



Youville Centre Graduation

On Thursday, June 2nd, 2011, Youville Centre celebrated 24 graduates as they marked this momentous occasion in front of family, friends and members of the community. It was only the second time we have had such a large number of graduates at Youville Centre, and for the students and their families, this event was especially significant. Young mothers who graduate from Youville Centre not only achieve academic success, they also take that first step towards a better life for themselves and their children.

"We are enormously proud of the individual and collective achievements of these young mothers who have defied overwhelming odds, persisted in the face of challenges and proven that

they have what it takes to become Ontario Secondary School graduates", said Executive Director, **Judith Sarginson**.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of the generous donors who provided bursaries and to our Emcee for the event, Youville Centre Alumna **Sophie Keats**, who was Valedictorian of the Class of 1992. "Youville Centre literally saved my life", said Keats. "While I was there they helped me finish my education and provided childcare, counselling and positive role models. Their good work has clearly not changed in 20 years".

This year's Valedictorian, **Miranda Eggertson-Cook**, gave all who were in attendance a sense of what this day meant to the graduates: "Before Youville, I was shy and scared and I didn't believe in myself. I have gone from being a victim to being a strong, independent survivor who is graduating today."

Special thanks to all **Bursary Donors**, **Bill Lewis, Versailles Hair Academy, Mulligans Florists, Fairy Godmother**, and **Joan Taillefer of Ottawa Police Services Pipes and Drums** for making this day extra special for our graduates.

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Judith Sarginson, Executive Director

Transitions

On August 31, I shall step down after nine years as Executive Director at the Youville Centre. It has been a privilege to work with dedicated staff and volunteers to improve the lives of young mothers and their children. My respect for these young women has increased as I watched them struggle to achieve their high school diploma and parent at the same time. No easy feat, on their own, and often without the support of family.

Much has changed over the past decade and Youville Centre has been responsive to the ever-changing needs of our clients. We have phased out our Childcare pre-school program and serve only infants and toddlers, 55 children aged 2 months – 2 ½ years. Our high school program includes cooperative education and apprenticeship opportunities. Summer school in July enables our Moms to gain a full credit toward graduation. We are seeing increased numbers of graduates, most of whom go on to pursue post-secondary studies. A partnership with Youth Service Bureau has delivered a Youth Employment Program on-site giving our Moms real linkages to the world of work. Other partnerships have provided nurse practitioner services, mental health and addiction counselling and a possible dental clinic in the future.

Much, however, has not changed and continues to present real challenges for the future. Lack of adequate, sustainable funding necessitates that fund-raising be one of our priorities. We find ourselves needing to compete with other social service agencies for too few dollars in an already depressed economy. The presence of young single mothers and their needs motivates us to soldier on. Each year we provide bursaries to the children of former students as they enter college or university. These bursaries are proof that Youville Centre is committed to life-long learning and that we truly are making a difference with two generations.

Cindy Simpson will take over as Director on September 1. I wish her all the best in her new post. She is fortunate to have a very supportive Board of Directors, cooperative Ministry and School Board personnel, magnificent staff and volunteers to assist her as she advocates for our young families. I look forward to continuing my support of Youville Centre – behind the scenes!

Upcoming Events

Youville Centre AGM

Honouring Sister Betty Ann Kinsella for her Order of Ontario

Tuesday, September 27

5:30 p.m. Refreshments

6:00 p.m. AGM

Kinsella Hall, Youville Centre

Shepherd's Ooh 'n Ahh Fashion Show and Auction

Thursday, October 20

5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Ashbury College

Tickets available now! Go to www.youvillecentre.org or call (613) 231-5150 ext. 128.

Young Parent Employment Program Continues

This September, **Youth Services Bureau** and **Youville Centre** will work together once again in delivering the **Young Parent Employment Program**. What started as a pilot program resulted in success for eight graduates who are now employed, returning to post-secondary education or seeking employment in the coming year.

“Young parents increase their chances of supporting themselves and their families through the Young Parent Employment Program. Many of the participants, mostly young single mothers, were previously receiving social assistance. With a bit of help and training, these young mothers are moving towards finding a meaningful career. The Young Parent Employment Program provided employment training/readiness services and work placement opportunities to twelve young parents within the city of Ottawa. Clients were provided with 3 weeks of pre-employment training followed by 18 weeks of on-the-job work experience followed by one week of wrap up activities including an official graduation ceremony.” (YSB Annual Report 2010-11).

Youville Centre and Youth Services Bureau staff have worked collaboratively for the last five years to design and implement this employment program specifically for young parents, providing them with real linkages to the world of work. As a result, Youville Centre graduates and alumnae have the option of an accredited training program leading to employment in addition to that of post-secondary studies. Both directions promise our Moms the opportunity to become “self-sustaining, contributing members of society.”



Youville Centre Alumna Gives Back

It is always rewarding when a Youville Centre Alumna gives back to our current students and their children. When **Nathalie Bruce** (Boileau) contacted us to donate to our childcare, we were thrilled with her generosity of spirit. Manager of the Children's Department at the **Orleans Chapters Indigo**, Nathalie decided that our childcare could benefit from one of the store's Thomas the Train activity tables, so she made arrangements to visit us and deliver it herself. Before we could even finish assembling the table and placing the toy trains in the tracks, the children in our Snapdragon room were instantly engaged. Many thanks to Nathalie and her team at Chapters Indigo.

Did you know that...



...Youville Centre has recently partnered with **Dress for Success Ottawa**? If you're updating your business wardrobe, please consider donating previously-loved work attire to their Westboro location. Youville Centre Co-op students and YPEP participants will benefit from your donations.



We Couldn't Have Done it Without YOU

The generous support of the community makes many of our programs and services at Youville possible. We would like to thank the following people and organizations for their generous support:

- Ace Bakery**
- Bon Appetit Ottawa**
- ByTown Travel Golf Classic**
- Knights of Columbus**
- Holy Redeemer Council 9544**
- Montgomery Asset Management Golf Tournament (RBC)**
- Scotiabank**



Ooh Ahh Ooh Ahh Ooh Ahh

Enjoy a Girls' Night Out

Thursday • October 20 • 2011

Fashion Show by **Shepherd's**
David Smith Creative Kosher Catering
Silent and Live Auctions • Featuring Canadian Designers
 Emcee Leanne Cusack • Auctioneer Michael O'Byrne
 Raffle Packages • Door Prizes

-NEW-venue

Thursday, October 20th, 2011 | **Ashbury College**
 5:30pm to 9:00pm | 362 Mariposa Avenue (Rockcliffe)

www.youvillecentre.org

A Forever Gift to Youville

How will you leave your legacy? You can help support future generations by giving to Youville Centre through our Planned Giving Program.

For 24 years Youville Centre has been supporting young mothers and their children through education. Here at Youville we work to improve the lives of two generations and we believe that this work resonates to affect the community as a whole.

For more information or to request a Planned Giving Brochure, please contact our Communications Department at ext. 128.

Things to donate

Considering a donation to Youville Centre? Items that would be of great help are:

New items for our "YouStore", including:

For Moms:

- Cosmetics
- New clothing and accessories
- Toiletries and other hygiene items
- Body washes
- Bus tickets

For Babies:

- Bath towels, face cloths
- Diapers (especially sizes 4,5 and 6)
- Diaper cream (Penaten, Zincifax)
- Baby bottles and baby formula (Good Start, Enfamil A+)

*The "YouStore" is an incentive-based initiative which rewards students for good attendance and overall good behaviour.

Gently-used Items such as:

- Reusable grocery bags
- Stroller covers
- Alarm clocks
- Umbrellas
- Children's toys

Contact Heather to discuss your donation at (613) 231-5150 ext. 128.

To be removed from the mailing list, please call (613) 231-5150 ext.104 or send an e-mail to: remove@youvillecentre.org

Newsletter Design by Volunteer Claudia Siefer



Website / Alumnae Website

Have you visited the Youville Centre website lately? Take a look and you will find a significant catalogue of information about our Centre. Thanks to the deft hand and tech-savvy mind of staff member **John Reeder**, both our Website and Alumnae Website are full of information, attractive photos and useful resources for donors, current students and alumnae.

If you would like to receive this newsletter in electronic format, please contact communications@youvillecentre.org to be added to the list. We will then discontinue mailing the hard copy to you.



Youville Centre

An innovative centre that motivates, educates & nurtures young parents and their children.

150 Mann Avenue
Ottawa ON K1N 8P4

Tel/Fax (613) 231-5150

info@youvillecentre.org

www.youvillecentre.org

Charitable Registration
#11884 8456 RR 0001

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

Yes, I/We wish to support The Youville Centre, an innovative centre that motivates, educates and nurtures young parents 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 _____

Signature _____

We also accept donations online at www.youvillecentre.org