

Macaulay Today!

A message from our CEO

As we approach the holiday season and reflect on the past year, I am filled with pride to lead Macaulay Centres for Children and be part of such a dedicated, compassionate community. Throughout this year, we have faced both significant challenges and meaningful successes, all while striving to uplift marginalized communities across Toronto. Our mission—to ensure that every child and family has the support and opportunities they need to thrive—has never been more critical. Rising living costs, growing social pressures and systemic barriers continue to place immense burdens on many of the families we serve.

Yet, despite these challenges, I am inspired by the resilience, generosity and dedication of our supporters, staff and families. Thanks to your commitment, our programs—such as the expansion of our licensed child care centers, which now serve over 400 additional children; our innovative Kids Code initiative equipping young learners with vital digital skills; and our emergency family support services providing essential items such as food and transportation—are creating real, positive change. Together, we are building safe, nurturing spaces that empower children and families to reach their full potential.

As we look ahead, I invite you to continue standing with us. Your support enables us to transform lives, create lasting change and build a brighter, more inclusive community where every family can succeed.

Wishing you a joyful and meaningful holiday season.

Warmly,



Charles Abayomi
CEO, Macaulay Centres for Children

Accessible and inclusive child care: Meeting the needs of Toronto families

Macaulay proudly supports the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) plan, a significant initiative that makes high-quality child care more affordable and accessible for families in Toronto. By reducing financial barriers, CWELCC enables parents to access essential care services, creating a positive ripple effect on family well-being and child development.

The impact of CWELCC on affordability and access

Thanks to this new funding initiative, Macaulay has been able to lower child care costs, making it easier for parents to balance work, education and family responsibilities. Greater affordability has led to increased enrolment, particularly among children within the age groups funded by CWELCC.

Expansion at Macaulay

Macaulay's participation with CWELCC has allowed us to significantly expand our reach, creating more opportunities for children and families across Toronto. Key highlights include:

- **10 new child care centres** opened since May 2023.
- Providing care for **400 additional children**, bringing our total CWELCC-funded spaces to **1,100** for children ages 0 to 5.

This expansion ensures that more children benefit from nurturing, enriching environments that support their social, emotional and cognitive growth, while parents gain greater access to affordable child care services that support their whole family's growth and well-being.

Creating inclusive and supportive environments

Our programs continue to focus on inclusivity and equity, serving children with extra support needs, BIPOC families and newcomers. By fostering spaces where every child feels valued, supported and empowered, we are building stronger communities and brighter futures.

Expanding care and inclusivity

Since partnering with CWELCC, Macaulay has opened 10 new child care sites, providing care for more than 400 additional children. Our programs continue to focus on inclusivity and equity, serving children with extra support needs, BIPOC families and newcomers, while fostering spaces where every child can thrive.

By supporting CWELCC, Macaulay remains committed to creating accessible, affordable and high-quality child care that meets the diverse needs of our community, ensuring brighter futures for children and their families.

Exciting news: Our new website has launched!

We're thrilled to introduce our new online space! Visit macaulaycentres.org to explore our child-focused programs, impactful community initiatives and the many ways we're working together to support Toronto's families. Our redesigned website makes it easier than ever to stay informed, get involved and see how Macaulay is making a difference. Check it out and experience our new digital home!

Building brighter futures: After-School Program and Kids Code

Our After School Program (ASP), which includes our innovative Kids Code initiative, provides safe, supportive and enriching care—especially for children from marginalized communities. This program offers spaces where children can learn, grow and thrive. In 2025, we will expand from three to five days per week at all ASP locations, giving children consistent support, social connections and opportunities to learn and grow.

Key achievements

- **120 children served** through **180 coding sessions**, building critical digital skills.
- **Inclusive care:** Programs supported **136 children**, including those with extra needs.
- **Parent workshops:** Six sessions with **41 participants** strengthened family engagement.

Program impact

- **Health and nutrition:** **82%** of parents saw major improvements.
- **Social skills:** **73%** reported significant gains.
- **Academic focus:** Homework completion and educational support were highly valued.

From academic support to social skill-building, these programs empower children for success.

Urgent support for families in crisis

Many families in Toronto face unexpected challenges that make meeting basic needs difficult. Macaulay's Emergency Family Support Program is here to help, providing essential items like food, transportation and household necessities. This support offers a crucial safety net, ensuring that children have what they need to thrive, even during tough times.

A family's story

Maria, a single mother of three, faced an uncertain future after unexpectedly losing her job. With one of her children requiring extra support, the stress of providing for her family became overwhelming. Thanks to the Emergency Family Support Program, Maria was able to purchase groceries and winter clothing for her children.

"This support kept us afloat during one of the hardest periods of my life. It meant my children were warm, fed and taken care of when I felt I had nowhere to turn," she shared.

Quick response and immediate impact

Since its inception, the program has supported **83 families**, with requests typically approved within just a few days. This timely assistance helps cover urgent needs, offering parents the ability to focus on their children rather than worrying about where the next meal will come from.

Improving well-being

For many families, this assistance has meant healthier food choices, clothing for the winter and access to medications. Single parents, families with children with special needs, and those facing job loss or housing insecurity have particularly benefited.

Supporting children's health and growth

By reducing stress and ensuring basic needs are met, the program's impact often extends beyond financial relief. Programs like these remind us why community support is so essential. Thank you for helping Macaulay continue to be there for families in times of need.

**Name changed for privacy.*

Together, we can help families thrive

Every day, Macaulay Centres for Children provides vital programs and services that make a tangible difference for families across Toronto. From expanding after-school care to offering emergency relief, our work creates brighter futures for children and builds stronger communities. As demand for these supports continues to grow, we need your help to keep this important work going.

Your support makes a real impact

- **After School Program expansion:** Extending from three to five days per week, giving children consistent opportunities to learn, connect and grow.
- **Specialized care:** Tailored support for children with extra needs, building their confidence and essential life skills.
- **Digital empowerment:** Coding sessions that prepare young learners with critical tech skills for a bright future.
- **Emergency relief:** Providing families with essential items like food, transportation and urgent support during challenging times.

Your donation to our year-end campaign ensures children and families receive the care and opportunities they need to succeed. Together, we can create a more inclusive and resilient community.

[Donate now](#)

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Macaulay's mission.

For more information, visit macaulaycentres.org

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Macaulay Centres for Children

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