Youville Centre News

Fall-Winter 2014

Ontario Trillium Foundation Provides Funding to Youville Centre and St. Mary's Home for Mental Health Accreditation

On September 30, 2014, Youville Centre and St. Mary's Home announced that together, we received an important $300,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to support our collaborative journey towards becoming accredited mental health agencies. We hosted the announcement at United Way Ottawa headquarters, and the good news was shared publicly by Ms. Therese Goneau, Executive Assistant to Madeleine Meilleur, MPP for Ottawa-Vanier. OTF representative Sherrell Franklin also spoke of the impact of this grant to guests who were in attendance, including: Youville Centre staff and board members, St. Mary's Home staff and board members, as well as donors, supporters, community partners and volunteers for both agencies. A special presentation about infant mental health promotion was co-presented by Clarissa Arthur, Child Development Program Coordinator at Youville Centre and Carolyne Normand, Parenting Counsellor at St. Mary's Home. Mme. Meilleur was proud to announce the province's support of this collaborative initiative: "Ontario is committed to improving mental health services for children and youth. The Trillium funds announced today, will help to strengthen our community-based system for delivering these services, they will bring people and organizations closer together locally, and in so doing, will benefit children, youth and families." Executive Director of St. Mary's Home, Nancy B. MacNider expressed her gratitude for the funding: "St. Mary's Home is thrilled to have this new opportunity to enhance our organizational strengths while partnering with the Youville Centre. As we reach towards excellence in a process that shares economies of scale, we are building on decades of collaboration on behalf of pregnant and parenting youth and their children. This announcement means we all win!" Executive Director of Youville Centre, Cindy Simpson, shared in her colleague's enthusiasm for this important collaborative grant; "Youville Centre and St. Mary's home have enjoyed a community partnership for over two decades. We are thrilled to be afforded the opportunity to journey together to accomplish accreditation, as we continue to strive for excellence in the delivery of services for our pregnant and parenting youth and their children. We are extremely grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation in recognizing the essential services provided by our agencies, to our community, and our desire for continuous improvement in our work." Here at Youville Centre we are very excited to be embarking upon this important journey with one of our most cherished partners, St. Mary's Home. We will share with you the progress of our journey toward accreditation over the next four years.

(L to R) Therese Goneau, Cindy Simpson, Megan Wallace, President, Youville Centre Board of Directors, Sherrell Franklin, Nancy MacNider, and Shauna Graham, President, St. Mary's Home Board of Directors

Upcoming Events

Sparkle Dental Charity Ball

in support of Youville Centre, The Ottawa Food Bank, and The Canadian Cancer Society

(a black tie affair organized by Youville Centre supporters)

Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

The Grand Hall and River View Salon at the Museum of History, 100 Rue Laurier, Gatineau, QC

Visit www.dentalcharityball.ca for tickets

Founder of Pader Girls' Academy in Uganda Visits Youville Centre

On Wednesday, November 5, 2014, Youville Centre and our education partner M.F. McHugh Education Centre welcomed a very special guest: Ms. Alice Achan, Founder and Director of the Pader Girls Academy in Uganda, Africa. During the 2013-2014 year, M.F. McHugh student council at Youville Centre decided to reach out to the Pader Girls' Academy in Uganda, a program for young women who were victims of the Lord's Resistance Army, and their children. Students saw the natural link between the reasons they attend Youville Centre and the mothers attending the Pader Girls' Academy. Through this M.F. McHugh initiative, students began by raising money through small, on-site bake sales and then realized that they could reach more people if they shared the story of Pader Girls' Academy with Ottawa area high schools and businesses. The student council shared their message with different groups, and in response to their efforts, other local high schools and some local businesses helped them to raise over $7,000 to be sent to Uganda. In addition to the funds raised by the M.F. McHugh student council, awareness was raised throughout Ottawa about the challenges young moms face locally and globally, as demonstrated by young moms attending Youville Centre and Pader Girls' Academy. Students at Youville enjoyed a cultural exchange with the Pader moms, sharing Skype calls and videos, letters and cards to share their stories to create a connection across the miles. After all of this, we were overjoyed to hear that Alice Achan was going to be visiting Ottawa, and making a stop at Youville Centre along the way. Since Alice was already in North America speaking at a human rights event, she decided she wanted to make the journey to Ottawa, and due to the generosity of Mr. Allan Rock and the University of Ottawa, this visit was made possible. During Alice's visit, Youville and M.F. McHugh staff enjoyed sharing our young moms' stories with her, as well as giving her a tour of the centre, before welcoming her into Kinsella Hall for a special presentation. Local high schools who participated in M.F. McHugh's fundraising initiative were in attendance, and they joined together with Youville staff, current students, former students, and teachers from M.F. McHugh Education Centre to give Alice a warm welcome and present her with a cheque from M.F. McHugh. Student council members past and present gave Alice a special gift, and asked her to share a few words. Alice spoke eloquently and passionately about the struggles young mothers and young women face, not just in her home country of Uganda, but also here in our own city and country. She encouraged us all to "be the change" and "be united in one voice to end violence against girls and women". It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to connect with such an inspiring woman as Alice. Special thanks to former Youville Centre teachers Barb McInnes (McHugh Teacher at Crossroads) and Dee Barnabe (now at Earl of March) for all their hard work in helping to organize this special event.

M.F. McHugh at Youville Centre student council members past and present, some of whom are pictured here, were honoured to meet and share smiles and stories with Alice.

Alice Achan (centre) is seen here in Youville Centre's parenting room with (L to R): Jonathan Crosier, Principal, M.F. McHugh Education Centre; Barb McInnes, Supervisor, M.F. McHugh at Crossroads Children's Centre; Cindy Simpson, Executive Director, Youville Centre; Clarissa Arthur, Child Development Program Coordinator, Youville Centre; and Dee Barnabe, Teacher, Earl of March Secondary School.

We Couldn't Have Done it Without YOU

The generous support of our community makes a variety of programs and services possible at Youville Centre. Thank you to the following individuals, third party events, and organizations for making a significant contribution to our work with two generations:

The Ontario Trillium Foundation
TELUS
The Bytown Travel Golf Classic
Shepherd's Fashions
Donations in Memory of Bob Couchman
The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada
The Knights of Columbus Divine Infant Council Golf Tournament
Congregation of Notre Dame Visitation Province
Allan Searle
Jo-Ann Assalin
Andrew Avery
Carol Gusen
Carol and Mike Lundy
Dennis Jackson
Alfred Daniel
Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Fatima Council
TELUS Community Ambassadors
Rod MacDonald

Youville Centre Pilot Mentorship Program Update

The Youville Centre Pilot Mentorship Program is well underway. We successfully matched ten mentors with ten of Youville Centre's young mothers, held a training and orientation day for mentors, and they have begun meeting monthly for lunch. We have resumed group Lunch & Learn events for all of Youville's young mothers where other interested women from the commmunity can give back to this program through presentations and hands-on workshops.

Please contact us at **communications@youvillecentre.org** if you are interested in lending your expertise to this program.

Special Models Grace the Runway at Shepherd's Fashion FUNRaiser in Support of Youville Centre

On Tuesday, October 21, 2014, Shepherd's Fashions hosted a Fashion FUNRaiser in support of Youville Centre at their Train Yards store. A more intimate version of the Ooh 'n Ahh Fashion Show and Gala, this Fashion FUNRaiser gathered over 150 guests to enjoy an evening of fashion, food and fundraising in support of Youville Centre's young mothers and their children. A new addition to the event this year was the invitation to a special group of women who have made an impact on Youville Centre to model in the fashion show. It was difficult to narrow down our list as we have received support from so many wonderful women, but we settled on a small group of Youville Centre staff members, board members, volunteers, and donors to be a part of this event. Please see our special fashion show insert for a list of the models. Raising just over $25,000; this event combined a fashion show, 50/50 draw, door prizes, and silent and live auctions. Sam Poole, General Manager and Lead Stylist at Shepherd's, put on a fabulous fashion show, highlighting our special models in a wide range of clothing styles for all ages, shapes, sizes, and occasions. Hair and makeup services were generously provided by The Loft/Le Spa. Models were escorted onto the runway by longtime Youville Centre supporter, Dennis Jackson. The evening wrapped up with a chance to shop in the Shepherd's store, with 10% of the sales to be donated to Youville Centre. The Live Auction was expertly hosted by Lawrence Greenspon, and the evening was hosted by a loyal friend to Youville Centre and a wonderful Emcee, the incomparable Leanne Cusack. Youville Centre would like to thank each and every guest who attended this amazing event, and to all who contributed to make it a success! Please take a look at the special insert in this newsletter that recognizes the generous sponsors who generously donated their time, goods and services to this event.

(L to R) Leanne Cusack, Clarissa Arthur, Cindy Simpson, Megan Wallace, Jenny Strange

To Donate:

Yes, I/We wish to support The Youville Centre, an innovative centre that motivates, educates and nurtures young mothers and their children.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

I/We wish to contribute $ _____

per month, commencing _____ .

I/We wish to contribute $ _____

at this time.

Payment to be made by:

____Cheque ____Visa ____MC ____Amex

Card# _____

Expiry (mm/yy) _____

Signature _____

We also accept donations online at www.youvillecentre.org

Christmas at Youville Centre Can Last All Year Long

At Youville Centre, we are amazed at the generosity of our donors, who give in a variety of ways, especially during the holiday season. This year we would like to suggest a way that our students can continue to experience your Christmas generosity throughout the year. The "gift" of a gift card to stores like Loblaws, Metro, Shoppers Drug Mart and Wal-Mart will help our young moms and their children immeasurably, as urgent needs arise throughout the year. For example:

- **When they need food, milk, diapers, or formula. We do receive support from the Ottawa Food Bank, however there are times when our young moms require extra support with respect to food and necessities for their babies.**
- **When they need to set up a new apartment after fleeing an unsafe home environment.**
- **When they or their children have unexpected health concerns and they need to purchase items such as Children's Tylenol or other over the counter medications.**

Please consider helping Youville's moms and babies in a way that can deliver Christmas cheer over many months. Gift cards can be mailed directly to Youville Centre at 150 Mann Avenue, Ottawa ON K1N 8P4.

Youville Centre

150 Mann Avenue
Ottawa ON K1N 8P4

Tel/Fax (613) 231–5150

info@youvillecentre.org

www.youvillecentre.org

Charitable Registration #11884 8456 RR0001

Hours: Monday – Friday
8:30am – 4:30pm

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