



For Immediate Release  
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## ***Success By 6* Helps Over 10,000 At-Risk Children and Parents Every Year United Way Program Celebrates 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Toronto – In just six years, United Way of Greater Toronto’s *Success By 6* programs has had a dramatic impact on the lives of more than 30,000 children between the ages of 0 and 6 and 27,000 parents.

*Success By 6* aims to improve the life chances and well-being of at-risk children in Toronto by supporting parents, connecting families, and building community. The program offers pre and post-natal care, parenting skills, family resource centres, school readiness initiatives and home visits.

“*Success By 6* was started to support families where parents face the toughest challenges, and has had terrific impact,” said **Frances Lankin**, President and CEO, United Way of Greater Toronto. “United Way is committed to early years initiatives and we are allocating \$4.2 million over the next three years to continue much needed programs for young mothers, newcomer families, low-income parents and at-risk children.”

Since 1998, United Way has provided \$5.7 million in funding through *Success By 6*, which has helped 17 agencies across Toronto operate over 35 distinct programs in more than 100 locations. Seventy-five percent of the programs operate in high-need neighbourhoods in Toronto’s inner suburbs. The initiative is funded through United Way’s endowment **The Tomorrow Fund**, with the support of major donors and corporate partners.

Positive outcomes of *Success By 6* programs:

- 90% of crack and heroin addicted parents participating in the Child Development Institute’s Family Reconnection Centre (FRC) and Parents And Children Together (PACT) programs remained drug free after their first year.
- As a result of *Ready, Set, Go*, a school readiness program in several high-need neighbourhoods in Scarborough, teachers report a 100% improvement in the integration, socializing, and behaviour of high-risk students during the first days of school.
- 90% of children attending a school readiness program delivered by the Etobicoke Brighter Futures Coalition showed significant improvement in colour and number recognition, hand-eye coordination, pre-math skills, sharing, group play, language skills and ability to

stay on track. This success rate puts these children on an identical footing as children in higher income families.

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- 80% of children in high-risk families involved in the Child Development Institute's parents and Children Together (PACT) program were maintained safely in their homes and not removed by child protection agencies. These families would have a high likelihood of reentering care without these intensive forms of support.
- 95% of children born to young parents at Jessie's Centre for Teenagers were born with healthy birth weights, five percent above the city-wide average.

"A mountain of evidence supports the notion that the early years are crucial and that investment in early years' programs pay incredible dividends to the entire community," said **Jack Lee**, *Success by 6* committee member. "The results from the last six years not only support that belief, but underscore the need for continued financial support of early years' initiatives and a commitment to our children."

Seventeen agencies in Toronto offer *Success by 6* programs, including Agincourt Community Services Association, Aisling Discoveries Child and Family Centre, Better Beginnings – NOW, Child Development Institute (The), Cliffcrest Community Centre, College Montrose Children's Place, Etobicoke Brighter Futures Coalition, Growing Up Healthy Downtown, Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre, Jessie's Centre for Teenagers Inc., Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, North York Community House, Rexdale Women's Centre, Scadding Court Community Centre, Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office/Applegrove Community Complex, Warden Woods Community Centre and Yorktown Family Services.

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