The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Learning Centre for Hamilton

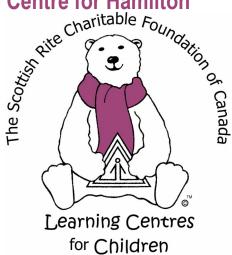
The BEAR Bulletin

Vol. 6 October 2021



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WINE SURVIVOR



Thank you is hardly enough for the support we have received for The Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation for Hamilton.

The past couple of years have been difficult but they would have been impossible without your donations.

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Thank you. We are grateful for your support.

THE SCOTTISH RITE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION LEARNING CENTRE FOR HAMILTON

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

The Learning Centre has returned to in-person tutoring with very strict protocols in place to ensure the continuing safety of all. In-person tutoring is the gold standard of the Orton Gillingham system and that is what we all strive to maintain. To ensure safety of all we are limiting access to our Learning Centre to our children, tutors, and essential volunteers only. We hope that as the pandemic slows so those restrictions can be relaxed and we can once again welcome visitors as well.

The pandemic has greatly impacted our ability to fundraise in traditional ways but we have been blessed with having a core of consistent supporters who have helped keep the doors open. I would like to highlight two of those contributors whose funding made it possible for the Learning Centre to train new tutors so that we could take a bite out of our waiting list this year.

The Gordon and Ruth Gooder Foundation provided a grant of \$50,000.00 for the engagement and training of new tutors. We have used their funding to do just that and hope to have doubled our number of tutors over last year by the beginning of 2022. This will make a significant dent in our waiting list.

I wish to also acknowledge a \$500.00 donation from Keene Lodge A.F & A.M No. 374. Their generous donation has helped fill the gap created by not being able to relay on traditional fundraising events.

The future is still uncertain, but rest assured the Hamilton Learning Centre will work diligently to keep everyone safe while striving to improve the future for the children we serve.



WELCOME AND WELCOME BACK

Welcome to our new year 2021-2022 of tutoring and learning @ the Learning Centre for Hamilton. Welcome new and past students and parents/guardians. Welcome new and past tutors. Welcome new and past observer volunteers. Welcome back tutor trainer and supervisor Meredith Hutchings. Welcome back President Mike Kirk and Board members who support our Centre daily.

Last year was a challenging, interesting, and successful year for Learning Centre for Hamilton, one of 3 Canadian Centres granted special permission to tutor online, from October 2021 to June 2022. We stayed true to the Orton Gillingham program and delivery and saw reading and spelling growth with each child.

We submitted a special proposal in July. It was decided at the end of August by the National Board of the Scottish Rite that tutoring would be delivered internally from all the Centres across Canada for the tutoring year 2021-2022. No online tutoring was approved.

In early August and mid-September Tutor Trainer Meredith Hutchings, from Ottawa, started training 3 new tutors. Welcome back Meredith. Welcome new tutors Elspeth Daley, Donna McManamy, and Mary Ellen Starodub. Welcome back Sarah McKee and Barbara and Michael Baxter. Best wishes to Stacy Geddes on maternity leave. Thank you and best wishes to Nikki Brooks for her tutoring services.

In Centre tutoring in the fall will start with 6 tutors. Three additional new tutors will train in later fall. Our Centre is growing and we are excited that we can provide more services to more children.

Welcome new children Eli, Emily, and Isaac. Welcome back past children Charlie, Dakota, Dylan, Layla, Maggie, Natalie, and Paige. Thank you to parents for their support throughout the year.

Welcome back Observation Coordinators Dale Chapman and Lee Gowers and observation volunteers Mike Kirk, Don Thornton and David Gordon. Welcome new volunteers Mathew Spino, Kevin Vance, Stu Berketo, Kevin Gorrell, Nick Muha, and Peter Lesser. Great thanks to the Board of the Learning Centre for Hamilton that supports us daily and weekly: President Mike Kirk, Vice President Mario Kovacevic, Past President Don Thornton, Ian Anderson, Ken Laliberte, Tom Lewis, and Dave Walden.

Welcome back and great thanks to volunteers Leslie Drake bookkeeper, Lee Kools newsletter editor, and Psychologist Michelle Sala.

It took a great team to get through 2020-2021 and we have a great new team that will work towards success in 2021-2022. Thanks for all you will do!

The Learning Centre for Hamilton is providing the safest environment as possible as the pandemic continues.

The first week of tutoring for new children was Tuesday September 28th and Thursday September 30th to get all people used to the building, comfortable with the procedures, and become familiar with lesson format and delivery. Michael and Barbara assisted new tutors and observed lessons.

The first week of tutoring for past children was Tuesday October 5th and Thursday October 7th. The Baxters were available to start their tutoring then along with new tutors delivering their lessons on their own. At this time, volunteer observers started their designated jobs at the front station and in the reception room.

At any time, you have questions or concerns please contact

Co-directors Michael Baxter @ 306-852-8714 or Barbara Baxter @ 306-852-8724 OR

michaelbarbarabaxter@dyslexiacentrehamilton.com

Please avoid phoning and leaving messages through the office phone as we need a new system that works.

HERE'S TO A GREAT YEAR @ the SCOTTISH RITE

LEARNING CENTRE FOR HAMILTON

