

# QUARTERLY Impact Report

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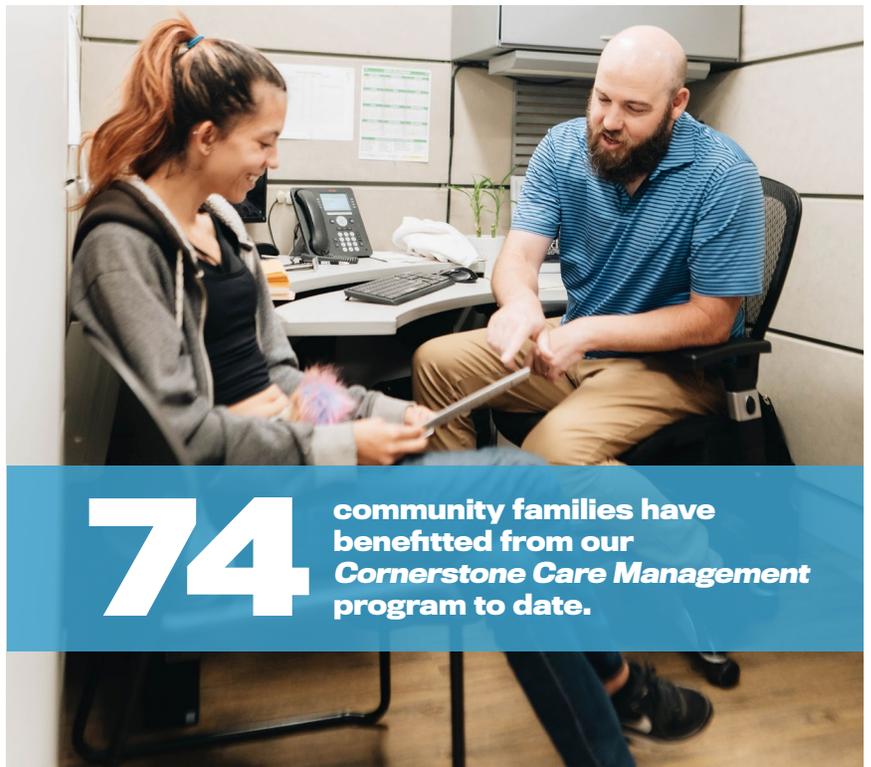
SPRING 2024

## How YSM's Cornerstone Family Support Services meet the Needs of Families in Crisis

### Cornerstone Care Management

Our Cornerstone program's care management team works to ensure inclusion and diversity, and incorporates an Anti-Black Racism (ABR) framework and trauma-informed lens as they work impactfully with families in crisis.

Their goal is to provide wrap-around support to families involved with Child Protective Services; to lower the risk of children being brought into foster care, and to prevent that outcome for families already under investigation. Using a holistic model, YSM staff are relationship focused and work to build supports to further families' goals and assist them in moving from surviving to thriving.



74

community families have benefitted from our *Cornerstone Care Management* program to date.

Care management offers wrap-around support to strengthen and stabilize both individuals and families.

**"I would like to share my feelings with you . . . thank you for everything you assisted me and my three sons with during the difficult times we faced. You support[ed] us in many ways – programs for me and my boys, for [my eldest] with YSM's Evergreen Centre, hospital payments; Permanent Resident payment for [my youngest] and your advice for my [middle son], as well as you being with me step by step to help me settle my new life with kids, you are the best!"**

**– Lucy\*, YSM community member**

\* Community member's name changed to protect their privacy.

# Educational Support Programs

Educational support programs aim to ensure children from financially struggling families within the YSM community are offered personalized educational pathways, and plans for children to enhance their self-esteem and achieve their personal goals.

Our supportive programs, including tutoring and **Thinking Forward**, which deliver workshops on topics such as financial literacy, anti-bullying, and character development, aim to empower children and youth from Toronto inner-city schools to create positive change in their communities through arts and leadership training.

The impact of **tutoring** is well expressed by a parent of two children

enrolled in the program: *“I’m so grateful to have tutors for my kids because I can see great improvement in their academics, especially my daughter who is in grade 11, and is*

*now achieving 90-96%, which she never had in chemistry before. And my son is doing so well with math!”*

– Jane\*, YSM Cornerstone program participant



**Over 120 students**  
have benefited from participation  
in our **Thinking Forward** program.

Academic supports and educational programs help youth gain essential skills to succeed in school and life.

# Every Little Step

**Every Little Step** is a program for community members who are expecting a child, families that have children and want to increase their knowledge, and parents who have child protection involvement and are required to access a reputable resource to build their parenting skills.

It provides a time to listen, reflect, learn and adapt new parenting practices, better well-being and safety. Facilitated groups allow participants to share their experience in a safe and non-judgmental space, while also helping to create lasting relationships in the community.

This program was in increasing demand as a parenting program since the City of Toronto stopped running their program during COVID, and since.

In response, YSM stepped in to bridge that gap. With the continuation of the program, parents within our community are becoming better equipped and informed about many aspects of parenting, with us supporting them in building their skills and, ideally, decreasing family separations.



This program allows participants to share their experiences and come away with new parenting practices.

**44**  
adults have benefited  
from our **Every Little**  
Step program.

**We gratefully acknowledge and thank all of you, our committed POSSIBILITY PARTNERS' monthly donors, for making all of these family-focused programs possible through your kind and continuing donations. We appreciate your valuable support of our work!**

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\* Community member's name changed to protect their privacy.