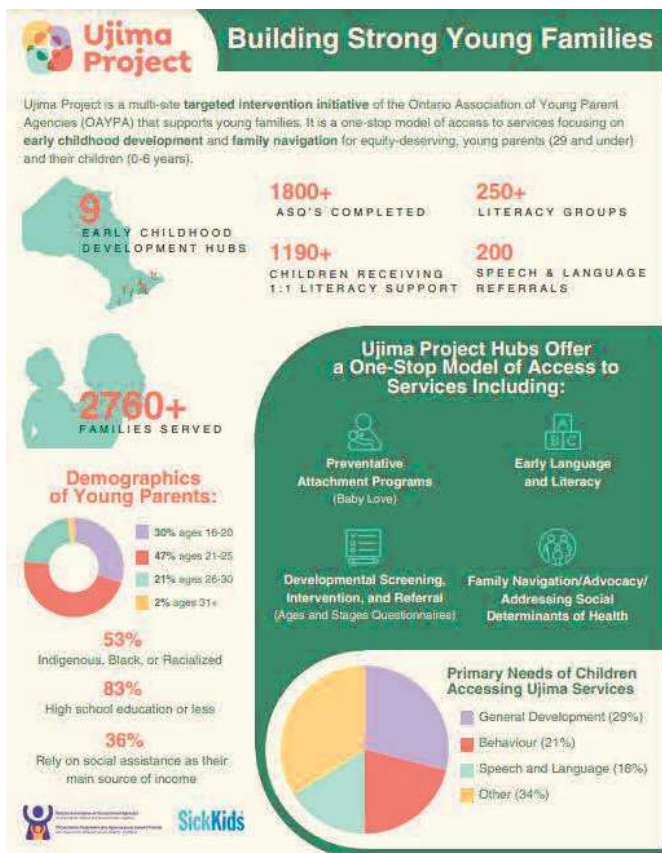
Circle of Security

The Ujima Project and Child Development Program have partnered to facilitate an 8 week Circle of Security-Parenting (COSP) group. The Circle of Security is a visual map of attachment. The Circle of Security Parenting program is based on decades of research about how secure parent-child relationships can be supported and strengthened. The program helps parents to look beneath behaviour to make sense of what children are needing from us. The Circle of Security Parenting program provides a map for supporting children's emotional world.

Circle of Security Classroom Approach

At the same time as the young mothers are learning about attachment in the Circle of Security Parenting group, we have a group of Registered Early Childhood Educators participating in an 8 week Circle of Security Classroom Approach group.

This program helps early care professionals to apply COSP principles into group care settings and gain insight both in ways to help educators use COSP to manage relationship struggles while holding multiple Circles in the classroom, and to organize their understanding about the complexity of relationships in working directly with children while partnering with parents.



December Holidays



The CDP celebrated 2023 with our annual holiday party, with children, families and staff. The children and families engaged in circle time, sensory play, art activities and of course snacks.



Winter Play



The children and educators took advantage of the limited snowy winter weather whenever possible. The mild weather also meant more opportunities for community walks to explore our neighborhood in the winter months.



Child Development Program (CDP) Update

Early Learning in the Classroom



The Educators observe the children's interests, strengths and areas of growth when planning the environment and activities. Thanks to funds available through Children's Inclusion Supports Services the educators were able to purchase additional materials to support the children's learning and development. Infants and toddlers learn through movement and exploration which means providing opportunities for the children to develop their skills and challenge their growing abilities. The balance board, climber, balance beam and stepping stones have been welcome additions to the environment.



Volunteers in CDP

Our CDP Team would not be complete without the help and support of our dedicated volunteers. The young infants benefit from the additional persons to provide that secure base and meet their individual needs. We thank our dedicated volunteers for their help in rocking a young infant so staff can attend to the other program needs, for ensuring that we always have clean laundry and helping read a book to a curious toddler over and over again. We could not do this without your support. Thank you volunteers!

Spring Play & Stroller Walks

The infants and toddlers are excited to feel the warmth of the sun, the softer sand that is great for digging and the new sounds of birds and blowing leaves. Each day the children have the opportunity to learn in their natural environment and receive the additional benefit of the fresh air.



Intensive Treatment Support Program (ITSP) Update



Things have been busy in the Intensive Treatment Support Program (ITSP)! With the support of Famous5 we hosted Lunch and Learn events in January and March, with more in the works before the end of the school year. Thanks to generous donations from The Recollective, we have also been able to host several Shopping Days for our young moms, which are always a big hit! Treatment groups are underway, and a special highlight was a Creativity Cafe field trip to Colour Me Mine in February, where students and staff enjoyed painting pottery together. ITSP also hosted events and activities to celebrate Valentine's Day, Easter, and Eid. As the warmer weather arrives, we are looking ahead and preparing for the end of the school year, with graduation approaching for many!



Above top photo: Clients and Staff pictured with customized sweaters from a International Women's Day Activity made possible by funding from TELUS Friendly Futures Foundation for our Creativity Cafe group

Above bottom photos: Eid Activities this year included henna painting

Photos below, left & middle: Clients pictured with spring treats from Youville Angel Brenda Thomas & friends

Photo below right; clients opening a holiday gift box from the Giving Grammas; Youville Angels Margie & Deb





Black History Month Wall Hanging

In the classrooms there's a lot going on as well!

Cooking has become a popular activity in our classes, with students enjoying the opportunity to learn new culinary skills. We incorporate cooking whenever possible, providing a fun and interactive way to engage with course material and develop practical life skills.

Students have been getting their hands dirty growing various herbs and flowers using the grow tower. This hands-on experience not only teaches valuable gardening skills but also provides a sense of accomplishment as they watch their plants thrive. The best part? They grew cucumbers and then made pickles, which were devoured quickly – proving learning can be both fun and delicious!

Education Partner Updates

MF MCHUGH EDUCATION CENTRE & ST.NICHOLAS

Co-op, Dual Credit Courses & Work Programs

We have a few students who have been participating in co-op/experiential learning programs this term, gaining valuable real-world experience in construction and the Trades. These placements provide students with the opportunity to apply their classroom learning in practical settings, helping them 'test drive' possible future careers and gain valuable skills for future careers.

Interest in our Dual Credit courses, especially in Early Childhood Education (ECE) courses, continues to grow. This program is invaluable, allowing students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously, providing them with a head start on their post-secondary education and career pathways.

There are a few work preparation programs offered around the city that many of our students are actively participating in. These programs offer valuable training and certifications, as well as job preparation sessions to help students develop professional skills that will benefit them in their future endeavors.



Teachers and students painting pottery on a February ITSP field trip

We are making History fun again! Initially met with reluctance, the subject has become a favorite among our students. They have been captivated by WWI videos and the discussions these spur. It's inspiring to witness our students' newfound passion for the past.

In our English class, "Long Way Down" by Jason Reynolds has caused a stir among our students. Written in verse, this quick read has been particularly popular among our busy, young moms, as it can be enjoyed in just a couple of sittings. The book's popularity has sparked a waiting list for the two copies we have, and we have to keep reminding students not to ruin the ending for those waiting to read it!



Thanks for the support Youville Centre Community!



Farm Credit Canada (FCC) Staff
Cheque Presentation with Tigerlillies



Thank you to everyone who donated
and/or participated bidding on items!




We were Christmas Cheer Breakfast
recipients in December 2023

Save the Date: Upcoming Third Party Fundraiser Event: Golfers Wanted!



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

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 9544!

This Mother's Day 2024  Help us make an impact on two generations;
young mothers and their children


“I'm sharing my story today to hopefully inspire other young moms in our community who are searching for a brighter future for themselves and their children.

I remember attending my Youville Centre graduation ceremony in June 2007, listening to an alumna speak. I thought: *that could be me someday.*

Fast forward to June 2023, and I watched Malaki receive his second-generation bursary to attend university. In that moment, I realized: *we made it.*

Sixteen years ago, we listened to a woman tell her story of triumph, and now I'm that woman.”

Please read Christiana's Story and consider a donation in honour of Mother's Day



On our website... Ways to Give - Mother's Day

Visit our website now to read about **Christiana's Story** & for our
2024 Mother's Day Giving Campaign details

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