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“Celebrating the beginning of the next 40 years of service to the children and families in our communities”

Building a Strong Foundation

Centennial is excited to welcome two new Board Members to the boardroom table. “Their diverse set of skills will certainly benefit Centennial and the Foundation,” says Foundation Chair and President, Laura Wallace. Theresa Widdifield, a chartered accountant for over 20 years, now running her own business, providing accounting, tax and treasury for high net worth individuals, is equally excited to be here. Encouraged to join by her neighbour and friend Carolyn Watson, Theresa is looking forward to offering financial expertise while bringing some fresh new ideas to the table. “And as I get more involved,” she offers, “I expect to relieve Mike Moyer—the Board’s current financial whiz—of some of his duties on the Foundation side.”



Theresa Widdifield

been part of the school for years. But Alison is no stranger around here either. “I can’t remember not being involved with Centennial,” she says. Whether volunteering in the classrooms, on the golf committees or agreeing to co-chair this year’s upcoming golf tournament, Alison has always played a role.

And now, bringing over seven years of experience working in special events, Alison not only infuses the Board with some young blood, she is adding extra muscle to Centennial’s golf tournaments and other events as well.



Alison Smith

Meanwhile, Alison Smith, perhaps the youngest Board member, is continuing to follow in the footsteps of her parents, Bill and Ann, who’ve

As for fundraising, the Foundation is thrilled with the continuing relationship between Centennial and The Yellow Bus Foundation. Thanks to the ongoing support between the two organiza-



Gord Grunwell, Director, Business Development & Operations; Barb Hamah, Executive Director; David MacNichol, President The Yellow Bus Foundation; Laura Wallace, Foundation Chair and President



tions, says Laura, Centennial received a significant donation from The Yellow Bus Foundation again this year, portions from their golf marathon and Bay Street Stampede. “The RBC Family and Friends Day at Canada’s Wonderland was another really successful fundraising endeavour,” she adds, with a portion of the proceeds going to The Yellow Bus Foundation and its recipient charities, including Centennial. RBC also donated over \$20,000 in Centennial’s honour from their 11th Annual Commercial Financial Services Greater Toronto Region, Royal Bank Charity Golf Tournament. “We hope donors like RBC know just how much we appreciate their help.”

And with the annual campaign approaching, the Foundation is hopeful it will be a successful one despite tough economic times. “Funding still remains a formidable challenge at Centennial so we really hope people will remember us when they partake in charitable giving this year,” Laura says.

Meanwhile, everyone is especially proud of Centennial parent Francesca Gibson for her celebrated run that raised \$5,918.00 for the school. “What a great idea and a tremendous effort on her part for all of us at Centennial,” Laura enthuses.

And, last but not least, Centennial’s sign is finally gracing the building entrance. Boldly and brightly welcoming all who enter its doors, the Foundation is looking forward to the unveiling ceremony this Spring. “It will be a wonderful opportunity to recognize all the donors who have contributed so generously to this project,” offers Laura. Stay tuned for more details!

Laura Wallace, Foundation Chair & President

Notes from Centennial’s Executive Director

On the evening of November 18th, I had the privilege of introducing Paula Aquilla, a renowned Occupational Therapist, to over 40 of our families. Paula gave an excellent presentation on sensory integration and explained why some of our children have difficulty processing information through their senses. What soon became obvious to me as I observed this 90 minute session was the intense interest of the audience. The need for this type of information is clearly evident. Afterwards, parents raved about the session in their written evaluations. Comments included: “please schedule more”, “excellent talk”, “very informative”, “very useful”, and “I didn’t feel so alone”. This last comment also highlights the need for families to share information with each other, swap ideas, and lend an understanding ear.

When a family learns that their child has a disability, the news can be overwhelming. Reactions may range from disbelief and grief to anger and depression. Parents are then informed that early intervention is the key to ensuring their child has the best start possible. In a very short period

“Beginning the next 40 years” edition of the news publication...

extends a very special thank you to:

Contributors:

Laura Wallace, Barb Hannah, Kim Clarke, Kim Carrigan, Ged Seguin, Barry Mutis, Francesca Gibson, Robert and Marlene Bird, Tim and Patricia Egan, Margaret Malina, Lucy Patterson, Laura Purchase, Alison Smith, Theresa Widdifield, Belinda Netley, Christie Cass, Carolyn Watson and Rob Wheeler

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of time, families are expected to perform minor miracles to get every service they could possibly need. Plus, they must become experts on their child’s particular special need and seek appropriate educational guidance. None of this is easy considering the long waitlists for service, limited community resources and the stressors families face when raising children in economically uncertain times.

At Centennial, our staff is committed to assisting our families during this challenging period. One of the objectives of our three year strategic plan is to focus on family education and support. A family-centered philosophy underpins all of our services. We recognize that each family is unique, and the child is always viewed within the family context. Part of our role as educators is to empower parents to make informed decisions regarding service, developmental goals and priorities. To this end, and in keeping with our strategic goals, we are planning to offer a series of evening workshops for parents on topics of interest to them. Amanda Williams, our parent representative on the Centre Board, has been extremely helpful in this regard and was instrumental in organizing the first speaker in the series. If the overwhelmingly positive response to our inaugural workshop is any indication, these information sessions will meet an important need.

On behalf of all of us at Centennial, I would like to extend warm wishes for the winter season ahead. Thank you for your continued support and interest. The global outlook is gloomy these days but within the Centennial community, a spirit of hope continues to thrive. To maintain that optimism, we may need your support more than ever in the coming year.

Barb Hannah, Executive Director

Extreme Golfing with Yellow Bus

On a lovely sunny day in September, at Glen Eagle Golf Club in Bolton, the Yellow Bus Foundation held their 12th Annual 100 Hole Golf Marathon. And, despite shaky economic times, thanks to 31 golfers and innumerable donors, the event raised over \$325,000 for five charities, including Centennial. With a mission of enriching the lives of Canadian children living with chronic illness and/or serious medical conditions and providing opportunities for disadvantaged youth, the Yellow Bus Foundation has become a good friend of Centennial's over the years. And with a donation of \$70,000, representing a combined total from the marathon and their other charitable event, the Bay Street Stampede, the relationship seems stronger than ever.

Foundation Manager Kim Carrigan is continuously proud of the synergy that exists between The Yellow Bus Foundation and The Centennial Infant and Child Centre Foundation. "We continue to be happy with their support for us," she says, adding that Centennial had the most players representing



Rob Wheeler and David Naiman

one organization at the marathon. One of those players, David Naiman, whose son Matthew is in his second year of Centennial's preschool, was attending the event for the second time. Rob Wheeler, whose child is now an alumni

of the school also took part. "It's a great opportunity to raise money for charity, it's a fun event and I love golf," says David, explaining what brought him out again. And if that's not enough, he adds, "I am a very big supporter of anything and everything Centennial does; they are fantastic."

Another Centennial representative, Carolyn Watson, was one of only two women participants, the other being Executive Director, Barb Hannah. It was the support of 80 sponsors that allowed her to take part in such a great cause, she says. And let's not forget her husband, Art who drove her cart, set up her balls and brought her coffee during the 12-hour day. A caddy extraordinaire!



Carolyn & Art Watson

Considering one of the tournament's goals is the infusion of new blood, the large Centennial turnout was most appreciated. "They support our charity and so we are pleased to make

as big an impact as possible," says Kim. To further enhance that impact the marathon paired corporate players with those representing charities, giving corporate players a firsthand opportunity to learn about Centennial and its work. "We can't tell Centennial's story as well on our own," Kim explains. And, looking forward, Centennial and the Yellow Bus Foundation are recounting another story as well, that of an ever-growing and satisfying partnership.



Gwen Shandroski, caddy and Barb Hannah

The 2009 Golf Marathon is Friday, September 25th, so mark that date in your calendar, and join us on the links in support of this great cause!

Teeing Off with RBC

This past June, Centennial Infant and Child Centre was honoured to be chosen by RBC Royal Bank as the recipient charity at its 11th Annual Commercial Financial Services, Greater Toronto Region, Royal Bank Charity Golf Tournament. The decision came down to alignment, says Chair Barry Mutis. "The services they provide and the people who provide those services to are closely aligned with the intent of the tournament and our mission at RBC." Geography played an important role too. "Our commercial geography is along the lines of Centennial's; we have the same reach," he adds.



**RBC
Royal Bank**

With that in mind, it's no wonder the event was a great success. One hundred and twenty-four golfers and 130 dinner guests converged upon Woodington Lake Golf Club in Tottenham Ontario, helping the tournament raise over \$20,000.00 for Centennial. Here's to a successful partnership and many more events together!



Foundation Chair and President, Laura Wallace with Jennifer Tory Regional President Greater Toronto Region, RBC Royal Bank

Here Comes Wonderland

“The Yellow Bus Foundation (YBF) is honoured to have the ongoing support of RBC Royal Bank. RBC has gone above and beyond to support our mission and we’re very grateful to partner with them.

This past summer Canada’s Wonderland tickets sales from the RBC Family & Friends Day, Saturday, May 3rd, 2008 - \$2 from every ticket sold, and for the remainder of the season - \$1 from every ticket sold through RBC on-line, was donated to The Yellow Bus Foundation. This event alone raised over \$32,000 for our Foundation.



We are thrilled to donate those funds to our five charitable partners this year including Centennial Infant Child Centre Foundation and thank RBC, its employees and friends who purchased tickets. It’s amazing how \$1 adds up and goes a long way to support children in our community.”

Ged Seguin, Director, The Yellow Bus Foundation.

Swinging for the Kids

On a glorious summer day this past June, thirty-four four-somes brought their golfing best to National Pines Golf Club in Innisfil Ontario. The “Cherish the Children” Golf Classic, in its 13th year, proved once again to be a highly successful event, bringing in over \$41,000 for Centennial.

“The day was just perfect,” recalls event Chair Rob Wheeler, who was assisted by a committee of dedicated volunteers, including, Kit O’Rourke, Bill Smith, Peter Volpe, Gerardo Cappelli, and Gord Grunwell.

A full day of golf was followed by dinner, a raffle and presentations by Barb Hannah and parent Bob Leon who offered a heartfelt message of support for Centennial, explaining how much the school has meant to him over the years.

Of course the event would not have been possible without the gracious sponsors. From meal sponsors, Aeroterm Manage-



Stephen Shamie, Neil Goldsmith, Rob Wheeler, Tournament Chair, Chris Chappell, Graeme Duff - Tournament Winners, 13th Annual Golf Classic June 2008



Marilyn and Ross Durant... Lorraine and Don Lawson Seniors Winners 13th Annual Golf Classic - June 2008

ment and Wings Foods—the biggest sponsors of the day—to American Express who provided the raffle prizes, and to the “cherished” hole sponsors, their incredible support helped the day run smoothly and successfully.

Centennial’s Hole in One

The Ladies Golf Event took place on September 16th at the Nobleton Lakes Golf Club and all agree it was a huge success. Organized by the self-described “chaining foursome” of Barb Hannah, Carolyn Watson, Belinda Netley and Christie Cass and titled Wheels on the Bus, the event’s proceeds went to support Centennials significant transportation needs. “Many of our children can only attend Centennial if transportation is provided,” explains Belinda, adding how, with government cutbacks, the service is increasingly challenged. What’s more, additional funds will be put towards the purchase of new chairs for the children, a much-needed investment as well.



Heather Avery, Kathryn Tamaki, Sharon Joans-Tournament Winners, Ladies Golf Tournament

Thanks to the players and a whopping number of sponsors, the event raised over \$50,000. “It was the most successful women’s tournament we’ve ever had,” confirms an excited Carolyn. And, she adds, the tremendous outcome wouldn’t have been possible without major sponsor, RBC Capital Markets, significant sponsor Ernst and Young, an anonymous sponsor who gave \$5,000 and two others who sponsored the golf carts.

With Compass Group once again providing a delectable lunch and Manpower sponsoring cocktail hour, everyone was happily satiated throughout the day. A wine and cheese reception proceeded dinner and speeches by a Centennial parent Susan Hum Chan, and Barb Hannah. And a very successful raffle was also part of the event, though, as Belinda mentions, it differed from years previous. As the raffle ticket numbers were drawn they were projected on a large screen, allowing

the guests to view the winning numbers while enjoying their dinner.

Christie is especially thrilled with the terrific team of volunteers who not only devoted their time and energy the day of the tournament but at monthly meetings since February. And let's not forget the hardworking Nobleton staff. "They couldn't have done more for us," says Christie. "They went above and beyond and that makes a huge difference."

A Very Special Thank You To Centennial's Valued Donors & Sponsors

Centennial Infant and Child Centre Foundation would like to express our sincere appreciation on behalf of the children, parents and friends of Centennial to:

Donors

Joan Livingston (in recognition of her grandson Jack Livingston, Centennial Alumni 1996-98), Carolyn and Don Langill, Ira Gluskin, Maxine Granovsky Gluskin, and Donald and Yvonne McGregor, and Karen Barnett.

Grants & Foundations

Alva Foundation, Point Endowment Fund, Leland Foundation, Toronto Community Foundation, Kuttis Family Fund, Lakeview/Montemarano Charitable Fund, IBM Employees Fund, Massey College (University of Toronto) United Way Employees Fund and Canadahelps.

Event Sponsors

The 13th Annual Golf Classic (June 2 2008)

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Stoneburgh, Richard Thomson, Alan Walker, J.R. Kingsley Ward, VRG Capital, and David H. Williams.

Many Thanks To Our Volunteers

Peter Casey, Dorlean Lieghfars-Rotolo, Barb Margie, Belinda Netley, Ann Smith, Blair Smith, Laura Wallace, and Carolyn Watson

Thank you for your generous support of this event!

2008 13th Annual Golf Classic Committee:

Gerardo Cappelli, Gord Grunwell, Kit O'Rourke, Bill Smith, Peter Volpe and Rob Wheeler (Chair)

Wheels on the Bus Ladies Golf Tournament (September 16th 2008)

Presenting Sponsor: RBC Capital Markets

Major Sponsors:

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Generous Donors

Angels Gate Winery, Hanne Arnold, Angie Bantomu, Bloorview Children's Hospital Foundation, Bon Appétit, Best Health Magazine, Christie Cass, The Casual Way, Caulfield Canada, Ginny & Peter Dymott, Jan & John Evan, Floka Salon, Francesca Gibson, Golf Town, Greenfield Golf, Greenstone Resort, Susan Hum-Chan, IPC, Beth Jones, Maureen Leon, Leon's Furniture, Lindt, Maui Jim Sunglasses, Mezza Notte Trattoria, Nobleton Lakes Golf Club, North York Hospital Foundation, L'Occitane en Provence, Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP, Pure + Simple, Carol Purpura, Quince Restaurant, RBC, Samsung, Smuckers, Heather Spinks, Steamwhistle Brewery, Ten Feet Tall Bistro, Uptown Spa, Vita Integrative Health Clinic, The Wheeler Family, Amanda Williams, David Yeates, and Yves St. Laurent Beauté.

Many Thanks To Our Volunteers:

Jeff Arnold, Matthew Gibson, Amy Wood, Alexandra Lansberg, Hazel Newton, Katherine Newton, and Art Watson.

Committee Members:

Hanne Arnold, Ginny Dymott, Carol Gibson, Francesca Gibson, Laurie Hamilton, Susan Hum-Chan, Beth Jones, Ann Kedwell, Maureen Leon, Danielle Morin, Belinda Netley,

Carol Purpura, Janet Walker, Ruth Walker, Carolyn Watson, Amanda Williams, Shanna Young, and Jean Holm.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting this event!

2008 Ladies Golf Day Committee:
Christie Cass, Barb Hannah, Belinda Netley, and Carolyn Watson Co-chairs -

On Your Marks Centennial, here she comes

Francesca Gibson wasn't always a runner. She decided to take up the sport about a year ago as a stress reliever. And she's been quickly picking up speed—and accolades—ever since. Having run her first 10K race in May 2008, she decided to go for the half marathon this Fall, training all summer to achieve her goal. In the process, she had a thought: why not raise some money for Centennial at the same time, a school that has proven invaluable to her and her son Evan. Naming her efforts the Evan Gibson Loves Centennial Fund, Francesca decided to set her goal at \$5,000, one thousand for each year her child was in school – one in early intervention, two in preschool and two in kindergarten.

Thanks to Francesca's fundraising acumen, a great cause and the generous donations of her parents, Kathy and Gordon Allman, and friends, especially Robyn and Tony Eames, this marathoner reached her goal in no time. But it wasn't over yet. With more donations streaming in, Francesca raised a total of \$5,918.00, way more than she would have ever hoped for. And having the opportunity to give back to the Centre to whom Francesca feels such a strong sense of indebtedness makes her even prouder.



Francesca Gibson

Francesca is particularly thankful to Carolyn Watson and Iris Kohn for giving her the referrals she needed to make it through Centennial's door. For, once inside, Francesca and Evan received the greatest care imaginable. "When they took my 23-month-old Evan in a minivan to go to preschool every day, I had complete comfort in knowing my son would learn important skills that would help him in the future," she says. "They saw him for the child he was that I couldn't even see yet. The Centre helped Evan learn and helped me heal."

And the staff has constantly gone the extra mile, she adds. "The teachers continue to amaze me." Francesca has extra

praise reserved for Iris, her "guardian angel", explaining how she continues to help any way she can, though Evan has since graduated. Forever grateful, Francesca already notified her donors she may be asking for more donations at the next race. But she's not worried. "It's an honour for them to donate to a place with such a personal connection to me."

Looks Who's Coming to Dinner

For years, Marlene and Robert Bird had a tradition of throwing parties for friends and neighbours. But this past year was different. Deciding to raise money for the Centre that has grown close to their heart, the Birds told their dinner guests to forego bringing wine to an upcoming soiree and to donate the money they would have spent on the purchase to Centennial instead. "The Centre has been so positive, it seemed the natural thing to do," explains Marlene Bird. And the response of their guests was overwhelming. As a result, on June 7th, not only did the Birds throw a party unlike any other, it was an undeniable success, with funds raised soaring above \$2,000. "People were twice as generous as expected," states Robert.

And the hosts were thrilled with their fundraising efforts. "Centennial has been so wonderful," says Marlene, adding her 5-year-old

daughter Nieve has made numerous gains since she arrived at the Centre. The mother of three first realized her youngest daughter had found a good place in Centennial when Nieve spent the first week at



Guests at the Bird Family Fundraising Dinner

the Centre without shedding even one tear. "That's huge," exclaims Marlene. "She has never been unhappy about going." Moreover, though Nieve wasn't a typically verbal child, she now returns home from the Centre reciting lines from songs. "Nieve made real progress at Centennial," echoes Robert. Moreover, the couple are grateful for the Centennial staff. "They've been so supportive, they're amazing; I can't say enough good things," says Marlene. It is for that very reason the Birds are discussing the possibility of another dinner party this summer. Who knows, maybe a new tradition has begun...

Flowers for Sale

It's not every day that one sees a makeshift stand in front of a home advertising flowers for sale. Lemonade perhaps. Trin-

kets from a garage sale, sure. But flowers? Yet, that is exactly what the Egan family had stationed on their lawn one lovely Saturday this past June. And according to homeowner and Centennial parent, Patricia Egan, what started as a whim last summer, seems to be picking up steam, possibly even becoming an annual fundraising ritual for this family of seven.

She is also quick to credit her resourceful and talented ex-nanny as the event's brainchild. In fact, thanks to the former nanny and five Egan daughters who all chipped in, affixing posters, arranging flowers and helping with sales, last summer's inaugural event raised \$83.00 for Centennial. And this year the flowery fundraiser was given a few additional boosts. Adding baked goods and coffee to the mix and arousing an even bigger neighbourly response helped the Egan's more than triple their previous total. And then came the clincher: Parent Tim Egan's company, the High Park Group, vowed to match the final tally. In the end, the fundraiser provided Centennial with \$544.00 in well-deserved funds. And the Egan's couldn't be more pleased. "The Centre is a phenomenal institution," offers Patricia, explaining the fundraiser's focus. "My daughter Brigid blossomed there. Teachers are so dedicated and they're good to the whole family." Though Brigid is in her last year at Centennial, Patricia hopes to stay connected with the school even after she attends school elsewhere. "This is definitely a good way to stay involved," she says.



Egan Family Flower Sale

Smooth Operations

Centennial is proud to welcome a second kindergarten class this year and its six new students. Like the first one, it runs every Monday to Thursday from 1:15 to 3:30 PM and children can take part in the program for two years if they so choose. "The class is going great," says Kim Clarke, adding, "it seems to be growing each year."

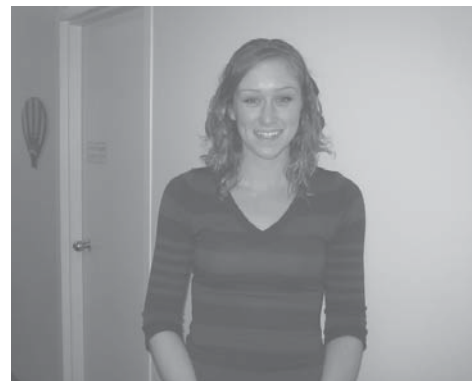
The first parent curriculum night took place on October 16th. The attendance was excellent, with many enjoying the opportunity to visit with their child's teachers and specialists, get another peek at the classrooms and connect with other parents.

With construction in the front of the building complete, other priorities came into focus. In May 2008, the exterior wall on the building's North side was waterproofed and during the

summer, the west retaining wall was repaired, with the cost for both coming to approximately \$20,000.

In line with Centennial's commitment to providing students with quality equipment, a number of new chairs were purchased for the Preschool and Kindergarten classes, thanks, in larger part, to proceeds from the Ladies Golf Tournament.

And we extend a warm welcome to Centennial's newest staff member, Jacquie St. Martin. Having just graduated from Ryerson's ECE program, Jacquie began her new job in September. But she's no stranger to CICC. The accomplished graduate completed her ECE placement with Centennial over a year ago and continued to volunteer at the Centre once it was done. "She's doing a fabulous job, we're happy to have her on board as a full-time staff member," Kim enthuses.



Jacquie St Martin

Summertime Fun

For the first time ever, Centennial's doors were open during the summer months thanks to its inaugural Playgroup. Approximately 16 children took part in the exciting new program, for three mornings a week in July and August. Some were current students of the Centre's preschool program but others were gearing up for their first year at Centennial in the Fall. And the program proved successful for all. "It was great," says Operations Manager, Kim Clarke. "Returning children were able to keep the momentum going while acting as good role models for the others." And, she added, having the opportunity to learn new skills and become acquainted with Centennial routines and the classrooms made the transition into the first year a much smoother one for new students. "It was really successful; we hope to offer the program each summer," Clarke concludes.

Centennial's Resourceful Consultants

They may be the most obscure of all Centennial employees but Lucy Patterson and Margaret Malina have certainly made their mark in daycare centres across the GTA. As Special Needs Resource Consultants, these energetic women are responsible for training the staff at a number of assigned centres, honing their skills, ensuring children receive the utmost

in care and attention. Working at Centennial for approximately six years, Lucy started out as an Early Interventionist before turning to Resource Consulting. With her background in childcare, the switch made good sense, she says. Overseeing the staff at 10 daycare centres, Lucy specializes in speech and language but provides a range of training.

“I help empower teachers,” she explains. And by supporting entire families as well, she is proud that the program “pushes forward the idea of inclusion.”

As for Margaret, she’s been at Centennial for a year now and comes with 13 years experience in resource consulting and teaching combined. With approximately 13 centres under her purview, Margaret may work hard but she’s enjoying every moment. “It’s the best place to work,” she says. “Everyone is



Margaret Malina and Lucy Patterson

very supportive and very welcoming,” she adds. And, though based externally at daycares in Toronto, Margaret is proud of the connection between her work and that of Centennial’s, explaining she’s had opportunities to train teachers

working with children who later became Centennial preschoolers. And considering her affection for Centennial, that relationship with the Centre and her consulting work makes her job all the more rewarding still.

Buckle Up: Next Stop Centennial

Every morning, like clockwork, a van pulls up in front of Laura Purchase’s home in East York. When the driver opens the door, one can clearly make out a children’s song playing joyfully on the stereo. Rain or shine, Belquis greets Laura’s son, preschooler Joshua, with a warm smile, the same one she offers him on his return trip home in the afternoon.



Students and their transportation service at Centennial

the woman or man behind the wheel.

Understanding the importance of consistency, the same driver is assigned to shuttle the same students to school every day, allowing the children to form relationships—not only with their van-mates but with

Welcome to Centennial’s transportation program and its loyal partner, Royal Taxi. A vital service, transportation has become a mainstay, a dependable component of the Centre, helping it run – and run smoothly. And for Laura and many others, the service is another reason to love Centennial. “Joshua sits

outside waiting for the driver every morning and when she leaves he blows her kisses,” she gushes. Moreover, transportation is not only deemed helpful, it is considered



Preschooler, Joshua

necessary. “Coming to Centennial would not be possible otherwise,” explains Laura who works full-time and relies on her mother’s help. “My mother couldn’t navigate the subway system during rush hour; it would be way too hard.”

Alas, without transportation, her son would have to go elsewhere, losing out on a program that has seen him thrive. “There’s such a difference in him now, he’s more vocal, he has friends and he’s happier,” says Laura. “There’s no other way to put it: Centennial is a lifesaver.” So, like many others, this mother is hopeful Joshua can continue his tradition of smiling every morning and blowing kisses each afternoon.