



YOUVILLE CENTRE

Fall 2024 Updates

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YOUVILLE CENTRE 2024 HOLIDAY WAYS TO GIVE

Crystal's Story



I wholeheartedly believe that Youville and compassionate donors like you saved my life. You helped me see the light at the end of the tunnel and reassured me that a bright future awaited both me and my children. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Executive Director Message

PETER EMBLETON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The colours of the leaves are changing and the temperatures are getting colder and we are looking forward to the upcoming holiday season. Looking back on the last few months, we have many successes to be proud of. I want to thank the people who work and volunteer at the Centre for their efforts. By working together, you have shown that a small group of people can bring about positive change. Last school year, our education partners awarded 219 credits and in June, we celebrated the accomplishments of the 15 graduates of the Class of 2024. After July's Summer School session, and the centre closure in early August, it was time to plan for a new school year. This year we continue to focus on education, as research consistently shows that educational achievement is strongly associated with lifelong socio-economic and health outcomes.

Education has the power to change the lives of young students; by investing in their high school education, we are impacting future generations. I invite you to read about Crystal, in this year's Holiday Ways to Give client story, and hear first-hand how important the vital programs and services all in one place, are for her young family.

Youville Centre continues to collaborate with the City of Ottawa and the Province of Ontario to implement a national childcare system (CWELCC) to support quality, accessibility, affordability and inclusivity in licensed child care. The year of 2025 will see a new funding model implemented, designed to be responsive to the needs of operators and workforce, alongside a continued reduction in parent fees. Our Child Development Team is grateful for an upcoming opportunity of enhanced professional development funding, through the Ministry of Education and City of Ottawa, which will result in a formal professional development day for all staff to learn more about the parent-child attachment dyad and building the capacity and resiliency of educators.

Youville Centre is grateful for the ongoing amazing support we have been shown by our donor community, our community partners, education partners and our Ministry partners. Together, you are helping us support a vulnerable population and their children. I hope you enjoy reading the updates in this newsletter.

The Ujima Team offered Mom and Me playgroups and drop in activities throughout the summer and continued to support families both within our centre and the community.

In the Fall, we welcomed Mandy Metcalfe, one of our current Lead Registered Early Childhood Educators as our newest Family Navigator.

This Fall, our Ujima Team is facilitating Make The Connection program, drop in activities for parents centred around current parent concerns and connecting families with the resources available within the community.

The Ujima staff supports parents and educators in completing early identification and screening through completion of the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ). These screenings help identify children who may be at risk of developmental concerns and promote quicker referrals to external supports.

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

Kitchen Update

Our kitchen crew was very excited to welcome back our students this Fall. Our students and children have been enjoying some of their favorites such as Val's famous mac and cheese and hearty soups. Photo on right of kitchen team - Evan (left) and Cook Val (right)



Child Development Program (CDP) Updates

The Child Development Team continues to work collaboratively with families in supporting children's learning and development. Here is a peek into what is happening in our programs this Fall.

Thank You Volunteers!



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!

Daffodil Room



This is our youngest infant program with a current population of 10 infants between the ages of 2 - 6 months of age. The educators' focus is on meeting these very young infants' needs by learning and responding to their cues. This is essential for their overall development, health, and well-being. In infancy, the brain and body develop rapidly, and the experiences, care, and responses they receive play a vital role in shaping their cognitive, emotional, and social growth. We are very thankful to our dedicated volunteers in this program to help meet the unique needs of this population. It is a special room filled with lots of cuddles, sounds of coos and babbles and first smiles.



Sunflower Room



This current group of infants is a very social, friendly bunch of 7-14 month olds. They are beginning to show an interest in simple role play.

At any given time throughout the day, you can find our Sunflowers chatting away on their “phones” or putting their “babies” to sleep. The Sunflowers can literally “chat” all day long. The sounds in the room are filled with large belly laughs and their current favorite song, “The Wheels on The Bus”. Dramatic play, while more prominent in older toddlers and preschoolers, actually begins to take root in infancy and contributes to critical areas of development.



Tiger Lily Room



This active group of 7-15 month olds is interested in anything involving movement. For infants and young children, developing gross motor skills is crucial as these movements support overall physical growth, independence, and cognitive development. Our Tiger Lillies have been loving the beautiful Fall weather to practice standing, pulling up and showcase those first few steps.



Daisy Room



The Daisy Room is a group of 15-18 months old infants who are learning to transition into Toddlerhood. The Daisies are practicing movement, climbing and learning new songs and finger plays. Bubbles are a favourite activity, along with playing in the natural outdoor environment. The Daisies are learning to follow new routines & transitions to help prepare them for the next early learning environment. This helps provide a sense of security and predictability for the children which allows them to expand their exploration and learning.



Snapdragon Room

Our Snapdragon Toddlers are all about exploring the outdoors, large gross motor play and learning about each other's feelings and emotions. Since their emotional regulation skills are still developing, toddlers experience a wide range of emotions. These “big emotions” are all a natural part of their development. The educators in the program support the toddlers' learning by modeling language, communication, and comfort to help these young children cope with all of these feelings.



Lilac Room



Our Lilac Toddlers have had a recent fascination with finding bugs and snails in the yard. The educators expanded the children's interest by creating a snail habitat. This project provided our naturally, curious toddlers with an opportunity to investigate, observe and explore. The Lilac group is also learning about self regulation every day and how to manage our big feelings. This group loves any opportunity to display their very adept gross motor skills which includes climbing, dancing and tumbling.



On October 24th we celebrated Early Childhood Educator and Child Care Worker Appreciation Day. The students designed a special appreciation card for the educators along with yummy cookies, while our community families contributed messages of gratitude to a lobby display. Our Child Development Team felt all the love with a yummy lunch, homemade tote bags and hot chocolate and cake shared with our families. A group of educators created a team-building opportunity to extend the use of their tote bags in an after hours group painting activity.

ECE Appreciation



Intensive Treatment Support Program (ITSP) Updates



Youville Centre was grateful to be a recipient of funds for the **2024 Canada Summer Jobs program**. Students Hafsa, Arielle & Sabrina are pictured with Youville staff attending the celebration barbeque held by Mona Fortier at the end of the program.

Youville Centre's ITSP team is thankful for continued partnerships with Algonquin College & Carleton University to welcome new placement students into the social work sector; for students currently completing their Social Service Worker diploma through Algonquin College and those completing their Bachelor of Social Work degree with Carleton University.



Breakfast Club - Thanks to a recent grant provided by the Ottawa Food Bank, the ITSP is facilitating a group during the existing (ONFE Funded) Breakfast Program to include discussions on nutrition, recipes, child development, self care and increasing access to food security resources. Students are pictured above on a related activity.



Students collaborated on the planning, decorating and preparation of this year's Thanksgiving lunch. The day of the luncheon was filled with a sense of community and belonging as staff, students and children gathered for a meal prepared collectively. It was day filled with full tummies and hearts.

Thanksgiving 2024 - Students collaborated on the planning, decorating and preparation of this year's Thanksgiving lunch. The day of the luncheon was filled with a sense of community and belonging as staff, students and children gathered for a meal prepared collectively. It was day filled with full tummies and hearts.



Graduation Updates

This year we celebrated and honored 15 graduates at our ceremony in June. This day is filled with many emotions as we get to witness the culmination of the incredible journey of our students and their young families. Read more about our 2024 Graduation on our website blog.

We are very excited to have recently celebrated next year's first Class of 2025 graduate with the traditional



"ringing of the bell" ceremony. Graduate Amber is pictured above with McHugh Lead Teacher Kaethe.

Summer School 2024



This summer, students had an option of earning an Art or Leadership credit. Our Leadership class wrapped up the summer with a field trip to an Escape Room where they collaborated on an escape using their collective skills, in record time. Our Art Class ventured to the National Art Gallery to explore the various mediums, works of art and local artists.

Education Partner Updates

MF MCHUGH EDUCATION CENTRE & ST.NICHOLAS

This September, Youville Centre staff eagerly welcomed new and returning students and children. We were fortunate to be able to provide school backpacks, through Caring and Sharing, for eligible families to help with school readiness.

Fall Events & Activities



Youville Centre staff and students acknowledged the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** through a day of learning and reflection.



Lunch and Learn - In thanks to Famous5 Ottawa, Youville Centre welcomed two students from the University of Ottawa Community Legal Clinic and introduced students to the resources and available legal services that a community clinic can support with. We look forward to welcoming Crossroads Children Mental Health Centre to provide an overview on programs and services to support children and families along with an introduction of their partnership with Youville Centre at our next lunch event coming up this fall.



Halloween - The staff, students, children and families came together to display their spooky spirit in a family party, filled with child centred activities. Throughout the week, students engaged in activities planned in collaboration with the case coordinators. The Teaching team is pictured.

Winnie continues to visit Youville's students; Winnie is pictured to the right hanging out with a student working on completing a chemistry test.



Thanks for the support Youville Centre Community!



Program Manager, Diana, and Case Coordinator, Liz, meet with prospective Carleton University students to share information regarding our supports & services and connect with other service providers.



Case Coordinator Cori and field placement students, Kayla & Alyssa visit the WOW festival to learn about supports for physical, mental health and substance use in our community.



Youville Angel Gavin pictured with Youville staff dropping off a donation of items from his Boom! Savings! Charity Shopping Club. These adorable towels were distributed at Thanksgiving to our families.

On our website...

2024 Holidays Ways to Give

Visit our website now to read about ***Crystal's Story*** & for our 2024 Holiday Ways to Give Campaign details

2023-2024 Annual Report



Youville Centre's Annual General Meeting was held virtually on Sept. 24th. Please find our **2023-2024 Annual Report** on our website: <https://www.youvillecentre.org/about-us/annual-report-and-funding-model/> or email info@youvillecentre.org to request a print copy.

YOUVILLE CENTRE 2024 HOLIDAY WAYS TO GIVE



Provide a financial contribution to support our innovative programs and services. Visit our website at <https://www.youvillecentre.org/ways-to-give/holiday-giving/> or scan QR code below to visit our secure Canada Helps page



You can donate a gift card to empower a young mom to purchase gifts and necessities for herself and her child. **See Client Wishlist for ideas



You can provide special new unwrapped gifts, for our young mothers and/or their children (aged 0-3) **See Client Wishlist on our website for ideas



Ask us how we can set up an online fundraising page on your behalf that you can share with your family, friends & coworkers

Drop offs can be scheduled (150 Mann Ave) by visiting our scheduling link at <https://forms.gle/YLZghmBYqeg6pe6J7> or by emailing info@youvillecentre.org. Our last day to receive donations is December 12th, so we can set up for our young moms to "shop" for the holidays!

SCAN ME



DONATE 

Thank you!

Your contribution will impact two generations, creating positive change in our community!

Youville Centre

150 MANN AVE,
OTTAWA ON K1N 8P4
www.youvillecentre.org
613.231.5150
communications@youvillecentre.org



All are
Welcome

👋👋👋 here!



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