

# Generations Connected at Perley Health



Sharing news about the Intergenerational Child Care program

**Edition 4**  
Dec 2, 2025

Welcome to the fourth edition of our **Generations Connected** newsletter, created to keep the Perley Health community updated on project schedules, safety measures, programming information and opportunities to support.

The Perley Health Intergenerational Child Care, a Program of Andrew Fleck Children's Services, embodies collaboration across our community of care. This initiative is a partnership between Perley Health, which provides a continuum of care and services for Seniors and Veterans; the Perley Health Foundation, which raises and manages funds to support programs, services, and capital needs at Perley Health; and Andrew Fleck Children's Services (AFCS), a non-profit organization that operates childcare centres across the region.

Read recent updates and visit our webpage: [PerleyHealth.ca/generations-connected](https://PerleyHealth.ca/generations-connected)



# Growing Together: How Intergenerational Moments Shape Our Days at our Mooney's Bay site



By: Jennifer Hill, RECE, Mooney's Bay Intergenerational Early Learning Centre

Since our opening at Mooney's Bay Intergenerational Early Learning Centre (2022), our program has become a meaningful part of the Andrew Fleck community. We bring children together with older adults we lovingly nickname our Grandfriends and let connection grow naturally. Over the years, our Grandfriends have included neighbours, older adults from homes like St. Patrick's Home of Ottawa, and even grandparents of children already enrolled.

What makes this program special is how easily it fits into our day. Yes, we follow early learning standards like any other centre, but the presence of Grandfriends adds a warmth you can't capture in the curriculum. Their visits blend right in, joining us on neighbourhood walks, helping children with zippers and boots, gardening, creating art, or simply sitting with a child during lunch. Instead of disrupting routines, they enrich them. It often makes me wonder why every early learning centre doesn't do this.

For educators, intergenerational care can feel unfamiliar at first, especially if you haven't worked closely with older adults. But the benefits show themselves quickly. Watching relationships form and noticing how much purpose and joy it brings to the older adults is meaningful for our whole team.

One of my favourite memories comes from a quiet afternoon in the preschool room. I watched a young girl and her Grandfriend sitting together, stringing beads onto pipe cleaners. Beading takes concentration and fine motor coordination, and both of them shared the same challenge: dropping beads that bounced across the tray and skittered onto the table. Each time it happened, the preschooler burst into laughter, shouting "whoa, whoa, whoa!" Her Grandfriend laughed along with her, equally delighted. In that simple moment, neither seemed to feel self-conscious or frustrated; they were simply two people learning, trying, and enjoying the process together. It was then I realized how much children and Grandfriends truly have in common.

Now that I'm working in the infant room, I've been able to see our program grow in new ways. Our gardening Grandfriend plants a full vegetable garden every spring, and by late summer our infants are toddling over to pick (and occasionally sample!) the veggies with us. These small, shared moments remind me daily just how powerful intergenerational care can be. When generations grow together, everyone benefits, even us grown-ups.

**For construction updates, please visit our website and watch for our regular updates: [PerleyHealth.ca/construction-news](https://PerleyHealth.ca/construction-news)**

## Find Out More!

Are you curious about the intergenerational child care centre, a program that promises to offer an enriching experience where children thrive alongside Veterans and Seniors, fostering mutual joy, compassion, and learning? This child care service intends to provide social, emotional, and many other benefits for every participant.

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our updated, comprehensive **FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) page on the website!**

We've worked to answer all your essential questions about registration, fees, daily routines, the specialized curriculum, and the safety measures in this newly renovated and expanded space on the first floor of Perley Health.

Whether you're considering enrollment or simply want to learn more about this new program, the FAQ resource is your complete guide.

- Visit the updated FAQ today: [PerleyHealth.ca/generations-connected](https://PerleyHealth.ca/generations-connected)

Have a question? Please email [info@perleyhealth.ca](mailto:info@perleyhealth.ca) and we will do our best to promptly respond and may add the exchange in the next draft of the FAQ

## Golf Gives Back: Royal Ottawa, Ladies Golf Group Raises Funds for Intergenerational Child Care Program!

The Royal Ottawa Golf Club's Ladies Closing Tournament proved that a great round of golf can also make a meaningful impact. During their year-end tournament, the group generously selected Perley Health's intergenerational child care program as their charity of choice, raising an impressive \$15,130.

Long-time Perley Health supporter, Claudia McKeen joined Perley Foundation staff to celebrate the successful event and present us with the proceeds, along with her warm encouragement.

**Heartfelt thanks to all the remarkable women whose efforts truly show how golf gives back!**

To continue supporting the Bridging Generations campaign with your donation, please visit [PerleyHealthFoundation.ca/bridging-generations](https://PerleyHealthFoundation.ca/bridging-generations), call 613-526-7173, or visit the Foundation office Monday – Friday between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

**Thank you!**



### Registration Information: Temporary Internal Waitlist for Perley Health Staff

As of 9 am, Friday, November 14, Perley Health has begun to accept **Staff** registrations for the Intergenerational Child Care Centre, a program of Andrew Fleck Children's Services!

This child care centre, set to open in Spring 2026, will be located on the first floor of the Perley Centre and will offer 49 spaces (10 infant, 15 toddler, 24 preschool).

Perley Health has established a temporary internal waitlist to ensure **Perley Health permanent staff** can secure their priority access.

- Waitlist opens for staff: 9 am, Friday, November 14
- Waitlist closes: 5 pm, Friday, January 9
- How to Apply: Visit [https://form.jotform.com/AFCS\\_Parent/PerleyWaitlist](https://form.jotform.com/AFCS_Parent/PerleyWaitlist) to complete the short application form.
- **Priority:** Spaces will be allocated based on the employee's Date of Hire at Perley Health.
- Next Steps: Initial offers are expected in March 2026 for the Spring 2026 opening.
- All families who accept an offer will be required to register on the City of Ottawa waitlist when it becomes available.

For specific waitlist questions, please contact the Andrew Fleck Parent Navigator, Nicole, at [PN@afchildrensservices.ca](mailto:PN@afchildrensservices.ca).

### Your Safety is Our Top Priority

Your safety is paramount throughout this construction project. Please help us keep everyone safe by paying close attention to all signs and following all safety directions in and around construction areas.

Free hearing protection is available from the Support Services offices on the second floor of the Perley Centre for anyone affected by the noise disruptions construction may cause.

### Stay Informed

We frequently produce two newsletters: one provides construction updates and the second is dedicated to all topics related to the child care centre.

**Print:** Copies are available throughout the Perley Health community.

**Online:**

1. Visit our Generations Connected webpage:  
[PerleyHealth.ca/generations-connected](https://PerleyHealth.ca/generations-connected)
2. Access the Construction Newsletter:  
[PerleyHealth.ca/public-announcement](https://PerleyHealth.ca/public-announcement)

For questions or concerns, please contact [info@PerleyHealth.ca](mailto:info@PerleyHealth.ca).