



New Lives Newsletter Summer 2022 Edition



A message from the CEO

Our world has changed over the past year, and so has Massey Centre!

July 1st marked a big day for us – it was our one-year anniversary of the new Massey Centre! One year ago, Massey Centre and Humewood House amalgamated to form a new, stronger organization. While we have faced some growing pains this year, we are so proud of the expanded services that we can now offer to young families throughout the city.

The positive feedback from the community about our amalgamation has been overwhelming. We are so grateful for all the kind words from previous Humewood House and Massey Centre supporters as we embark on this new journey.

Another change you may have noticed – our newsletter has gone virtual! We hope this change will allow us to provide you with more timely and more frequent updates on everything happening at our Centre.

We have even more changes to come! In September, we'll be launching our new name. Over the past several months, we've gathered clients, staff, volunteers, donors, and other stakeholders to provide input on our renaming and rebranding process. We are nearing the end stages of this process and will be ready to share our new name in September!

Thank you for continuing to cheer us on through all of these changes! Your support changes the lives of brave adolescent moms and their babies every day.

Sincerely,

Ekua Asabea Blair
Chief Executive Officer

Congratulations to our 2022 graduates!

June was a month of celebration as we came together to celebrate the students at our Broadview and Humewood Campuses and their achievements over the school year.

We are proud to announce that this year our students achieved a total of 51 credits, and we have 6 graduates who have earned their high school diploma!



A word from our Humewood Campus Valedictorian, Ashley

"Hi my name is Ashley, today June 27, 2022, is a great day for all of us students at Massey Centre. There are many reasons to be proud of yourself. My job as a Valedictorian is to remind you that you have all worked very hard and done a great job being a student, and a mom! We graduated not only for ourselves, but for our parents and of course our children. We want to show our children that anything is possible with a little hard work.

I hope that you all feel the same connection as I do to Humewood Campus staff and to each other, because even though we did not spend much time together, we are all part of the same family. Our family is made up of moms, daughters, teachers, students and a wonderful support staff. These past years have been strange and difficult because of the lockdowns and we have felt lonely and isolated. But still, we did it! We are here graduating thanks to our teachers, support staff and of course - ourselves!!!! We leave today as joyful parents, and proud graduates of secondary school."



Scholarships and Awards

Each year our students have the opportunity to apply for scholarships and awards that are generously donated to help them with their continued education. Here are the 2022 scholarship and award recipients:

- **Rise Up and Triumph Award** donated by Kris and Andy Hollenberg: Awarded to Ashley to recognize her achievements as a young mother who bravely pursued furthering her education and has risen above her own life's challenges to triumph in the future. She has demonstrated great leadership skills and willingness to help and serve others. Her presence has created an outstanding lasting impression on everyone around her. Ashley's work ethic and perseverance has inspired all of us. As she sets a lifelong example for her child, she also instills pride and admiration amongst the community that surrounds her. She encourages all of us at Massey Centre to find the courage to rise up and triumph collectively.
- **M.J. Perry Awards** donated by M.J Perry: Awarded to Madison and Samantha who have demonstrated the ability to overcome obstacles while investing in themselves as students and as parents. Their resilience, hope, and passion are helping them meet and pursue their goals.
- **Ruby Blair Award** donated by the Blair Family: Awarded to Shanelle who has clear goals and aspirations, exhibits a very strong desire to be independent of the "system" and has put excellent plans in place to create a financially independent life.
- **Vinay Raja Memorial Scholarship** donated by Bhanu Raja: Awarded to Jahkayla who used her education as a catalyst for a second chance to rebuild her life, developed her parenting skills, and improved her relationship with her child.
- **Dunlop-Harris Memorial Awards** donated by Enrico and Donna Dilello: Awarded to Zahraa and Jemina who have maintained good attendance, continued to improve in academics throughout the year, and have a strong desire to improve their lives while balancing their parenting and educational goals.
- **Humewood Community Scholarships** fundraised and donated by the Humewood Community: Awarded to Tejah, Fatima, and Amy who are entering into a post-secondary education programs this Fall. Special attention when selecting the recipients was given to their personal goals, achievements, and independent living skills.



Success in Employment for Adolescent Moms (S.E.A.M): Meet Lakshmi!

S.E.A.M is an eighteen-week paid employment program offered to young moms. It provides four weeks of employment training and a fourteen-week job placement.

Lakshmi, a mother of four year old twins, came to the program to get assistance with her resume, and to gain employment experience that will help her in her field of expertise - information technology.

"At the program I got to learn about a lot of my strengths and weaknesses. They helped me build up my positive attitude. One of my biggest struggles that the program staff have supported me with is being able to speak confidently during interviews, conferences, and group discussions. Thanks to the S.E.A.M program, I've been able to attend a lot of interviews in the IT field. My biggest accomplishment so far has been learning new tools, skills and technologies for the profession I want to be in. I want to see myself as an IT professional. As hard as it has been, I want to do what I can to give my kids a brighter future.

The program is helping me get there".





Happy National Indigenous Peoples Day!

We were honoured to welcome families back for our first big in-person event to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21.

It was a day of reflection and celebration with our young moms, babies, and families from our EarlyON Child and Family program.



Celebrating Pride

Our EarlyON Child and Family program hosted a colourful celebration for Pride on June 22. It was a beautiful day for celebrating love and families that come in all shapes and sizes.

We were delighted to have members of the Rotary Club of Toronto Leaside to help out with our celebrations! They grilled up some tasty food, and provided a tent to keep us cool!

New - Baby and Me: Our Home

The Baby and Me: Our Home program aims to help homeless and underhoused young moms find and keep permanent housing at an apartment of their choice in the city.

An important part of the program is monthly rental subsidies we provide to help young moms afford apartments in Toronto and stabilize their living situations. We are thrilled to share that our program has been so successful that the City of Toronto has granted us an additional sixteen rental subsidy spots! We now have a total of forty subsidy spots to help us ensure more pregnant and parenting young moms receive assistance with their rent and are safely housed.



Best Start Monthly Giving Program

Want to make a lasting impact? Become a Best Start Monthly Donor.

As little as \$5 a month can make a huge difference by providing stable and reliable funding for the programs and services vital to our young moms and babies!

Donate Today!
Click Here





Eat **4** Eight

Teen Mom Budget Challenge

Save the Date! October 12, 2022



Save the Date! Eat4Eight: Teen Mom Budget Challenge!

Returning for 2022 is our annual Eat4Eight: Teen Mom Budget Challenge fundraiser! Think you can survive for one day on the food budget of a teen mom? That's \$8 for breakfast, lunch, and dinner!

Take the challenge on your own, or as a team! Help us fundraise to support vital programs for the young moms and babies here at Massey Centre!

Sign up today! Visit www.massey.ca/eat4eight to sign up, or for more information!

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