Celebrating 40 years of helping children & youth with special needs in Windsor-Essex reach their full potential!
MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY
By Nancy Gignac, Board President & Elaine Whitmore, CEO John McGivney Children’s Centre

On this 40th anniversary of the John McGivney Children’s Centre, we look back with great admiration and respect at all that has been accomplished not only since the doors opened here at our Matchette Road location in 1978 but also during the 40 previous years that our predecessor organization, the Red Cross School, operated at their premises on Ouellette Avenue.

We marvel at the commitment of those before us who recognized the unmet needs of children and youth with disabilities and their families in our community and who rallied to provide the services and supports their fellow citizens required. Their commitment to enhancing the quality of life of those living with physical disabilities established the foundation for now 80 continuous years of providing high-quality services to an ever-growing number of children and families. Their spirit of passion, commitment and caring has transcended these 80 years and remains evident in the caliber of staff and volunteers that continue to support our children and families today.

As our community of Windsor-Essex grew, so did the numbers accessing the programs at the Red Cross location. A much larger and more accessible facility, built specifically for the expanded range of programs now available, became the vision to which our community again responded thanks to the leadership of John McGivney and the Rotary Club of Windsor (1918). This vision became reality with the 1978 opening of the Children’s Rehabilitation Centre of Essex County.

From the time those doors opened in 1978, we have experienced and responded to the impact of 40 years of growth in the need for our services such that in 2004 we were successful in securing capital funding from the new Ministry of Children and Youth Services to renovate and expand our Matchette Road location. In addition, this steady growth required that we develop and sustain key partnerships with our clients and families as well as across many sectors including health, education, children and community services in order to holistically support children and families in a seamless manner. The growth in the field of research in childhood disability now serves to guide our evidence-based practices and allows us to better measure and evaluate outcomes. Our attention to forging expanded partnerships across emerging sectors, such as technology, has opened our doors to new and innovative ways to positively impact the quality of life for the children, youth and adults we support. As the leading experts in pediatric rehabilitation, we will continue to embrace our responsibility to partner with others, including our families, in order to address unmet needs today and in the years to come.

It is exciting to step back and dream about what the next 40 years will bring. The opportunity to benefit from the growing social and public realization that we collectively benefit the most when all citizens are engaged, consulted, educated, employed and empowered is inspirational. By maintaining a key focus on what our children, youth and families tell us is important to them will ensure that we are always travelling the right path forward.

Elaine Whitmore
CEO, John McGivney Children’s Centre

Nancy Gignac
Board President, John McGivney Children’s Centre
“The John McGivney Children’s Centre is one of the great treasures of our community. For 40 years, it has helped to ensure that children and youth with special needs have been able to reach their full potential, and that they have been fully included in all aspects of life in our community. St. Clair College congratulates the Centre for its four decades of advocacy and service, and wishes it continued success in the future.”

Patti France,
President, St. Clair College

“On behalf of the City of Windsor, I offer congratulations to the John McGivney Children’s Centre as your organization celebrates its milestone 40th anniversary. When we talk about Windsor being a diverse community, we are talking about the unique stories each of us contributes to strengthening the fabric of our community. We are talking about our similarities and differences, about our ordinary abilities and our extraordinary ones. For 40 years, JMCC has helped extraordinary children and youth reach their potential by focusing on creating and offering spaces, programs and services that promote accessibility, inclusivity, physical and mental health, confidence-building, participation and meaningful opportunities for everyone. JMCC opens doors and makes a lasting difference in the lives of children and youth and their family and friends. Thank you for 40 years of outstanding service and best wishes for all that the next 40 years will bring.”

Drew Dilkens,
Mayor, City of Windsor

“The University of Windsor congratulates the John McGivney Children’s Centre on 40 years of helping children in our community with special needs reach their fullest potential. The staff and volunteers of JMCC have made a difference to so many children and their families over the past four decades. Many faculty, staff and students from all corners of our campus contribute to programs at JMCC in a wide variety of ways, and we all join together in appreciation for what has been accomplished. Forty years of helping children is something to celebrate.”

Alan Wildeman,
President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Windsor

“On behalf of the County of Essex, I would like to thank JMCC. Your commitment to programs and specialty services for children with special needs will help them reach their full potential.”

Tom Bain,
Warden, County of Essex

“The John McGivney Children’s Centre plays an integral role in our community, ensuring children with special needs are equipped with the tools and confidence they need to realize their fullest potential and maximize all opportunities for growth and expansion. It’s the heartbeat of tremendous inspiration and is a place which encourages all of us to aspire to be the best versions of ourselves. It helps to nurture greatness and eliminate barriers allowing children with special needs to flourish and thrive. As a graduate of the JMCC School Authority and consumer of the services at the Centre, I am eternally grateful to JMCC and its dedicated staff for helping shape many of the principles of compassion, determination and generosity which I live my life by today. The John McGivney Children’s Centre is a pillar of great strength, unity and warmth in our community. It’s a true champion of inclusion for all children of all abilities.”

Kevin McShan,
JMCC alumni and current Family Advisor

“JMCC has played such an important role in the lives of our children with special needs and their families for 40 years. JMCC is truly one of the most important components of our healthcare system ensuring those who need access to specialized rehabilitation therapy get that care in a caring, compassionate and professional manner. We are indebted to the team at JMCC for all they have done and will continue to do for generations to come.”

David Musyj,
President and CEO, Windsor Regional Hospital

“As our friends and partners at JMCC celebrate 40 years of exceptional service to children and families in our community we at HDGH want to say thank you. Thank you for caring enough to go the extra mile and help us with communication strategies for our older adults. Thank you for dreaming big with us and creating a one of a kind playground for young and old alike. Thank you for working with us to deliver care to kids who have multiple challenges and opportunities to thrive. The future in Windsor-Essex is brighter because you are doing what you do and we look forward to all the hope and happiness the next 40 years will bring.”

Janice Kaffer,
President and CEO, Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare

“For 40 years the John McGivney Children’s Centre enables hopes to outweigh boundaries so kids can live their best lives. Congratulations on this remarkable milestone.”

Jennifer Churchill,
CEO, Ontario Association of Children’s Rehabilitation Services
JOHN McGIVNEY CHILDREN’S CENTRE 2017-18
HIGHLIGHTS

▼ PLAY McGIVNEY
In 2017, thanks to support from our community, JMCC opened Play McGivney, a state-of-the-art accessible playground in our side yard which is enjoyed daily by JMCC clients and families and the community. This accessible playground is perfect for all ages and abilities, thanks to our partnership with Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare, that resulted in a unique intergenerational space.

- Moramos Shriners present a cheque in support of Play McGivney
- In Honour of the Ones We Love’s Anita Imperioli celebrates the opening of Play McGivney with some friends from JMCC
- Play McGivney Grand Opening

▼ SMILEZONE
We are grateful to the Smilezone Foundation and the Windsor Spitfires who provided a refresh of our most public indoor spaces adding colourful murals, bright and happy paint and waiting room activities contributing to a more child and family friendly space at JMCC.

- Light it Up Blue for Autism Awareness
- AP Plasman spreads holiday cheer at JMCC
- JMCC School Authority Class 5 awarded Class of the Week by AM 800, CTV Windsor & Monarch Basics
- Rocking our socks for Down Syndrome Awareness
- Super Hero Fun Day
- Feeding Tube Awareness Week

www.jmccentre.ca

John McGivney Children’s Centre Annual Report 2017-2018
Our Mission
The John McGivney Children’s Centre provides family-centered holistic care to the community, enriching the lives of children and youth with special needs by helping them reach their full potential.

Our Vision
We are a centre of hope, support and inspiration for children with special needs and their families; working together toward a future of participation, acceptance and opportunities.

Visit www.jmccentre.ca to learn more about JMCC and to stay up to date with our news and upcoming events.

2017-2018 DONORS
We are pleased to acknowledge those below who have contributed $100 or more during the fiscal year of April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018. As we respect the request of some donors to remain anonymous, not all contributors have been listed.

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Visit www.jmccentre.ca to learn more about JMCC and to stay up to date with our news and upcoming events.