



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Thanks to all our donors who made the 2013 holiday season amazing. Every child and youth at Massey Centre received gifts over the holiday season. Even though we had to close our doors for a few days due to the ice storm, all our young parents and children had a wonderful holiday thanks in part to all your support.

We also want to thank the Toronto United Church Council for hosting the first Annual Holiday Concert – *The Child in our Midst* - on December 9, 2013. The event celebrated Toronto's diverse holiday traditions with a concert in support of the Council's Nancy Peters Massey Centre Fund at the Eastminster United Church. It was an amazing evening of story and song featuring Grammy and Juno award winning singer – song writer Dan Hill and hosted by comedian Maggie Cassella. We are very proud of the students from our School Treatment Program who catered refreshments for the event. This was their first-ever catering contract!

On the same night in December, the Massey Centre was selected as the recipient of all in-kind and cash donations at the 100 Women in Hedge Funds, Toronto Chapter's Education Session event, held at the Toronto Stock Exchange. One of our alumni, Lisa van Krieken, spoke at the event about her journey at Massey Centre and beyond. Lisa entered the Massey Centre in 2000 and had her daughter, Antonyia, in January 2001. As a young parent, Lisa utilized many services such as our residential and transitional housing, parenting and community support programs; she also volunteered in our Early Learning Centre and OEYC programs and in the kitchen. Lisa went to college after leaving Massey Centre and returned in 2011-2012 to work in a training role as a receptionist. In 2013, Lisa joined the team at McCarthy Tetrault LLP as Office Service Technician.

We are so proud of all the accomplishments that Lisa has made in her life. We invited her to speak again at our most recent fundraising event, Bowling4Babies, held on February 23, 2014. We know that she will continue to give back to the community and will be a beacon of light for all our current clients, who know, that despite the challenges of today, they too can succeed as parents and individuals.

Ekua Asabea Blair
Chief Executive Officer



CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.

~ Oscar Wilde

As we celebrate National Volunteer Week, April 6-12, 2014 we thank our volunteers for the care they give and respect they show the young moms and babies every day.

We dedicate this poem to them for their support of the Massey Centre.

To Be a Volunteer

To be a volunteer, it takes...

Generosity, a willingness to give your time to others

Understanding, because their lives might be very different from your own

Empathy, an ability to put yourself in someone else's shoes and feel what they must feel

Compassion, to truly care about making someone else's life better

Patience, because the process doesn't always go as smoothly as it might

Dedication, to stick with the project and see it through

You've shown these qualities and so much more, so thank you for all that you do.

Kelly Roper

Thank you for caring!

WHAT'S NEW AT THE MASSEY CENTRE?

New Lives Start Here is an education and transitional housing program for parenting 18-25 year old crown wards aging out of the child protection system. The program is using 10 of our 17 townhouses during the pilot phase.

To qualify, the young moms must be enrolled in post-secondary studies or training, and have no more than two children. They will live at Massey Centre for up to 4 years (instead of the customary 2 years) in the rent-geared-to-income townhouses while they complete their post-secondary studies or training. They are encouraged to access all of our programs including childcare.

The supports offered to the young moms in the *New Lives Start Here* program will help them adjust to completing their education while parenting. They are receiving critical assistance to enable them to develop into productive, healthy and engaged adults with healthy children.

For more information, please contact Ertha Downey at 416-425-3368 ext 235 or edowney@massey.ca

FUNDRAISING WHILE STUDYING

Students are helping to provide support and hope for young moms and babies. A group of George Brown College Child & Youth Program students donated the proceeds from their fundraising assignment to the Massey Centre.



Students: Deirdre, Dion, Sahar, Daniel, Annabelle, and Adele (not shown). Third from left Massey Centre's Nzinga Walker, Program Director accepted the cheque.



*Natalia 7 years old and
Eliana 3 years old*

CLAUDIA'S LIFE

From teen motherhood to insurance claims representative—"I exceeded all of my expectations."

Twenty-eight years ago, Claudia, came to the Massey Centre (known then as The Victor Home for Women) seeking a safe home and care to have her baby. At 17, she was immature, penniless, and had only a grade 5 education. She was missing her mom who had kicked her out of the house after Claudia had an argument with her mother's partner.

But others stepped in. A nurse from Toronto Public Health's Healthiest Baby Possible Program visited her and recommended the Massey Centre where Claudia was welcomed. She found a real home and the care and support she needed.

She enrolled in the onsite Secondary School Treatment program and earned several credits. During her pregnancy, she also attended parenting classes practising with dolls; attended arts and crafts classes, knitted many "crooked" blankets for her unborn child; took swimming classes for exercise; received staff help in obtaining social assistance and later housing; did household chores to earn spending money; and had fun going on group outings and to the movies.

With staff support she found an apartment and moved out of the Massey Centre, and then to a subsidized apartment while she completed her high school diploma at an Alternative School. But the apartment was in a bad area.

Claudia spent the next three years crying and begging to be relocated. Eventually she was transferred to a subsidized apartment in Mississauga. In their new home Claudia thrived. She later went back to school and worked in hairdressing, aesthetics, administration and banking.

Five years ago she began working at The Co-operators as a claims representative. When she learned that the employees were encouraged to recommend charities that the company will support, she began applying for support for Massey Centre.

In December 2013, her employer donated \$11,000 to the Massey Centre because Claudia was supported when she needed it most. She felt that finally she was able to give back to the Massey Centre and help other girls like her.

Claudia is proud of her accomplishments and those of her two daughters. She owns her home and has a job she loves. Her younger daughter, Eliana attends the University of Toronto. Natalia born at Massey Centre almost 28 years ago is enrolled in Sheridan College's Marketing, Advertising & Communications program. At 11 she appeared in a CBC children's program *Guess What*. Today she appears regularly on Rogers Mississauga's *Access Peel*.

Yes, Natalia and Eliana are proof that the teen pregnancy cycle can be broken, and no one is happier and prouder than their loving mother, Claudia.



Natalia's first day home from the hospital



Natalia 3 years old

9TH ANNUAL BOWLING FOR BABIES EVENT

On Sunday, February 23, 2014 over 60 bowlers and 10 volunteers braved the cold and wind to participate in Massey Centre's 9th Annual Bowling for Babies event. Many of the bowlers had never been to a bowling alley, laced up bowling shoes or even thrown a ball. But there was a common theme among everyone, first-timers and experienced—they had fun, and lots of it.

Their support means a new life starts every time a pregnant or parenting adolescent with a baby walks through our doors. At the Massey Centre they are home, nurtured and cared for by their surrogate family.

We thank our sponsors, raffle and silent auction donors, and encourage you to support the businesses that contributed to our success.



Current Massey Centre moms left to right: Karla, Danielle, Latiesha and Kiana and post client Lisa.



George Brown College Child & Youth Program students from left to right: Bennet, Ruthann, Estherella and Shani.

Our special guests included some of the new moms residing at Massey Centre; a group of Child & Youth program students from George Brown College who are raising funds for the Massey Centre; and our guest speaker Lisa and her daughter—both clients of Massey Centre 13 years ago.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and donors we raised over \$35,000, the highest amount in the event's 9-year history!

GOLD ★★★

Susan and Gregory Guichon Foundation

SILVER ★★



barometer

BRONZE ★

Michael Hlinka



Bowlers enjoying lunch.

Raffle and Silent Auction Donors

Ace Painting
BBD
Bellissima Hair Salon
Cisco
Helen Ching
Lilian Cho
Dave Codack
Cole Design
Cranfield General Contracting
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Frank M. Hack Ltd. – Shoppers Drug Mart
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Sobeys
Sofitel Luxury Hotels
Joseph & Antoinette Sorbara
Sunshine Bar & Restaurant Supply
Toronto Blue Jays
Jeannie von Buttlar
WestJet
Whistler's Grille

Thank you for your support!



Susan Guichon, Chair, Bowling for Babies Committee



Past clients Lisa and daughter, Antonya



Bowler



Bowlers

CHILD GROWTH DELAYS LINKED TO POVERTY

Social disadvantages account for lack of skills in those born to young mothers, study finds.

By: Theresa Boyle, Health Reporter, Toronto Star Thursday, October 17, 2013
(reprinted with permission - TorStar Syndication Services)

When Dr. Julia Morinis sees young patients who are developmentally delayed, she is not so quick to reach for her prescription pad or order diagnostic tests.

If the children are the offspring of teen mothers, the inner-city Toronto pediatrician's first course of action might be to suggest going to the library to read books together.

That's because children living in poverty, especially those of teenage mothers, are less likely to be exposed to the kind of stimuli that enhance verbal, non-verbal and spatial abilities, a phenomenon Morinis has studied in research published Wednesday in the journal *Archives of Disease in Childhood*.

While it has been well-documented in earlier studies that children of teen mothers are more likely to be developmentally delayed, Morinis — who is also a researcher at the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital — wanted to drill down and explore why.

"The question we wanted to address is whether there is something innate about being a teenage mother that predisposes children to be at risk for having delayed development, or if there is something else going on that all teen moms have in common, such as struggling to finish school or find well-paid work," Morinis said.

Looking at 5-year-old children, her study found that those born to mothers

ages 18 and younger have lower verbal, non-verbal and spatial skills than those whose mothers are ages 25 to 34.

Non-verbal skills include waving, pointing and understanding such gestures. Spatial skills involve recognizing patterns and shapes.

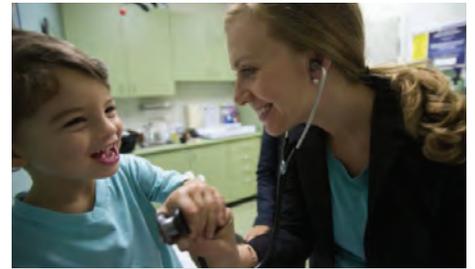
For non-verbal and spatial abilities, the study found that differences between these two groups of children can be largely attributed to significant inequalities in socio-demographic circumstances.

For example, younger mothers are more likely to be poor and unemployed, have less education, fewer social supports and be single parents. They are more likely to drink alcohol and smoke, less likely to breastfeed and tend to have fewer appointments with health-care professionals when pregnant.

When it comes to differences in verbal skills, there is more going on, Morinis explained.

"We think that it is caused by the interactions a child has with a mother. But because we weren't able to measure interaction — how a parent plays or talks or sings with a child — we can't say," Morinis said.

"But, likely, we know that teen moms are more at risk for being depressed, having postpartum depression and having many stressors in their lives that likely do affect how they interact with their children," she added.



Toronto pediatrician Dr. Julia Morinis clowns around with 3-year-old Jake Silver. Her study suggests children born to mothers who are 18 and younger have lower verbal and spatial skills than those whose mothers are older.

The study was based on data from the Millennium Cohort Study, which looks at the development of almost 19,000 children born between 2000 and 2001 across Britain.

The Morinis study comes on the heels of a separate Canadian study that shows the academic benefits of full-day kindergarten are short-lived and by high school there is no difference between a child who attended the all-day program or only went for half.

Researchers from the University of Manitoba found full-day kindergarten does not "shrink the gap" in achievement between students from families with low socioeconomic status and those from more affluent homes, a reason often cited for the program.

Senior researcher Marni Brownell said it may be for a number of reasons, including that what is taught at school in later years isn't being reinforced at home for kids living in low-income homes.

"We're not trying to say full-day kindergarten is not a good program — what we are saying is if you are implementing full-day kindergarten to get these long-term academic outcomes, maybe this isn't the best way to do it," said Marni Brownell, a senior research scientist and professor with the University of Manitoba.



BUY! CLICK! GIVE AND HELP YOUNG MOMS & BABIES

Designate the Massey Centre to receive the profit from **The Little Grape That Could (TLGTC)** wines sold at LCBO stores across Ontario.

Buy, visit www.thelittlegrapethatcould.com, click on the Choose a Charity drop-down list, select **The Massey Centre for Women** and enter the code printed on the back of each bottle of wine.

It's that simple. Buy! Click! Give!

And remember to tell others about this new opportunity to support the Massey Centre.

JOIN US FOR OUR 2013-2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WHEN

Tuesday, June 24, 2014
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

WHERE

The Massey Centre for Women
1102 Broadview Avenue
Toronto, ON M4K 2S5

For more information about membership or the AGM, please contact Ruth Taylor at rtaylor@massey.ca or call 416-425-6348 ext. 221

Please RSVP to Ruth Taylor for meeting and child care by **Friday, June 13, 2014**

GET INVOLVED

There are so many ways **you can help** the Massey Centre to continue providing support, care, treatment and other services for the pregnant and parenting young moms and their babies. Your gift will help them start new successful lives in the community!

You can:

- 1 – Make a donation
- 2 – Become a Best Start Monthly Giving donor
- 3 – Host an event and designate the Massey Centre to receive the proceeds
- 4 – Purchase The Little Grape That Could wines at LCBO stores, visit thelittlegrapethatcould.com and select The Massey Centre for Women to receive the profit
- 5 – Remember the Massey Centre in your will
- 6 – Become a member and vote at the Annual General Meeting
- 7 – Tell others about the work of the Massey Centre
- 8 – Volunteer and support the young moms

DONATION FORM

YES! I want to help new young moms and their babies start new successful lives!

Here is my gift of: \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 I will give \$_____

YES! I will join the **Best Start** Monthly Giving Program* with my gift on the **last** day of each month of: \$10 \$20 \$25 \$50 I will give \$_____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone No. _____

Payment Options

I would like to give by: Cheque or Money Order

My cheque or money order payable to **Massey Centre** is enclosed.

Please charge my Visa MasterCard

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: ____/____

Name exactly as shown on card: _____

Cardholder Signature: _____

Name for Acknowledgement Purposes (if applicable): _____

*I understand that I can revoke or change this authorization at any time in writing or by calling the Director, Resource Development at 416-425-6348 x 224, subject to providing 15 days' notice. I have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to be reimbursed for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this pre-authorization payment agreement. To obtain a cancellation form, or for more information on my right to cancel a pre-authorized payment agreement or my recourse rights, I may contact my financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.

Massey Centre protects your private information and complies with all legislative requirements. We will send you information from time to time. If you wish to limit, or not receive any correspondence in the future, please contact the office at 416.425.6347 x 224.

Thank you for your support!

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