Youville Centre *News*

Spring 2014

A Special Visit to Rideau Hall

Pictured here with Her Excellency, Mrs. Sharon Johnston, Youville Centre's young moms thoroughly enjoyed their special visit to Rideau Hall.

Thursday, February 20th, 2014 was a day that Youville Centre's young moms will never forget. On this special day, our young mothers had the amazing opportunity to visit Rideau Hall, the official residence and workplace of the Governor General of Canada, to spend time with His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, and his wife, Her Excellency Mrs. Sharon Johnston.

The impetus for this trip came in December when Their Excellencies visited Youville Centre on International Volunteer Day. Our students enjoyed interacting with our special guests as they helped to bake cookies for the Christmas Luncheon. It came up in conversation that Her Excellency had a delicious cinnamon bun recipe, and one of our students innocently suggested that she share the recipe with Youville's young mothers.

Her Excellency did much more than just share her recipe; she invited Youville Centre students and staff to visit Rideau Hall to bake cinnamon buns with her in the professional kitchen! A visit was arranged and we boarded the bus (which was generously donated by OC Transpo) to Rideau Hall. As we drove through the gates it was not lost on our students that this was a special place, and that they had been given a unique opportunity.

Instructed by Pastry Chef Irene Katerberg and Her Excellency, the students enjoyed rolling the dough and learning how to bake the famous cinnamon buns in Rideau Hall's professional kitchen. It was a very special moment in time for our moms, and I heard one of them say, "I'll never forget this!" as she rolled up the cinnamon rolls alongside Her Excellency. While the cinnamon buns were baking, our students enjoyed touring Rideau Hall, admiring the Aboriginal artwork, and learning about the portraits of each Governor General of Canada.

After the tour, while our students were enjoying the freshly baked cinnamon buns and hot cups of tea, we were informed that the Governor General wished to meet with us in his study! Everyone felt honoured to be invited in, and once inside the office, our young moms immediately noticed Their Excellencies' grandchildren's artwork on the walls. We enjoyed visiting with Their Excellencies and hearing wonderful stories from them about volunteering, giving back to their community, and ways they demonstrate their "Giving Moments" in life. (www.mygivingmoment.ca) Our utmost gratitude goes out to everyone at Rideau Hall who made this visit special, particularly Their Excellencies.

Youville Centre Graduation

Friday, June 20, 2014 at Kinsella Hall, Youville Centre

A family man and philanthropist, Steven Martel brought his family with him when he visited Youville Centre (far right). The Martel family is seen here with Executive Director Cindy Simpson (far left) and some of Youville Centre's young mothers and their children.

Local Entrepreneur Steven Martel Invests in Youville Centre

At Youville Centre, we believe that every donation counts and that one person's generosity truly can make a difference in the lives of our young mothers and their children. One such person who has recently made quite a significant contribution to Youville Centre's young moms and babies is Mr. Steven Martel, President and Founder of Martel Group of Companies, and founder of his own charitable foundation, Martel Alliance. A husband, father of three, real estate entrepreneur and philanthropist, Steven visited Youville Centre last June and was moved by our efforts and results. With a belief that mental health is a crucial aspect of a well rounded life, Mr. Martel made the decision to donate $34,000 to Youville Centre to support mental health services and programs for our young moms. "A positive mental attitude is the highest form of success anyone can achieve. It is the greatest gift of all", said Mr. Martel, who visited with his family to meet our students and see first hand the programs that he is supporting. "When I heard the news of Mr. Martel's overwhelming gift to our young moms and children, it confirmed my belief that angels do exist in our Ottawa community", said Executive Director Cindy Simpson. "With this philanthropic gesture, Martel Alliance is helping to provide our young mothers with the building blocks they need to create a brighter future for themselves and their children."

United Way Ottawa Targeted Investment Helps Youville Centre Realize a Dream

In December, 2013, with the help of United Way Ottawa, Youville Centre was able to realize a long held dream of building a toy and book lending library. United Way Ottawa was first made aware of this dream through their support of our Me, My Baby, Our World parenting program, and they connected us with local United Way donor Mr. Jean LaChance, General Manager of Walton Development and Management, who was seeking to make an investment in his community. After visiting the centre, Mr. LaChance generously provided a $20,000 donation to help make the lending library a reality.

Youville Centre's toy and book lending library allows clients to borrow high quality, educational toys and books so that they may continue their child's learning and development at home. Our young mothers work closely with our Early Childhood Educators to identify the domains in which their children require further learning in order to meet their developmental milestones. For example, a puzzle would be a good choice for a child who needs help developing his or her fine motor skills and spatial awareness. We proudly hosted an official ribbon-cutting event to unveil the lending library, welcoming several guests from United Way Ottawa, including Ottawa Chief of Police Charles Bordeleau, and Mr. LaChance himself.

It was a joyous occasion to cut the ribbon on Youville Centre's Toy and Book Lending Library. Pictured here at the unveiling are (L to R): Executive Director Cindy Simpson, Bay Ward City Councillor Mark Taylor, Mr. Jean LaChance, General Manager, Walton Developments, Youville Centre mom Kim and her son Liam, and Ottawa Chief of Police and United Way Focus Area Champion, Charles Bordeleau.

Mother's Day at Youville Centre

Our annual Mother's Day Campaign is in its third year! We are so grateful to you for helping us raise $7000 last year and this year you can help us reach our new goal of $10,000! All of the proceeds go directly to Youville Centre's programs and services.

Simply visit www.youvillecentre.org to give online, or fill out our Mother's Day postcard which can be mailed back to us. Please share with us your mother's name so we can add it to our wall of tulips yet again as a show of support.

Child Development Program Receives Suzanne Pinel Book Award

Recently our Child Development Program was awarded with a Suzanne Pinel Book Award in the amount of $750.00 to purchase children's books at Kaleidoscope Books. Facilitated by the Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy, and sponsored by TD Canada Trust, the Suzanne Pinel book awards are given to agencies who serve at-risk children and families who wish to promote early literacy and family bonding through reading. With our award, we were able to purchase 86 books in total, including one for each of the 55 children we serve in our childcare, 30 books to be used by staff and volunteers with the children in our programming on-site, and one book and CD combo which was put in a draw for one of our young moms to take home for her child. This award helps us immensely to promote literacy, improve language development, and strengthen bonding and attachment between mother and child. It is so crucial that our children learn the importance of reading from a very early age, which will assist them as they move through their developmental milestones.

Did you know that...?

Youville Centre's name was added to the Scotiabank Wall of Inspiration at City Hall. This honour recognizes Youville Centre for our work as community builders in Ottawa, and was bestowed upon us by United Way Ottawa when we received the Community Builder Award last May.

Students Thank Volunteers, Donors and Partners with a Media Festival Event

To show appreciation to volunteers, donors and community partners, our students organized a very special Media Festival event on Monday, January 20, 2014.

The first of its kind in Youville history, this event allowed students to display their artwork, scrapbooks, mixed media pieces and digital films produced from the United Way Ottawa-funded Me, My Baby, Our World (MMBOW) parenting course and the EMBRACE Your Future course (EMBRACE = Empower, Motivate, Build Resiliency, Role Model, Advocate, Communicate, Educate), which is funded by TELUS. Both courses are Ministry accredited, helping our students move closer to graduation as they learn important life skills.

One of our students, Felicia, expressed how much the EMBRACE Your Future course has helped her: "This EMBRACE Your Future class has been amazing for me. It has taught me to always value myself and that negative self-talk can be hurtful. This class has made me feel more confident that if I just put my mind to something it can be accomplished and to always follow my dreams. I feel more confident in being a mother and dealing with everyday struggles."

Guests were invited to tour the hallways and classrooms to look at the scrapbooks and enjoy the videos and artwork. Each student stood beside her work of art, whether it was a video or a scrapbook, so that guests could interact with her and talk about her experiences. This event was planned completely by the students themselves. It was a unique opportunity for our young moms to share their work with those who support them. We would like to thank each and every donor who supports these programs directly, through time, talent, financial and in-kind contributions. Special thanks to United Way Ottawa, Walton Developments, TELUS Ottawa Community Board and The Martel Alliance.

Scrapbooks from the Me, My Baby, Our World Parenting program showcased students' artwork and insights learned through increased knowledge and attachment with their children.

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

Youville Centre

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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.

Making Christmas Magical for Our Young Families

We would like to thank everyone who helped to make Christmas special for our Moms and their children. We are extremely grateful for the generosity that was shown in the form of financial donations, Christmas gifts, toys, hygiene products, bus tickets, gift cards, winter clothing, food, handmade items and diapers. We would like to acknowledge the following individuals, groups and organizations who made significant financial contributions, supported our Christmas Luncheon, and those who gave generously to the food bank program and Christmas hampers for our moms and their children:

Sarah Sawyer
Andre St. Jacques
TELUS
The Stairwell Carollers
The Christmas Cheer Foundation
Congregation de Notre Dame Visitation Province
Peter Harris
Jessica Aldred
The Taggart Parkes Foundation
Cathy and Paris Vachon
Sylvie Legros
Laura Muldoon
Dorothy Burke
William J. Sammon
Brian McCauley
Lundy Construction Ltd.
Allan Searle
Bruce Robin
Larry and Gail Ashley
GMSPC – Chartered Accountants
Alfred Daniel
Janette Mark
Knights of Columbus – Canon John Burke Council # 6217
Rose Yan
The Sisters of Holy Cross
Diana Pepall
Delbert Scott
Algonquin College Police Foundations Program-Staff and Students
The Body Shop Orleans (Alumna Brianne Marvin and her team)
Hildegarde Lalande and friends
Dwayne Brown Studio
City of Ottawa, Lemieux Island Water Purification Plant (Helen and Erin)
Dr. Ian M. Milne Dentistry
St. Paul's Eastern United Church
St. Patrick's Fallowfield Catholic Women's League
The Christmas Cheer Foundation
St. Philip's and St. Clare Parishes, Richmond
TD Bank (MBNA)
The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Canada
Laurie Tucker
Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Women's League
The Inglis and Mahaffy Families
St. Theresa School
TKE Fraternity, Carleton University
World Financial Group
Debby van Zijl
TD Bank Group
Laura Jabbour
Sue Slattery
Nicole Duguay
The Kanata Quilt Guild
A Stitch in Time, Community Bible Church
Laura Desclouds
Helen Scobie
Barbara Nanavatti
Lynn Bue
Jayne O'Neil
Pepsi Canada
Hydro Ottawa
Hair Junkie by Fads
Chantal Rankin and Shneeha Sentl
Julie Sendrowicz
Canada Border Services Agency
R.A. Centre
Zybina Richards and friends (The Pyjama Elf Project)