



Ooh 'n Ahh: Fashion and Fundraising in Action!

On Thursday, October 20th at **Ashbury College**, over 500 women and their guests attended the 2011 **Shepherd's Ooh 'n Ahh Fashion Show and Auction** in support of

Youville Centre and **Dress for Success Ottawa**. Youville Centre was delighted to be sharing this wonderful event with Dress for Success Ottawa, a new partner for Youville Centre.

The evening was a fabulous display of designer fashions and jewellery from **Shepherd's Fashions**. With a focus on Canadian designers, the fashion show allowed Youville patrons to gain a first-hand appreciation for "made in Canada" designs.

The event raised over \$90,000 which will allow Youville Centre to maintain our present level of service delivery for mental health and addictions counselling. Dress for Success Ottawa plans to use

their portion of the proceeds to expand their programming and their boutique operations.

This event could not have been such a success without the hard work, dedication

and generosity of Youville's special patron, **Marlene Shepherd**, who has raised well over \$250,000 for Youville Centre to date through her ongoing charitable efforts.

We want to thank everyone who attended the event to support both of our organizations. We are also grateful for the feedback you have provided. We are using this feedback to plan for our next Fashion Show in the Fall of 2013, for which we are seeking a new venue! Please feel free to provide suggestions for our next venue by emailing communications@youvillecentre.org so that we can continue to provide an even better event for our patrons.

There are so many amazing people to thank for helping us with this event. Please see insert for a list of all of our generous event contributors. Special thanks to everyone on the planning committee for their hard work and dedication to this event:

- Marlene Shepherd, Shepherd's Fashions**
 - Judith Sarginson, Past Executive Director of Youville Centre**
 - Marlene Floyd, Chair, Dress for Success Ottawa**
 - Theresa Smith, Scotiabank**
 - Julie Dorion, Red Wagon Studio**
 - Cynthia Mar, Dress for Success Ottawa**
- and our unofficial committee member, **Geoff Cass of Ashbury College**.

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Insert: We Couldn't Have Done It Without You



Youville Alumna Miranda Mole shared how Youville Centre and Dress for Success Ottawa helped shape her life and career plans. Photo Credit: Geoff Clyne Photography



Youville Centre Students challenge Local Celebrities in Healthy Cooking Challenge

Youville Centre toddlers were the ultimate judges when **Mayor Jim Watson, Councillor Mathieu Fleury** and **Dr. Isra Levy** (coached by Ottawa Public Health CFA **Luke Campbell**) challenged Youville Centre students in a healthy cook-off at Youville Centre on Thursday, November 24th. The task was to prepare a quesadilla and a smoothie using healthy,

affordable ingredients, including those provided by The Ottawa Food Bank.

The event was the brainchild of Ottawa Public Health and it was part of a week of food security-themed events around the city. Staged in Youville Centre's Collective Kitchen, the premise was to showcase basic food skills using nutritious, affordable ingredients.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed competing against Mayor Watson and his team in the challenge, which was hosted by a great friend of Youville Centre, **Max Keeping**. A team of judges consisting of: *Healthy Babies, Healthy Children* Nurse **Gail Davies**; Public Health Nurse **Claire Bahati**; Executive Director of the Ottawa Food Bank, **Peter Tilley**, Student Nurse **Ellis Milani** and Executive Director of Youville Centre, **Cindy Simpson** endeavoured to critique the taste, nutrition and presentation of the two teams' creations. In the end, Youville's toddlers were the enthusiastic judges, as they enjoyed the healthy food presented to them by our young moms and celebrity guests.

Not only did we raise awareness of the importance of serving healthy food on a budget, but the camaraderie enjoyed by both teams turned the event into a true celebration of community spirit. Special thanks are extended to **Anne Bouillon, Eric Leclair** and **Louis Frenette** of Ottawa Public Health; and to our own Public Health Nurse, Claire Bahati, for spearheading the event and making it an enjoyable experience for all.



Mayor Jim Watson enjoys a snack with our Youville Centre children.
Photo Credit: Louis Frenette



Youville students Xaun, Alex, Lynsey and Julie excelled in the cooking challenge.



Cindy Simpson, Executive Director

It is hard to believe that Christmas is almost here and I have been at Youville Centre for three months. It already feels like home! Our Board of Directors, staff, students and Youville patrons have been extremely welcoming and with the mentorship of our past director, Judith Sarginson, the transition into my new role has been smooth. Youville Centre is a vibrant community of learners supported by a caring, knowledgeable staff. As guardians of our young family's hopes and dreams we shall endeavour to move into the Christmas season by augmenting our student's academic experiences with the joy that the spirit of Christmas can bring. On behalf of the staff I would like to wish our entire Youville community a very Merry Christmas and thank our donors in advance for the generosity that is shown to our young families at this special time of year.

On Wednesday, November 9th, Youville Centre staff, Board members, partners, friends, volunteers and alumnae raised our teacups to our outgoing Executive Director, **Judith Sarginson**. This celebratory tea was in appreciation of the nine years of dedicated service that Judi provided to Youville Centre as Executive Director. Throughout her leadership term, Judi was instrumental in creating the Student Support Department, implementing the addition of Mental Health and Addiction Counsellors on-site, developing the Young Parent Employment Program and raising Youville Centre's profile in the community. These are just a few examples of the many ways Judi impacted the lives of the young mothers and their children at Youville Centre. Although Judi will be missed, she has truly earned her retirement and we wish her well as she spends more time with her family and her precious grandchildren.



Judith Sarginson, Executive Director (Retired)

Thank 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:

MBNA Canada Bank

Soeurs de la Charite d'Ottawa

Project s.t.e.p. (Health Canada via United Way Ottawa)

Congregation of Notre Dame, Bedford, Nova Scotia

United Way of Greater Toronto

Sisters of Holy Cross, Ottawa

Upcoming Events

Young Parent Employment Program Information Session

Friday, December 9th
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
at Youville Centre
(Program begins in January 2012)

Youville Centre Christmas Luncheon for Volunteers

Wednesday, December 14th
11:30 a.m.
Kinsella Hall, Youville Centre

Youville Centre Graduation

June 7th, 2012
Kinsella Hall, Youville Centre



Did you know that...

....you can donate new items to our incentive-based You-Store? Students gain "You-bucks" for good attendance, volunteer work and positive actions; this allows them to purchase new toys and clothing for their children and personal items for themselves.



L to R: Caroline Vladescu, Cathy Cooper, Diane Crook, Barbara Crook, Rosemary Arcand.



Rita and Jeanne, dedicated volunteers at Youville Centre.

Focus on Volunteers: Jeanne and Rita

Youville Centre's Food Bank Program would not be the same without **Jeanne and Rita**. These two warm-hearted, hard-working sisters are here every Wednesday like clockwork to receive, unpack, sort and deliver food and diapers that are generously donated to us by **The Ottawa Food Bank**. Jeanne and Rita have been volunteering for Youville Centre for 7 years. Always with a smile, a joke and an indomitable spirit, they are both invaluable to Youville Centre's volunteer team. When asked what they like best about volunteering here, they said, "We enjoy meeting the girls and being helpful." Their commitment to helping our young Moms is obvious, "We love them all", said Jeanne. Rita and Jeanne think that they are "spoiled" by the appreciation our staff shows to them, but it is Youville Centre who is spoiled by having these two wonderful volunteers on our team.

Youville Centre Angels

It was not long after the word went out about the Ooh 'n Ahh Fashion Show and Auction that we received our first call from **Diane Crook**. Little did we know that we were being granted a whole team of "Youville Angels" who would canvas their friends, family and community to collect a myriad of donations for our young mothers and their children.

Diane and **Barbara Crook** and their friends exemplify the true spirit of giving in our community. We are overwhelmed by their generosity and continued support. This group of philanthropic women have easily earned their status as Youville Angels.

The truth is, we have many "Youville Angels" – our newsletter would be quite lengthy if we were to thank them all, but perhaps this mention of Diane and her friends can serve as a thank you to everyone who has supported us over the years.

We are so grateful to everyone who continues to support us through financial support, in-kind donations, new gifts for our clients at Christmas and during other holiday times. It is a beautiful thing to see a community in action, rallying around our young moms. Many thanks to Diane, Barbara and friends, and to all the "Youville Angels" out there. Special thanks to **Paul Valletta** and **Sophie Abbas** at **The Loft** for their generous contribution to this donation.



To receive this newsletter in electronic format, please contact communications@youvillecentre.org



Youville Centre



613-231-5150 tel/fax

www.youvillecentre.org

150 Mann Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1N 8P4

Charitable Reg #11884 8456 RR 0001

An innovative centre that motivates, educates & 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

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