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A PORTRAIT
OF

OUJOUR

ENGLISH
OF

Toujours ensemble (Te) is a community organization that was founded in Verdun in 1986. In addition to supporting its regular members*, each year Toujours ensemble provides direct assistance to Verdun's youth and their families, thus reaching over **1,000 people**.

- Registration costs \$25 per child per school year.
- The organization is open to young people from Monday to Friday, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Outings are organized once a month.
- * Regular members:

young people aged 9 to 17 enrolled in the Parcours or Passeport pour ma réussite programs during the current school year.

Parcours
Program

elementary and high school students

Passeport pour ma réussite
Program

237 high school students

Pilot Project 2nd phase

77 elementary students

Christmas campaign: **236 baskets** given to underprivileged families

School lunches: **9 806 meals** served to **58 young people**

12 membersBoard of Directors

28 full-time employees

13 part-time or seasonal **employees**

8 adults receiving social integration assistance

125 volunteers



Dear Partners and Friends,

Each year, Toujours ensemble helps and supports Verdun youth and their families. We have the tremendous privilege of meeting and getting to know hundreds of children and teens who use our varied programs and services every day. These youth who need us are the reason Toujours ensemble is here. For all of us, they are also a daily source of motivation and inspiration to get involved and support the organization.

At a time when governments and unions focus on their respective budgets and collective agreements, Toujours ensemble stays focused on youth because their well-being and success must be our priority.

Year after year, plenty of research studies confirm that education is a key social factor in economic development and a driver of both material and cultural wealth. This is why it is so important for us to provide the many resources and varied tools that our children need to succeed.

It is with this goal in mind that we have succeeded for over 35 years now. From the academic support and extracurricular activities to financial and social support, all of our initiatives have the same goal: help youth stay focused and succeed in school.

We are very proud of this year's results, especially since we are getting ready to include our Sac à dos Pilot Project in our regular programming. Based on community needs and with support from the Fondation Réussite Jeunesse, this project is a high school readiness program for primary school students who have been identified as having specific difficulties.

Although government cutbacks continue to make headlines, we at Te prefer to invest in the future to ensure success. We have always believed and will continue to believe in this approach.

Toujours ensemble plays an essential role in youth development, and we need you now more than ever. Your support and trust are the resources we need to help youth thrive, to continue meeting community needs, and to be there for young people and their families.

Thank you and please enjoy our annual report.

Marc Edwards

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Te has just celebrated another great year and continues to move forward on so many important fronts. We are so grateful to our children, families, partners and donors for what is clearly a collective effort to ensure that Te continues to offer services and programs. Once again, it is an absolute privilege for me to work with such an incredible team of dedicated, passionate and energetic individuals. Their ideas and creativity always amaze and enrich me. BRAVO!

Te enters its 36th year providing both the children and their families with leading edge tools and the resources necessary to succeed on their journey to graduation. This year we will once again welcome over forty students to the podium to receive their high school diplomas, which is a huge accomplishment. Many will be the first in their family to ever graduate. Please join us in applauding them on their success.

Moving forward, we all know that as the economy shifts so, too, do demographics which is why it is essential for Te to adapt in order to meet the changing needs of the Verdun community. The reality is we now have more immigrant families which will result in a rise in our high school student population in the next three years. Te is determined to continue to serve this demographic, which is at the core of our mission.

How will Te meet this new challenge? By forging strategic partnerships and collaborations with existing community services and interested stakeholders so that we can continue to offer our much-needed services and programs. We are very blessed to have such a big family which, year after year, joins us in our mission and vision to ensure sustainability of our organization. Te plays a valuable role in the Verdun community. How do we know? We see it on the faces of our children, as they share their aspirations with us as well as their peers. Yes, dreams do come true at Te - one day at a time!



This year I am very proud to share that we have been able to integrate an intervention approach for all the programs being delivered at Te. Our approach is an ecological one where the youth is at the centre and is supported by the different actors, resources and environment to ensure that his success is that much greater. We cannot stress the importance of everyone playing a role in the solutions and outcomes that happen at Te. Your contribution and support allow us to make a difference TOGETHER for the collective of the future generation who will lead our society in the not so far distant future.

On behalf of the team, we thank you for your loyalty to Te.

Rachel H. Renaud



Help young people who are facing academic, family, economic or social challenges. Open our doors so that they can participate in **educational and recreational activities** that help them **maximize their full potential.**

By building a secure, **structured and supportive environment**, Toujours ensemble provides young people with an opportunity to make important connections and gain a **sense of belonging**.

OBJECTIVES

- Develop long-term engagement and independence among youth and their families
- Support young people's personal, social and educational development
- Encourage academic perseverance.

Academic perseverance: an approach that needs a community solution

Toujours ensemble's main goal is to develop an integrated approach with parents, schools and other charitable community organizations to give youth a positive experience that encourages them to stay on track to reach their goals and realize their dreams.

We want to ensure that youth in our neighborhood persevere and meet their academic and professional goals so that, as adults, they have the tools they need to be economically and socially active in their communities.

VALUES

Cooperation

Curiosity

Honesty

Perseverance

Respect

Self-esteem

Social involvement

VISIBILITY – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

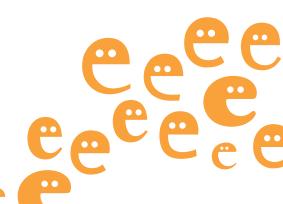
Again this year, Toujours ensemble received excellent coverage in the media and also received visibility and support from its partners, who are great at sharing our information with their networks.

Te in the media

- 35 media hits (articles, interviews, mentions or ads)
- **5** feature articles

Information tools

- Quarterly newsletter for partners
- Weekly newsletter for the Te team
- Promotional materials
- Annual report
- Social media (Facebook and Twitter)
- Website





Two new events were held in the community:

- In May 2014, approximately 100 people attended our **open-house day** to visit Te. These guests were introduced to our varied activities and met our team.
- Our **back-to-school party** in September was a great opportunity for us to meet Verdun families, have some fun, and jump start the organization's activities for the year. Over 200 people enjoyed the festivities, which included a BBQ and a mini-baseball game.

In addition to organizing these open events, the Te team also got involved with different stakeholders in the community.

Te participates in:

- Table de concertation jeunesse de Verdun (TCJV), which supports the local coordination of all resources involved with the social and educational success as well as social inclusion of young people (aged 5 to 30).
- Coopérative jeunesse de services, Conseil verdunois d'initiatives et d'intervention communautaire (CVIIC), which gives the opportunity for community organizations to network and share together around issues of interest for the Verdun population and community.
- Concertation en développement social de Verdun (CDSV), which collaborates and coordinates with different organizations to improve the community's living conditions and well-being with an objective to reduce poverty in communities.
- Meetings with the CLSC provides us with clinical supervision and information about access to CLSC services to Te members and families.
- Table multi ESMR (École secondaire Monseigneur-Richard), which includes the school's non-teaching staff which has a mandate to share information so that we can together find solutions and implement intervention plans that are adapted to the needs of participating students.
- Board of directors of the Regroupement des organismes communautaires québécois de lutte au décrochage (ROCLD) and the ESMR (École secondaire à Monseigneur-Richard) governing boards.
- Conference on academic Perseverance efforts of the Commission scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys.

REVIEW OF 2014-2015 OBJECTIVES

Toujours ensemble had a great year in **2014-2015**. We met all of our objectives and our teams adopted new practices to improve how they work with youth.

Here is an overview:

Parcours Program

OBJECTIVES

- Maximize our members participation
- Diversify our workshops
- Increase the organization's community involvement and participation
- Develop our database

TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS

- Creation of a monthly calendar of diverse activities (18 new workshops)
- Various and diverse training sessions for the school lunch team and youth workers
- Additional involvement in schools: recess activities, lunch-time games and increased participation in one-time events.

Passeport pour ma réussite Program

OBJECTIVES

- Implement 1-on-1 intervention strategies based on the newly-implemented screening tool
- Maintain stable participation rates in the program's different activities during the school year.

TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS

- Significant improvement in our collaboration with families (creation of a Parents Committee) and with the École secondaire Monseigneur-Richard (staff participation at Table Multi meetings)
- Ongoing training for staff (related to drug addiction, a systemic approach, bullying and stress management, a logic model, and more)
- Team inclusion in a process to share expertise among different staff members.

Sac à dos Pilot Project – 2nd phase

OBJECTIVES

- Make the pilot project part of Toujours ensemble's regular programming
- Continue working with École Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes and develop a partnership with the École Lévis-Sauvé.

TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS

Excellent partnership started with École Lévis-Sauvé. The administration and teachers found a dedicated room for this project at their school and welcomed the Sac à dos Project with open arms. We also renewed our partnership with École Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes for a group of 9 students.

At this stage, all factors indicate that the pilot project will become a permanent Toujours ensemble program in September 2015. Although the second phase is not yet finished, the two project phases have demonstrated that Sac à dos indeed meets the community's needs.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2015-2016

Develop and implement our intervention and evaluation approaches across all Te programs

Using a global approach, Toujours ensemble is able to help and support young people as soon as they start primary school and until they receive their high school diplomas.



In the coming year, our goal is to improve our practices by integrating a global approach based on an ecological model (Dufort & Le Bossé, 2003). We will implement a logical and ongoing evaluation process to assess the short-, medium- and long-term results for each Te program.

Position Te for sustainable growth

One of Te's strategic objectives in recent years has been to manage growth. Now that we have met this goal, it is important to look to the future and position the organization to achieve sustainable growth that will better meet the varied needs of our community. Over the years, we have adapted our practices. We recognize the need to implement an ongoing evaluation process to identify the best performance indicators for each program.

OBJECTIVE

In the next year, the Sac à dos Pilot Project will become a permanent Te program.

3 Ensure the financial stability of Te

In the current economy, it is essential for Toujours ensemble to create a financial development plan to guarantee the future of the organization and all of our services.

OBJECTIVE Creat

Create a three-year financial development plan that incorporates new strategies to increase our revenue





Toujours ensemble is proud to have a team of dedicated and passionate professionals.



Administration

Rachel H. RenaudPresident and Executive Director



Isabelle Velleman

Coordinator, Development and Administrative Management



Robert Belleville

Maintenance Manager



Irène Manirakiza

Secretary-Receptionist



Sylvie Racine

Accounting Technician and administrative support



Elaine Saillant

Controller (consultant)



Christine Vallières
Communications Officer



Parcours Program

Daniel Lapalme Director



Maxime Leroy

Head Youth Worker



Lucie Bilodeau

School Lunch Coordinator



Daniel Champagne

Youth Worker



Steve Doucet

Chef



Chloé Giard-Montpetit

Youth Worker



Sylvie Hamel

Support for school lunches and homework assistance



Marie-Josée Legault Youth Worker



Benoît Marquette Youth Worker



Passeport pour ma réussite Program





Johanne Kingsbury Coordinator



Diane Antoun Administrative Assistant



Elhadji Bathily Student-Parent Support Worker



Mathieu Beaudoin Community Outreach Officer



Brigitte Chiasson Student-Parent Support Worker



Monica-Andrea Correa **Tutoring Facilitator**



Nesrine Daouzli Student-Parent Support Worker

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Geneviève Gaudette Specialty and Career Mentoring Facilitator



Nicolas Greenfield Group mentoring facilitator



Mathieu Laurin-Gordon Research and Evaluation Officer



Mélissa Langevin Student-Parent Support Worker



Cynthia Morin Student-Parent Support Worker



Sac à dos Pilote project — 2nd phase





Jonathan Bernard Youth Worker



Maude Robitaille Youth Worker

Part-time team

We also want to acknowledge the significant contribution to the success of our youth by the homework assistance and tutoring team for the Parcours and Passeport pour ma réussite programs.

- · Mariana Caloca
- Émilie Charron
- Jessyca Dufour
- Marc-Tavio Folly
- Diana González Rodríguez
- Stéphanie Larivière
- Annick Moreau
- · Keith O'Brien
- Marie-Hélène Savoie

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD Marc Edwards Vetrx Inc., Founder



VICE-CHAIRMAN

Jeff Speak

CEO, Etelesolv.com



TREASURER Marie-Claude Jalbert, CFA Jarislowsky, Fraser Limited, Senior Partner



SECRETARY
Rachel H. Renaud
President and Executive Director of Toujours ensemble

Administrators



Me Pascale BédardCounsel specializing in civil liability, commercial and insurance law



Marie-Pierre Corriveau, CHRP



Sigrid Ellefsen Telus, Sales Director — Business Solutions



François GuyCIBC Wood Gundy, First Vice-President,
Investment Advisor



Sévrine LabelleBoard of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal,
Vice President, Strategy and Public Affairs



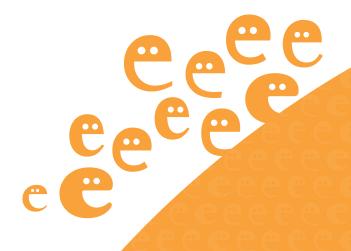
Nathalie Marcoux, CA Capinabel Inc., VP Finance



Louis-Simon MénardDigital Dimension, Vice-President & Owner



Luc SabourinCoca-Cola Refreshments, Finance-Recycling Manager,
Canadian Business Unit



COMMITTEES

The Board of Directors created working committees responsible for specific areas. Each Board member must sit on at least one committee per year.

Finance Committee

The goal of the Finance Committee is to advise the Board on tax issues, financial planning, audits, investments and funding to ensure the right mechanisms are in place to protect the organization's assets.

Development Committee

The Development Committee helps the organization innovate in its approach and reach its fundraising goals. Its members seek out donations from companies, foundations and individuals who support our mission.

Human Resources Committee

The Human Resources Committee ensures that the environment and working conditions at Te are conducive to employee well-being. The committee also works to improve human resources management and clarify our administrative policies and procedures.

e Identity Committee

The goal of the Identity Committee is to develop and reaffirm the commitment of stakeholders (donors, the community, employees and families/youth) and to help other committees and teams meet their objectives by providing communication tools that represent the organization.

Youth Success Committee

This committee was created to oversee the launch of the Sac à dos Pilot Project and ensure that the donor's wishes are respected. Next year, this committee will oversee all of the organization's programs, and its name will change to the Te Programs Committee.

New!

Parents Committee

This committee of six parents from the Passeport pour ma réussite Program was created to develop their sense of involvement and belonging. This committee allows Te to better understand their needs while providing a platform for everyone to share their knowledge, experience and expertise.



Volunteers are an essential driver for social change. By freely helping a cause and actively participating in their neighborhoods, volunteers generate very positive impact both for themselves and the community. Toujours ensemble has over **125** active volunteers who contribute in a major way!

	No. of participants	Total hours	
PARCOURS PROGRAM			" When I was in high school,
Activities	9 :	164	I had to do volunteer work,
Trainees	3	891	so I started tutoring in Secondary 5.
Committees	2	4	The state of the s
Youth	12	64	Now, I keep helping Toujours
			ensemble so that I can give back."
PASSEPORT POUR MA RÉUSSITE PRO	GRAM		- Volunteer and former Te member
Activities	16 :	236.5	Polanteel and former te memoer
Homework assistance	80	1987.5	
Recognition and training		193	
Trainees	1	7 = = = =	eccec ecec ecee
Youth	18	145	" Education is so important.
Parents Committee + Involvement	6	71	Given the high drop-out rate in the
Bike workshop	1	50	neighborhood, I wanted to get involved
SAC À DOS PILOT PROJECT			to fight this social problem."
Youth	2 :	7.25	- Volunteer for the Passeport pour ma réussite Program
BOARD AND SUBCOMMITTEE			
Board and Working Committees	19	169.5	

Te would also like to acknowledge its volunteers, as our team is very proud of and grateful for their invaluable contribution. Without them, we would not achieve our goals. Volunteers bring essential passion and energy to encourage our youth to stay in school and to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty in Verdun.

On behalf of our team and the youth, families and partners we work with, thank you to our volunteers for your incredible generosity. Your dedication has a direct impact on the community.

SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE OF VERDUN AND TE MEMBERS

Located in the Wellington-De L'Église sector of Verdun, Toujours ensemble meets the varied needs of a particularly underprivileged clientele in Greater Montreal that experiences a high degree of social, academic, family and cultural problems.

SNAPSHOT of the territory*

STABLE POPULATION: 66,160 PEOPLE LIVE IN THE BOROUGH

A borough made up of three sectors with high sociodemographic contrasts:

• The Wellington-De L'Église sector is known particularly for the vulnerability of its residents.

Low incomes are more common in Wellington-De L'Église than Verdun as a whole, especially among youth:

- 25% of people in Verdun and Montreal have a low income, whereas this rate reaches 32% in Wellington-De L'Église
- Among people under 18, the percentage rises to 41% in Wellington-De L'Église and 31% in Verdun, compared to 28% in Montreal

Single parents are very common across Verdun, particularly in the Wellington-De L'Église sector:

• 39% of families with children in Verdun and 46% in the Wellington sector are single parent families (33% for the Island of Montreal). Wellington-De L'Église has one of the highest rates of single parents on the Island of Montreal

SOME FACTS

- **Youth (0 to 14 years):** 13.5% (15.2% on the Island of Montreal)
- **Families with children:** 55.1% (62.8% on the Island of Montreal)
- **Immigrants:** 22.5% (33.2% on the Island of Montreal)
- People 15 and older without a diploma or degree (low education level):

17.9% (18.9% on the Island of Montreal)

*Source: 2014 Verdun Territorial Analysis, Centraide of Greater Montreal. Sociodemographic and economic data: 2011 Census, National Household Survey, and the Québec Survey of Child Development in Kindergarten (QSCDK), 2012

SNAPSHOT of Te

OUR MEMBERS

- 52% girls, 48% boys
- 32% elementary students
- **68**% high school students
- 63% of high school students are enrolled in the Passeport pour ma réussite program

- 30,5% of our youth don't speak French at home
- 74,4% of our youth live in the Wellington-de-l'Église neighborhood
- 20% of our youth live in the Desmarchais-Crawford neighborhood
- 5,5% of our youth live outside of Verdun

CULTURAL BACKGROUND

- **59**% of residents report being of sole Canadian or Quebec descent
- 41% report being of mixed descent (Canadian or other) or of foreign descent
- 74% of youth are born in Canada
- 26% of youth are born outside of Canada

26 % of our members born outside of Canada come from43 different countries



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Parcours Program

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General objectives

- Contribute to the academic perseverance and success of youth
- Help improve the living environment of these young people and their families
- Work to improve social and economic factors for both them and their families.

"I like **Te**. It's **cool**. Lots of my friends come here. I couldn't come last year because I was only 8 years old, so I'm very happy that I could participate this year."

- Young participant in the Parcours Program

The **Parcours Program** has many services adapted to youth and their families. Whether they attend a summer camp, receive school lunches, get homework assistance or take part in a recreational activity, our members come here to grow, express themselves and meet their peers.

This year, 409 youths participated in our activities.

Extracurricular activities

Extracurricular activities allow us to work with youth in a recreational setting. More than just a way to pass the time, these activities are an opportunity for them to learn, interact with others, and demonstrate their creativity.

- 8 244 annual individual attendance at regular afternoon activities
- Performing arts, cooking, sports, fine art, science, teen nights and various games are just a sample of the many workshops that Te offers. On average, about 50 youth come here every day
- In addition to our regular activities, Toujours ensemble organized **14** affordable outings for its members during the school year; **75** youths took full advantage of these opportunities.

Last year, the team also organized **18 new workshops** and increased the number of structured activities, which allowed our youth workers to better understand the needs of this demographic and thereby adapt their workshops and practices.





Homework assistance

A homework assistance service is available every day to help youth keep up with their studies.

- On average, 15 students benefit from the homework assistance room each day.
- They can use one of **10** computers.
- They can access a library with **1,700** books and references.

Academic success takes a lot of ingredients: a calm and inviting environment for homework; the right materials, books and technology; and, above all, support and assistance to stay organized and understand the assignments. This is what our team strives to provide. The homework assistance program also allows our team to aid and support parents throughout their child's demanding and very important academic journey.

"I sometimes have problems with my **homework**, and my teacher told me to come here because it would help me better understand French and talk to people. When I came here, I found out she was right. It's really cool! I'm comfortable with everyone. I do my homework, and when I need help, I don't hesitate to ask questions. For me, Toujours ensemble is a place where I feel good, and that helps me a lot."

- Young participant in the Parcours Program



Summer program

For us, summer is anything but slow! We spend this time reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. Our team is always happy to see the young people we've helped over the year in a different context that is just as rewarding and exciting. Summer is an ideal time to reinforce the relationships we developed with them during the school year.

Affordable camps and free activities let neighborhood youth fully participate in their community. Parents can also have some time off and relax knowing their children are in good hands.

- 147 young people attended our different summer camps
 - **56** children registered in the day camp
 - 12 teens attended the Trip Ados camp
 - 79 youths had fun in parks and public spaces with the Animation ieunesse team

Summer is when our young people explore their neighborhood, expend all their pent-up energy from the year, and make amazing discoveries through activities and outings.



Maintain a range of diverse activities by emphasizing discovery, cooperation and the overcoming of personal limitations

Develop more short-term projects to encourage academic perseverance and cultivate success.

2





Passeport pour ma réussite Program

"Passeport pour ma réussite helps my children a great deal with their **Studies**, by helping us look for **Solutions** to give them as many advantages as possible. The program also gives low-income families the **Chance** to take part in so **many activities**."

- Mother of a participant in the program

In partnership with *Pathways to Education Canada* and with Verdun schools and families, Toujours ensemble—through the Passeport pour ma réussite Program—is committed to supporting students in getting their high school diploma or vocational certificate as soon as they enter high school. In 2014-2015, **237** youth over seven cohorts have taken part in this program.

The program

What makes the Passeport pour ma réussite Program different from other academic perseverance programs is without a doubt its four types of support (mentoring, academic, social and financial). This essential support lets us meet students' various needs.

Mentoring support

Each Student Parent Support Worker (SPSW) is responsible for about 50 students with whom they have to meet at least once a month or more depending on need.

- Motivate and support students and make them accountable
- · Conduct a needs analysis and create an action plan
- Act as a liaison between the family, school, and community.

Academic support (tutoring)

Through this support, students receive help with their assignments and work on their academic weaknesses targeted by the SPSW. This support includes 12 sessions a week over 32 weeks of activity, for a total of 384 one-hour sessions offered over the year.

- 2 mandatory one-hour sessions per week
- 80 volunteers help students with homework, assignments, and studies
- The program staff team supports volunteers, ensures quality, and supervises the service.

General objectives

Increase the graduation rate

Increase access to post-secondary studies.





Social support (mentoring)

This support fosters the development of self-esteem and social skills. The group activities offered include cooking, sports, bike repair workshops (Toujours en vélo), art, board games, introduction to digital photography (Déclic), blogging, discussion nights, movies, and riddles with Énigmatik.

- Average of 21 hours per year
- Career mentoring is also provided to Secondary 4 and 5 students.

Financial support

The financial support reduces the financial barriers to academic success.

- Funding for part of the cost of school uniforms, school supplies, educational materials and food assistance (school cafeteria meal cards or tokens)
- Scholarships for post-secondary studies or vocational training (\$500 per year of participation up to a maximum of \$2,500).

Impact

We now have **99** students who have gone through the program in three cohorts.



Of this number, **89** students are taking vocational training or are at CEGEP, and three students from the first cohort are in university. This means that 93% of the students who go through the Passeport pour ma réussite Program continue their studies beyond high school.

Evaluation is a key component of the program. We are working with many partners to continuously improve our activities. We closely monitor our students' grades and attendance as well as the program participation rate.

Objectives 2015-2016

During the summer, maintain relationships developed with higher-risk students during the school year

Develop families' sense of belonging and involvement throughout their child's schooling

Continue and enhance partnerships with École secondaire Monseigneur-Richard and the services

offered at the CLSC.







Sac à dos Pilot Project — 2nd phase

Following a literature review and field research, the Sac à dos Pilot Project is now starting its second phase and continues to be developed. Sac à dos is an academic perseverance project for primary school students that provides educational activities within an interventional framework.

For **Phase 1**, we worked with

20 students

from École Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes. For **Phase 2**, we worked with

27 students

9 from École Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes 17 from École Lévis-Sauvé

1 jeune from École Joseph-Chanoine-Théorêt.

General objectives

Contribute to the academic

These students are mainly in grade 4-5-6 and have educational needs (learning difficulties, behavior problems), personal needs (social skills, organization, independence), or social needs (family problems, need for integration). These youth were selected by their teachers or the school administration.





"I saw the **positive impact** on my child: she improved her interaction with the material being taught with a different methodology and also interacted well with her new group of friends."

- Father of a participant

Activities

Each student is enrolled in two days of activities per week from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. As of March 31, 2015, 11 weeks of activities was for Phase 2. The program included the following activities:

- · Academic support
- Reading workshops
- Recreational and educational workshops
- Family activities

Intervention

Our team now has two youth workers, and one coordinator who are dedicated to implementing a personalized intervention approach based on the needs of each child and that is part of a school-family-community approach.

- A small ratio of one staff member per five students ensures that all youth get the attention they need
- The staff member acts as a liaison between teachers, the family and the community

Evaluation

We launched an evolving assessment process with the social innovation organization Innoweave. Two mentors will help us evaluate the results of the pilot project to make the necessary adjustments to welcome this as a permanent program in the fall of 2015.

Results

- Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the pilot project helped 38 different young people
- More than **70 individual meetings** held with youth and parents
- 7 meetings with teachers and school professionals
- · Involvement of 10 volunteers
- Beneficial collaboration with the organization J'apprends avec mon enfant (JAME) for our goal of develop an interest in reading.

"Having the Sac à dos pilot project in a room at the school is a **big plus**, as we can easily communicate with staff to find out what they do, and better understand the project."

- Teacher at École Lévis-Sauvé



FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

Objective

Offer financial assistance to Verdun families by providing them with direct aid

The fight against poverty is a constant concern for Toujours ensemble and has been integrated into many of our initiatives. Through our different programs, we not only fight poverty in the short-term by offering families small amounts of financial aid, but we also act to improve the future living conditions of our young members. By developing tools to help young people succeed in school, we help break the cycle of poverty and contribute to improving their potential future.

Our immediate support initiatives include our school lunch service, the Christmas campaign, and the distribution of school bags.

School lunches

The school lunch service provides affordable, balanced and healthy meals to primary school children at École Lévis-Sauvé and École Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes of the Commission scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys. For about \$1 per meal, youth from highly disadvantaged families can eat lunch in a structured and safe environment. For some children, this is the only complete meal of the day! This service, therefore, helps them recharge and concentrate better in class. We also developed new activities this year, such as supervised reading and games, to help participants develop their social skills.

This year, 9 806 meals were served to 58 youths during the school year.

"I find that my daughter eats very well at Toujours ensemble and that they provide good supervision. Thank you for the joy you give our children!"

- Mother of a young student enrolled in the school lunch service

"WOW! I am so **happy**; I don't have the words to thank you! It's because of people like you that Christmas becomes magical.

Thanks again to the entire group who sponsored me.

What amazing people you are! I think you're

fantastic and I wish you a very Merry Christmas."

- Mother of a sponsored family

Christmas campaign

Each year, the Toujours ensemble team organizes a vast Christmas campaign with many community partners. This initiative lets us reach out to and help families in Verdun and the surrounding area with direct financial aid. This year, **880 people** benefited from at least one of our initiatives, including a high percentage of single people who received a Christmas basket on December 23.

- 200 food baskets were handed out to families in Verdun and the surrounding area
- 25 families received a check of \$125 from The Gazette Christmas Fund
- **36** families from the organization were sponsored by donors and received personalized Christmas baskets with gifts for children
- 145 youths from the organization received a gift thanks to our partners, Mémé Tartine and the Projet parrainage of the SPVM, and through private initiatives.

School bag distribution

Every year at the start of the school year, Toujours ensemble—in collaboration with the Verdun Optimist Club—hands out school bags filled with new school supplies to families in the borough who are living under the low income cut-off. For parents, these bags represent a financial break at a time when expenses run high while their children get all the supplies requested by the school that they need to start the year off right.

This year, **235 school bags** worth an average of \$53 were handed out to Verdun families, including **43** members of Toujours ensemble.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



For the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2015

Revenues

Donations from foundations	1 093 168
Private donations	203 832
Corporate donations	87 487
Government grants	264 000
Registration fees	39 076
Donations from the fundraising campaign Centre de perseverance scolaire Marcelle et Jean Coutu (CPSMJC)	230 000
Donated supplies	3 673
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets	6 298
Other revenues	5 215
TOTAL	1 022 7/0

Expenses

Admnistrative salaries and benefits	326 861
Professional fees	41 379
Fundraising expenses	1 763
Training	4 956
Christmas campaign	20 361
Trip Ado	17 184
Summers day camps	69 947
After school program and prevention	277 736
School lunches	143 051
Animation jeunesse	30 935
Sac à dos pilot project	33 337
Special projets	22 005
Pathways to education program	640 788
Other expenses	2 196
Interest on long-term	28 818
Interest and bank charges	1 453
Amortization of capital assets	218 970
TOTAL	1 881 740



"For me and my team, academic perseverance is more than a goal: it is an essential challenge to keep our community strong.

No one should give up when a young person is having challenges. If we do, we would be excluding them from participation in a promising future. When we help a young person, we help society as a whole. From a human standpoint, there is no better message than 'I believe in you!"

- Jean-François Parenteau, Mayor of Verdun

COMMUNITY IMPACT

We **listen to the needs** of Verdun youth and families by organizing activities and services that meet their varied requests to help them succeed in school: this is why Toujours ensemble exists. Every day, our programs help young people develop their potential and skills, succeed in school, and grow up healthy.

By investing in their academic success and personal growth, we are investing in the future of the community. Through our activities and services, we do everything we can to develop a culture of academic success for our members and let them dream just a bit bigger. By giving Verdun youth the support and tools to succeed, we help broaden their horizons and break the cycle of poverty, with all the negative implications that this entails. Young people who graduate from high school have a higher standard of living, better health, better jobs, and better salaries.

Our activities and services also help break our members' social isolation. Every day, an act as simple as being respectful to children and listening to what they have to say creates a bond, helps them develop their social skills and new friendships, and adds to greater self-esteem and confidence. These actions reduce the risks of juvenile delinquency and the subsequent spiral of destructive behavior.

Together, we are making a **difference!**



" École Lévis-Sauvé has worked closely with Toujours ensemble for a number of years. Many of our students use the services of Toujours ensemble:

- School lunch service
- Afternoon homework assistance
- Extracurricular activities
- Sac à dos Pilot Project

I am very proud of the involvement of Toujours ensemble at our school, as it is very beneficial for our students, our parents, our school team and the Verdun community. A tremendous thank you to all Te staff members who help our students develop thanks to their openness, ability to listen, enthusiasm and passion."

- François Millette, Principal of École Lévis-Sauvé

" I'm proud of the collaboration between I'Ancre des Jeunes and Toujours ensemble.

We've had a rare partnership for a number of years, and the cooperation between our two organizations has been of direct benefit to Verdun youth and families. We have successfully combined our approaches to provide a logical continuum of services that don't overlap. Congratulations to our staff members who have shown that, although alone we may go faster, together we are stronger! "

- Daphné Mailloux-Rousseau, Executive Director of L'Ancre des Jeunes

"Toujours ensemble is a flagship organization in Verdun that is appreciated and respected for the quality of its programs and its role as a Quebec leader in academic perseverance.

Not only does their dynamic and engaged team serve as a model of success for youth in difficulty, the organization is also perceived as a model of success for Verdun's different community stakeholders.

This organization has deep roots in its community and brings people together for larger-scale events. In March, Toujours ensemble launched an initiative in which many community organizations working in academic perseverance organized a workshop during a conference of the Commission scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys.

Toujours ensemble is a partner who collaborates, drives innovation and actively participates in roundtable and committee discussions. Their team listens to needs and seeks out expertise. For its Sac à dos Pilot Project at École Lévis-Sauvé and École Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, Toujours ensemble expressed a need to receive support from JAME to integrate reading strategies and activities for students in Elementary Cycle 3. This partnership has been conducted with the greatest respect and in an open environment of sharing experiences.

We are proud to partner with this organization with a solid reputation that shares our mission to help young people succeed in school."

- Patricia Bossy, Director of J'apprends avec mon enfant

DONORS AND PARTNERS

Thank you to our partners (institutions, government, and community) for your exceptional contributions. Thank you to our donors for your commitment and your generosity. This allows us to continually play an important role in the lives of hundreds of Verdun youth. Thank you to the members of the Board of Directors, who share their time and resources. Thank you to the staff for your contribution throughout the year.

To maintain the confidentiality of individual donors, only community, corporate, government and foundation partners appear here.









Gouvernement du Canada

Foundations

- · Adair Family Foundation
- · Centraide of Greater Montreal
- Blema & Arnold Family Foundation
- Claudine & Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation
- Côté-Sharp Family Foundation
- Eric T. Webster Foundation
- Esprit de corps Foundation
- Fondation Jeunesse-vie
- Fondation Québec Jeunes
- Fondation René Malo
- Fondation Réussite Jeunesse
- · Fondation Toujours ensemble
- · Foundation of Greater Montreal
- George Hogg Family Foundation
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- Marcelle & Jean Coutu Foundation
- Maxwell Cummings Family Foundation
- Mireille & Murray Steinberg Family Foundation
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- The Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal
- Zeller Family Foundation

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- Restaurant New Verdun
- · Ron's Brother
- Sélections le Maitre de Chai, Le maitre de Chai

- Services environnementaux faucon
- Telus Engagement communautaire
- Transfert Consult
- 123359 Canada Inc
- 3249531 Canada Inc.
- 89737 Canada Inc.

Grants

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

· Canada Summer Employment Program

GOVERNMENT OF OUEBEC

- PSOC (Programme de soutien aux organismes communautaires), de l'ASSSM
- PACTE (Programme d'action communautaire sur le terrain de l'éducation), MÉLS
- Programs of the Agence de la santé et de services sociaux de Montréal (Montreal Agency)
- PAAS-Action program, Emploi-Québec
- · Wage subsidy program, Emploi-Québec

COMMISSION SCOLAIRE MARGUERITE-BOURGEOYS

 Food Measures program for disadvantaged neighbourhoods



In addition to providing a diverse activity program for Te youth, the organization organizes many special events during the year.

SEPTEMBER

Open-house day,

back-to-school party, and celebration of the Sac à dos program

- Open to the community

OCTOBER

Annual wine & cheese reception

DECEMBER

Members' **Holiday Dinner**

FEBRUARY

Activities for Hooked on School Days

MARCH

March Break Camp for Toujours ensemble youth members

APRIL

National Volunteer Week – celebrations and recognition of Te volunteers – *Open to the community*

MAY

Pre-gala reception for the Friends of Te **Toujours ensemble Gala** — *Open to the community*

JUNE

"Graduates celebration" for participants in the Parcours and Passeport pour ma réussite programs.



"Thank you for believing in the success of young people and contributing to our mission.

Together, we are making a difference.»



Toujours Ensemble

Centre Carolyn Hayes Renaud

4926, rue de Verdun, Verdun, Québec H4G 1N3

Centre de persévérance scolaire Marcelle et Jean Coutu 601, 2e Avenue, Verdun, Québec H4G 2W7

T 514 761-7867 • www.toujoursensemble.org

