

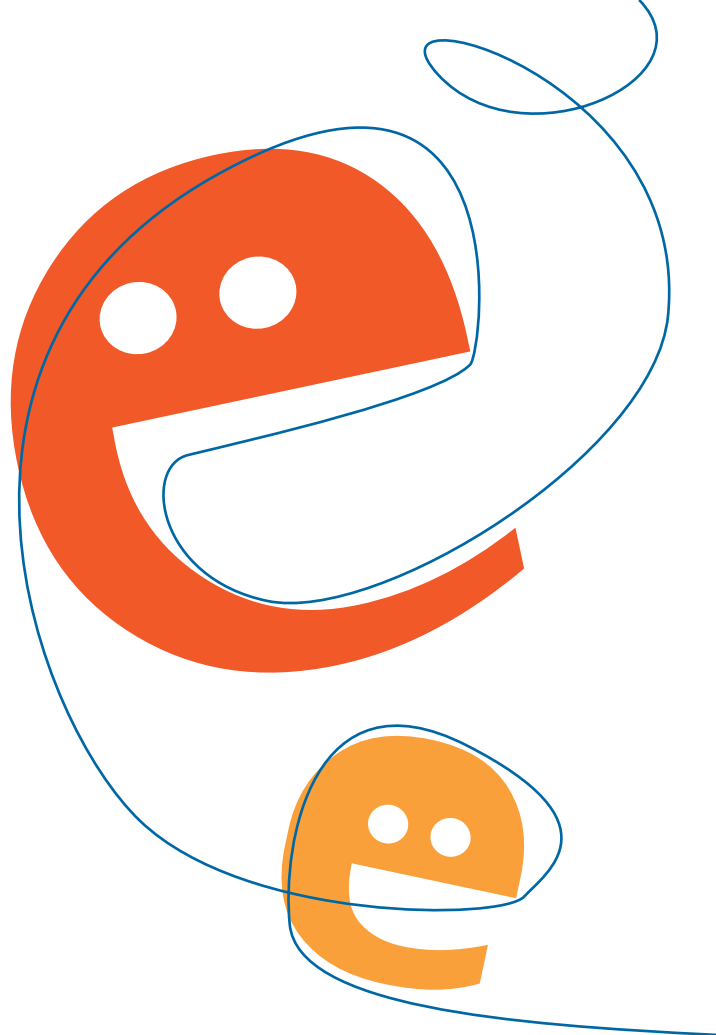


**ANNUAL** 2021  
**REPORT** 2022



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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It was another busy and unique year for *Toujours ensemble*—a year of transition, change and new relationships. The essence of this was most evident in the collaborative spirit of both TE's board of directors and staff on the frontline. Together, we worked through the many challenges of 2021–2022 and came out stronger and even more ready to pursue our mission of helping Verdun's youth succeed and take part in our community.

*Toujours ensemble's* donors stepped up in an exceptional way, providing us with the means to continue our work. While all levels of government remain vital partners, nearly 70% of TE's funding comes from private sources. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, and despite the ongoing pandemic, we were able to safely welcome 486 youth aged 6 to 17 into our programs, providing them with opportunities to learn, develop social skills, build confidence, and connect in meaningful ways with their peers, our staff and volunteers.

Over the past year, nearly 100 volunteers showed up to support our youth in their studies. They are mentors and role models deeply committed to the success of our youth. They are a pillar of TE and a constant source of inspiration for us all.

Our dedicated staff and partners also rose to the challenge of providing kids and their families with the necessary support to succeed—all while adapting to changing public health measures, school closures and a shifting work environment.

We also wish to thank Bineta Ba and Danyelle Gagné for their pivotal role in ensuring TE's daily operations during the search for a new executive director. Their commitment to the success of TE is undeniable. With their help, a new, more equitable compensation policy was implemented. As a result, TE is better equipped to meet the challenges of attracting and retaining qualified, talented individuals in the context of the labour shortage.

While we have made important strides over the past 40 years, our work is far from done. The year ahead is full of promise as we plan to engage our stakeholders in a strategic planning process. The year 2022–2023 will be a pivotal one for *Toujours ensemble*.

As we plan for the future, we invite you to read about the accomplishments you—our donors, staff, partners and volunteers—made possible in 2021–2022.



**Sigrid Ellefsen**  
Chair



**Melissa Bellerose**  
Executive Director

## ABOUT TOUJOURS ENSEMBLE

Founded in Westmount in 1979 and established in Verdun since 1986, Toujours ensemble (TE) is a community organization that offers academic, social and financial support to children in this borough aged 6 to 17 who enroll during the school year. TE also provides assistance to other local children and their families, who represent over 1,000 people a year.



### Mission

Help Verdun's youth cope with academic, family, economic and social issues through educational and recreational activities that help them develop their potential.

TE provides a structured and safe environment that allows our staff to support children and give them a unique opportunity to create connections and develop a sense of belonging. The team tailors its services and adapts to the needs of participants to better address their concerns and allow them to discover their interests.



### Goals

- SUPPORT children's personal, social and educational development
- ENCOURAGE academic perseverance



### Values

- Cooperation
- Curiosity
- Self-esteem
- Honesty
- Social involvement
- Perseverance
- Respect

## TIMELINE

The organization is founded

1979

Relocation to 5<sup>e</sup> Avenue in Verdun. Launch of the food assistance service

1986

1980

Launch of the summer day camp

1991

Start of the school lunch service in collaboration with the École Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes and École Lévis-Sauvé elementary schools to serve meals to children in underprivileged areas

A major fire destroys the TE building and all of its equipment. Eight months later, the organization opens its new offices on Verdun Street

1994

1995

Homework assistance service is launched

TE adopts a new visual identity

2001



# SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

## of Verdun and TE youth

### SNAPSHOT OF THE TERRITORY\*

#### population

- Nearly 70,000 people live in the borough
- Population growth of 4.6% between 2011 and 2016

#### education level, income and unemployment rate

- 13.8% of people aged 15 and older do not have a certificate, diploma or degree (Montreal: 16.9%)
- The majority of households have only one source of financial support: of the borough's 33,995 households, 22,825 (67%) have only one person who financially supports the family
- 40% of children in the Wellington-de-l'Église sector do not have the tools they need to start school (Montreal: 29%)
- School dropout rate of 25%, compared to 21% in Montreal (2012–2013), despite a clear improvement in this rate over the past 10 years

\* Source : Profil sociodémographique 2016, Arrondissement de Verdun, Montréal en statistiques, Ville de Montréal; Enquête québécoise sur le développement des enfants à la maternelle (2012), ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur.

### SNAPSHOT OF TOUJOURS ENSEMBLE

#### our participants

- 47% girls, 53% boys
- 44% primary students
- 56% secondary students
  - 98% of these secondary students are enrolled in the Passeport pour ma réussite Program
- 4% of our youth live outside Verdun—Île-des-Soeurs

#### Our families

- 29% are single-parent families
- 52% live on a low income
- 63% of participants were born in Quebec (Canada)



Major renovations and addition of a floor to the Centre Carolyn Hayes Renaud

Inauguration of the second building (Centre de persévérance scolaire Marcelle et Jean Coutu) at 601 2<sup>e</sup> Avenue, which houses the Passeport pour ma réussite team

TE celebrates its 40th anniversary

Creation of a second service point for Passeport pour ma réussite at École secondaire Monseigneur-Richard

2005

2013

2019

2021

2007

Launch of the Passeport pour ma réussite Program, whose mission is to encourage academic perseverance in high school (First site in Quebec to be part of the national initiative steered by Pathways to Education Canada).

2015

Launch of the new Sac à dos primary school academic perseverance program

2020

Start of partnership with the Cantine pour tous

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

29

Permanent  
employees

1

Temporary employee

101

Volunteers

3

Adults receiving social  
integration assistance



### Parcours Program

143

Youths

- Extracurricular and leisure activity program for youths aged 9 to 17
- Fun and educational workshops, sports, Summer program, camps



### Sac à dos Program

75

Youths

- Elementary Cycle 2 and 3 academic perseverance program
- Academic support, reading workshops, fun and educational workshops



### Passeport pour ma réussite Program

225

Youths

- High school academic perseverance program
- Academic, social, mentoring and financial support



### Support measures for families

- SCHOOL LUNCH SERVICE: 4,800 meals prepared in our kitchen and 43 elementary students from low-income families served
- CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN: 236 food baskets given to families and 208 youths received a Carrefour Angrignon gift card
- BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPORT: school supplies given out to over 75 children



## IMPACT

Social skills development

Education about healthy lifestyles

Greater independence

improved motivation for school

Increase in the high school graduation rate

## ULTIMATE BENEFIT:

Verdun youth who come to TE become active, responsible and engaged adults.

## PROGRAM COORDINATION COMMITTEE (PCC)

- Participate in the strategic development of programs
- Increase harmonization between programs and improve service continuity

The Program Coordination Committee (PCC) is comprised of Toujours ensemble's three program coordinators.

In this year of change, the PCC was able to maintain stability and cohesion within the larger team. The committee also upheld excellence in services while applying the health measures in effect.

## PCC ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES

1

### MAINTAIN TE'S SERVICE CONTINUUM

The review of TE's service continuum began in January 2021. This is a long-term project that arose from the desire of our staff to give young people continuity from program to program throughout their journey at TE.

2

### PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE SUMMER PROGRAM OPEN TO EVERYONE

The PCC oversees a working committee that consults with the larger team, reports on past successes and aims to provide programming for summer 2022 that will appeal to youth and their families.

3

### DEVELOP A PROGRAM THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF TOUJOURS ENSEMBLE TEENS

The Parcours and Passeport pour ma réussite teams work together to develop a unique space and program that TE teens can make their own. A reflection process is also underway on the needs of pre-teens in Grade 6, with a Grade 6/Secondary transition committee that includes staff from all three programs.

4

### SUPPORT OUR STAFF MEMBERS IN THEIR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The program coordinators continue to improve their training tools so that they can constantly enhance assistance and support for staff. The COCO team is already looking to organize a team retreat to address last year's challenges related to the pandemic and labour shortage.



### GOALS

Provide young people with a welcoming and active environment that lets them socialize and develop their creativity, independence and sense of responsibility.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: WHAT IS PARCOURS?

Parcours is a recreation-based intervention program for youth aged 9 to 17. Its rich and diverse content provides something for every taste and interest.

While strictly adhering to the government's health measures, we were able to deliver the program face-to-face in a safe and friendly space, which was crucial to maintaining the social connection between youth and staff, one of the most important aspects for the development and well-being of our youth.

After school, our participants meet up at Toujours ensemble to talk, have fun, and learn through free or structured activities led by our youth workers. The program includes weekend outings, camps Thanksgiving and Spring Break, and special projects.

**\*\*Note:** Students in the Passeport pour ma réussite Program and the Sac à dos Program can access these activities.

### EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES:

- **Floor area:** Free and unstructured participation in activities, such as board games, foosball-style game, snacks, etc.
- **Basement area** (for young people aged 11 and over): Free and unstructured participation in various activities.
- **Homework assistance area:** A quiet area supervised by our tutors where our young people can do their homework.
- **Library area:** A comfortable reading area with over 2,000 books that can be borrowed and taken home.
- **Computer area:** 10 computers available for school work and computer workshops.
- **Fun and educational workshops:** Structured workshops for about ten participants run by a youth worker (arts and crafts, science, cooking, sports, etc.).
- **Monthly and special outings:** Our youths can take part in fun activities to share positive experiences with their peers and our staff (La Ronde, snow tubing, museum outings, etc.).
- **Long-term projects:** To help them experience success and learn to persevere (annual gala, social circus, etc.).
- **Fun family gatherings:** Halloween Haunted House, Christmas dinner, sugar shack, etc.

"My favourite things here are the environment, atmosphere and choice of games."  
— participant





## IMPACT: A SPACE FOR FREE PLAY

Free play generally refers to when a child can independently choose both what to play with (theme, objects) and how to play (with or without friends, play space). Most of the space is made available to program participants.

The very principle of the Parcours Program is to provide a place where young people can make their own choices. This is particularly important now, after two long years of the pandemic, its resulting restrictions and the pervasive supervision of children's day-to-day activities.

Parcours participants are free to choose their activities, come up with their own games and organize their time based on their current interests.

Free play alone or with others is always a wonderful way to learn. Increased responsibility, independence and self-knowledge are all outcomes that the team helps our young people achieve.

The Parcours approach also includes offering structured or semi-structured play activities while providing a space for participants who have not explored free play and may be more passive in this context. The combination of free and structured activities engages children who may have a low sense of competency or special needs.

Parcours has something for everyone.

"I'd rather be here than at home. The youth workers do activities with us. There's no judgment or sexism, and everyone is very open. I can spend time with my friends, do cool activities, and discover new things."  
— participant

## STATISTICS

### Number of participants

143 youths • 85 boys • 51 girls • 7 others

### Place of residence

Verdun 91% • Other neighbourhoods 9%

### Average age

11 years old

Number of participants during spring break:

25 youths

Camp 48 (replacement for the Camp Marist activity):

25 youths





## Sac à dos Program

### GOALS

**The Sac à dos Program helps participants with three short- and medium-term goals:**

- Create work methods
- Develop a love of reading
- Build social and emotional skills

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: WHAT IS SAC À DOS?

Sac à dos is an academic perseverance program for primary students. It facilitates students' academic success by helping them build the tools and independence they need to transition to secondary school.

The program's educational activities are structured to provide personalized intervention for each child. The program was produced in partnership with four Verdun primary schools: Lévis-Sauvé, Chanoine-Joseph-Théorêt, Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, and Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs.

The Sac à dos approach gets the school, family and community to work together. Needs are analyzed to create an action plan to help the young person focus and get motivated around specific goals. Staff are in constant communication with parents and teachers.

Children enrolled in Sac à dos participate in activities twice a week. Each Sac à dos period includes three activities: tutoring, reading, and fun and educational activities.

"I wanted to take the time to thank you for your work with my student. Since he started attending Sac à dos, I have seen a change in his attitude in class and noticed that he is more involved in his learning. He also told me multiple times about how good he felt going there. You are doing an extraordinary job."

— grade 4 Teacher at École Chanoine-Joseph-Théorêt

#### Academic assistance

This period lasts 45 minutes and aims to help students develop their work methods, which includes independence, concentration, planning and perseverance. During this time, staff provide the students with concrete strategies and tools to complete their homework and lessons.

#### Reading period

The goal of this activity is to help students develop an interest in reading. A 15-minute reading activity is held once a week. Participating youths are also encouraged to read on their own once they have completed their homework and lessons. A new selection of books is offered to them every two weeks.

#### Fun and educational workshops

The fun and educational workshops are 45 minutes long. They focus on social and emotional skills, such as their social aptitudes (conflict resolution and collaboration) and emotional intelligence (emotion management, self-knowledge and self-confidence). The programming is varied and includes science topics, sports, team challenges, art, theatre and more. Three projects are also organized throughout the year to help students work on their long-term commitment and let them experience success.





## STATISTICS

### Number of participants

75 youths from Grades 3 to 6 registered • 40 girls • 35 boys

### Place of residence:

Verdun 100%

### Average age

10 years old

## IMPACTS

Out of 75 youths who enrolled in the program, only 4 had to drop out of the program since activities started in October because Sac à dos did not meet their needs.

### • 44 action plans / 70 goals

The action plans address work methods, social and emotional skills (social skills and emotional intelligence) and specialized skills, which staff help their students work on in an integrative way through group interactions and activities. Although these skills may not be a priority for individual intervention plans, they may still meet the specific needs of some young people.

This year, the team decided to have two weeks of downtime with no activities so that they could offer more one-on-one follow-up with the participants and their parents to go over their action plans. On the agenda for these weeks were activities to help the youth and our staff stay connected as well as awareness and modelling workshops on topics like stress management, self-esteem and self-knowledge, organization, and prioritization. The goals that the groups mainly worked on were collaboration and conflict resolution through group games and activities.

In April and May, activities to help Grade 6 students enrolled in the program with their transition to high school were held for the first time, in partnership with Passeport pour ma réussite..

### Changes and service continuity related to COVID

Although some adaptation was necessary, Sac à dos activities resumed in their normal format and with the usual student ratio in adherence to health measures.

To prevent the spread of the virus during the lockdown in January, the Sac à dos fun and educational activities were cancelled until spring break. These activities are periods when our young people physically gather together and mingle the most.

The current labour shortage forced two Sac à dos groups to close down due to a lack of human resources to provide the service. One group reopened in late March 2022 for 15 youths in Grades 3 and 4.

"I want to thank you so much for your program, your motivation, your enthusiasm and your kindness. My daughter is so happy to be part of this program and looks forward to seeing you every Tuesday and Thursday. She has asked me to keep enrolling her in the coming years."

— mother of a student at École Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs





## Passeport pour ma réussite Program

### GOALS

Passeport pour ma réussite is an academic perseverance program that gives tools to secondary students in low-income communities to remove barriers to education, help them graduate from high school and allow them to pursue post-secondary education.

Offered in partnership with Pathways to Education Canada, the program ultimately aims to break the cycle of poverty through education.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: WHAT IS PASSEPORT POUR MA RÉUSSITE?

The team works with each student to develop a tailored support plan to help them achieve their goals. This support is based on four interconnected pillars: mentoring support, social support, academic support and financial support.

As for the entire organization, the pandemic brought its own share of challenges for this program. The team demonstrated creativity and adaptability throughout the year in order to keep meeting the needs of its young participants. Most program supports were offered in virtual mode and then in hybrid mode starting in February.

#### Mentoring support

Student Parent Support Workers (SPSW) accompany participants on their journey throughout their secondary studies. This invaluable assistance enables youth to develop a relationship of trust. The SPSW are seen as mentors and confidants. They also liaise and facilitate relationships between the school, family and community.

#### Social support (mentoring)

Team members got creative to offer a variety of mentorships to meet the different needs of youth. These activities help young people break out of their isolation, develop social skills and learn to express themselves in different ways through mentoring that focuses on collaboration, team spirit and artistic development.

Staffing shortages temporarily impacted the mentoring service during the fall. Regular programming resumed after the holidays with culinary, writing and career workshops.

#### Academic support (tutoring)

Tutoring periods are provided to help students with different subjects and teach them to develop a work methodology. This year, the team made the atmosphere more casual and had participants take a moment before the tutoring sessions to talk with staff and volunteers. Background music is also played during these periods to differentiate the experience from school time.

#### Financial support

Immediate financial support includes different types of assistance to help participants overcome barriers to pursuing their dream of continuing their education. The assistance is adapted to each student's situation and includes:

- Public transit fares
- Clothing purchases (coat, boots, shoes, school uniform)
- Tuition reimbursement
- Glasses and food aid (grocery cards)
- Computer equipment (computer, headphones, camera)





## NEW: “PRESIDENT’S CHOICE” CULINARY PROJECT

A new project was created to help students in welcome classes strengthen their language skills through culinary workshops.

Twice a week, participants gather to make a recipe that they chose as a group. The challenge that involves reading and understanding a recipe and then going grocery shopping with an SPSW. Other challenges are added, such as how to cook on a tight budget or with just a few ingredients. Approximately 26 kids benefit from this activity to improve their French while learning the joys of cooking!

An added bonus: Students from the Odyssey enrichment program at École secondaire Monseigneur-Richard also participate in the project. During the workshop, they speak only in Spanish with their Spanish-speaking peers, which means that everyone can learn from each other.

## POINT OF SERVICE AT ESMR (ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE MONSEIGNEUR-RICHARD)

The ESMR point of service has been a great success. Overall, 72 students, mostly from welcome classes, attend the program. The fact that so many students come for tutoring shows there was a real need for a point of service at this school.

## BEURLING POINT OF SERVICE

This new point of service started very slowly due to the pandemic and health restrictions. But once the public health measures were relaxed and we could develop good relationships with the school staff, we were able to get more involved. Occasional mentoring meetings have been very successful.

## STATISTICS

### Number of participants

225 high school students (56 new enrollments) • 118 boys • 107 girls

### Goal for next year

280 students

### Place of residence

11 partner schools • 87% students from École secondaire Monseigneur- Richard (Verdun)

169 in regular classes (Grades 7 to 11)

56 in welcome classes, special classes and semiskilled trade programs

Average age  
14 years old

“Thank you so much for all the support you gave me, and even to my brother and my mother, when I was at Passeport. We are very grateful for everything you did for us.

You contributed so much to help me pursue my ambitions, and I’ll never forget how you were one of the first people (maybe even THE first) to get me out of my comfort zone by pushing me to try new things in life instead of just focusing on my studies. This willingness to explore and experiment has completely changed my life for the better. Although I’m now in CEGEP, I have more time for personal projects despite my busy schedule!”

— participant who graduated





## Support measures for families

### SCHOOL LUNCH SERVICE

Since 1991, in collaboration with the Centre de services scolaires Marguerite-Bourgeoys (CSSMB), Toujours ensemble has provided a lunch service to students from very low-income families who attend Lévis-Sauvé and École Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes elementary schools. Every school day, the team cooks nutritious meals for about 40 students. The comprehensive menu, which is approved by the CSSMB nutritionist, is also varied to help young people discover new foods. While kindergarten and Cycle 1 students get their TE lunch boxes and eat at school, Cycle 2 and 3 students come to our offices to eat.

The TE school lunch service offers more than just nutritious meals, as students can also take a break from school, relax with their friends and get a fresh start for the afternoon. Staff members are there to guide the kids on their way to and from school. The team supervises the meals, stays connected with parents, and leads fun and educational activities. This safe environment lets students relax, have fun and talk to an adult if they need to.

#### The service in numbers (September 2021 to March 2022)

- Over 43 elementary students from low-income families.
- \* Changing health measures and intermittent school closures have increased the challenges for our team in the field. These challenges may explain why the service had fewer participants in 2021.
- 4,800 meals fully prepared in our kitchen.
- 1,440 meals delivered directly to school for students in Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2.
- 3,360 meals served at our centre to students in Cycles 2 and 3 (Grades 3 to 6).

#### Program impact

- Improved concentration and attention in the classroom
- Education on healthy eating
- Discovering new foods and recipes

### PAAS-ACTION SOCIAL SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Once again, the school lunch service was lucky enough to have some much-appreciated help from three people in the PAAS-ACTION social integration program, who continued to hone their knowledge of cooking and dining services. The TE team is proud to help adults enter the labour market by offering them a stimulating work environment as they assist with serving school lunches.

### “CANTINE DANS LES ÉCOLES”

For a second year of collaboration with Cantine pour tous, the school lunch team continued its role as social caterer for the École Chanoine-Joseph-Théorêt elementary school. The project aims to provide universal access to healthy and balanced school meals on a voluntary basis for parents via an online ordering platform for meal orders. The TE team receives the number of meals to be produced each week and then delivers them to the school. Thanks to this partnership with Cantine pour tous, Toujours ensemble receives \$6 per meal produced. These funds are fully reinvested in the meal service.

#### Facts about the project

- 65 elementary students from kindergarten to Grade 6
- 3,663 meals prepared in entirely our kitchen and delivered directly to the school

#### Program impact

- Access to sufficient amounts of healthy food
- No stigma, equal treatment regardless of parental contribution





## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

For many years now, thanks to the generosity of many volunteers and donors, students at Verdun elementary schools have received bags full of the supplies they need to start the school year. Our school store—an initiative organized by dedicated TE volunteer and donor Pascale Cotnoir for the past five years—was able to open once public health measures were eased. This activity let 75 young people come pick up a backpack filled with school supplies and start the school year off right!



## CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

Thanks to the generosity of donors, partners and volunteers, TE helped 760 people enjoy a happy holiday.

- 236 families received a generous Christmas basket with vegetables, non-perishable food items, meat and other goodies. Thanks to the generosity of Carolyn H. Renaud, families also received grocery cards with their baskets.
- 208 children from TE families received a \$25 gift card from the Eaton Centre.
- 20 families received a \$125 cheque from The Gazette Christmas Fund.
- Nearly 400 pairs of socks from Maison de Massy were added to the Christmas baskets.
- 57 volunteers gave a total of 216 hours of their time to prepare and deliver the baskets.

A special word of thanks to the more than 200 donors and partners who responded to the call:

- Campaign donors:
  - Richard J. Renaud
  - François Guy
  - Louise Rousseau
  - Maude-Émilie St-Pierre

Thanks also go out to our generous volunteers who adorned the baskets with hand-written greeting cards and beautiful decorations and to all those who happily participated in preparing and delivering the baskets.



## **“SAVEURS D’ÉTÉ” - ENTREPRENEURIAL PROJECT FOR 12-17 YEARS OLD**

### **ANOTHER SUMMER OF REINVENTION!**

Once again, the pandemic impacted the Éco-Smoothies co-op set up three years ago, which forced us to overhaul this initiative into something new this year. This gave rise to the “Saveurs d’Été” project to help young people socialize, get them out of the house, and get them away from screens in a safe space and in compliance with current health directives. The “Saveurs d’Été” booth was set up directly on the Verdun beach in partnership with the Coopérative de solidarité Abondance Urbaine Solidaire (CAUS). At the booth, TE youths sold local products along with macramé bags that they had made entirely themselves. This project goal was the same: to introduce young people aged 12 to 17 to the world of entrepreneurship by giving them their first job opportunity.

## **STATISTICS**

**Number of participants**  
18 youths (11 girls et 7 boys)

**4 staff members**

**6 days of sale at the beach every week**

**7 weeks of work**

**347 hours of preparation  
and client services**

## **SUMMER PROGRAM**

Since its launch in Verdun in 1986, Toujours ensemble has run an eight-week summer program full of fun and educational activities for neighbourhood youth. To ensure adherence to public health measures while providing a space for socialization and development, TE organized a unique and adapted summer program in 2021. The team organized exciting activities for youth aged 9 to 13 from Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with weekly registrations (\$10 per week). The low cost for these activities meets a need for universal accessibility, regardless of family income.

## **STATISTICS**

**Number of participants**  
90 students from 75 families

• 50 youths per day (on average)

**2 groups of 15 to 20 children (aged 9 to 11) | 39 days of activities**  
**1 group for 15 to 20 teens (aged 12 to 13)**







## NEW TE EVENTS AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Every year, TE organizes activities in addition to its regular program.

### Family Christmas Dinner

This year's traditional TE Family Christmas Dinner was a great success despite the pandemic. Approximately 50 families attended one of the two seatings of our fun—and safe!—Harry Potter themed party.

### Hooked on School Days (HSD)

Toujours ensemble highlighted HSD from February 14 to 18, 2022 by celebrating the people who help give meaning to young people's lives. This year's theme was: "Our Actions, A+ in Their Success."

### Sugar Shack

Once again this year, our community's beloved sugar shack event was served up to-go, in the form of kits with all the ingredients you would find in a sugar shack meal. We also offered in-person activities, such as as maple taffy on snow, entertainment and face painting.

### TE Gala

This popular and highly anticipated event for TE youth was cancelled for a second year due to the pandemic. It will be back in June 2022.

### Graduation Day

Our graduation ceremony was held on June 12, 2021 in the alley of the Centre de persévérance scolaire Marcelle et Jean Coutu to acknowledge and celebrate the efforts and perseverance of the 22 students who completed the Passeport pour ma réussite Program.

Congratulations to all of our graduates for your hard work and amazing success!

### Halloween

Toujours ensemble's famous Haunted House was back this year! Our team and volunteers dressed up in costumes from famous horror movies. Over 350 brave souls came to see the ghostly and ghoulish spectres haunting our halls!





## VOLUNTEERS AND TRAINEES

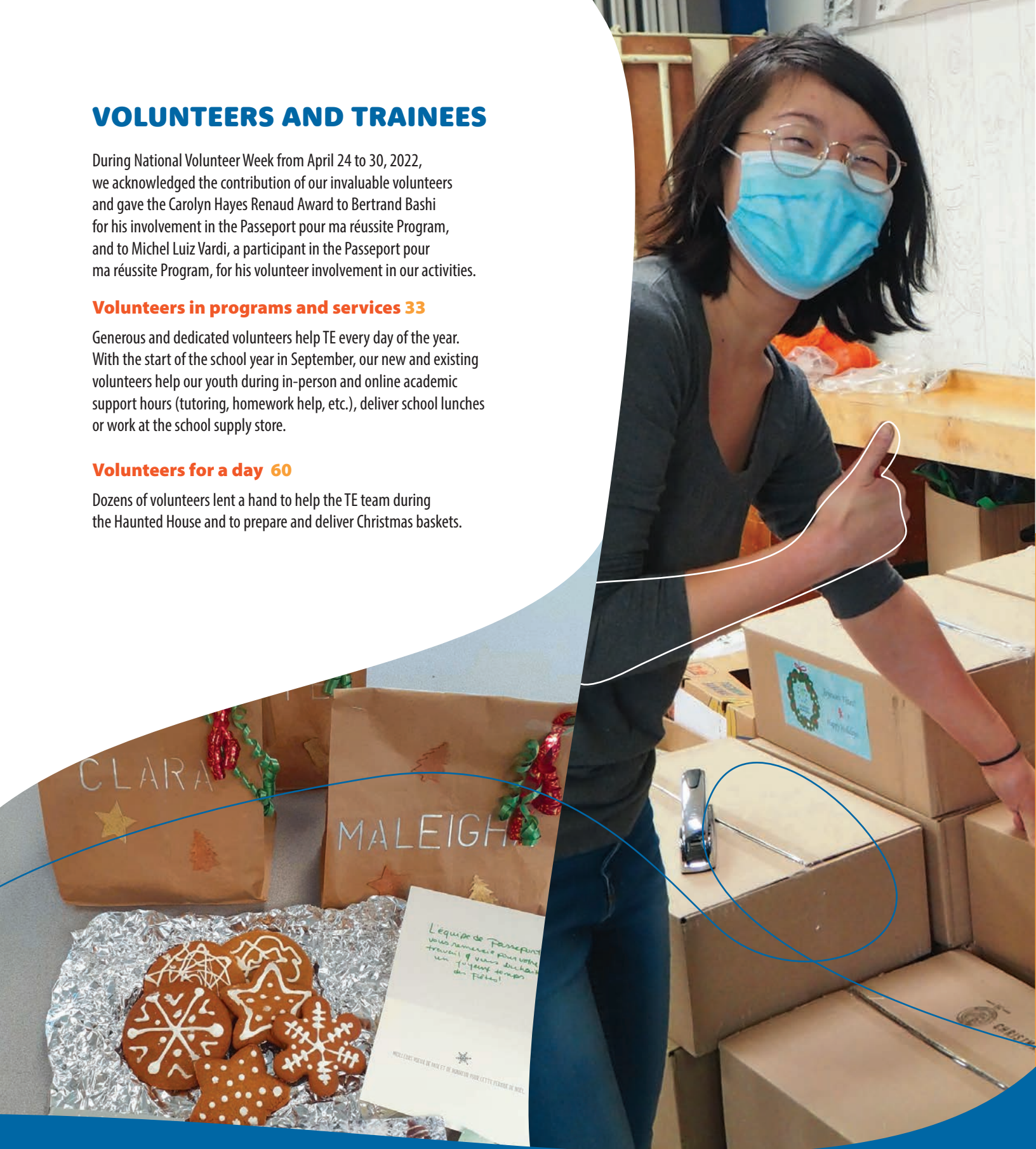
During National Volunteer Week from April 24 to 30, 2022, we acknowledged the contribution of our invaluable volunteers and gave the Carolyn Hayes Renaud Award to Bertrand Bashi for his involvement in the Passeport pour ma réussite Program, and to Michel Luiz Vardi, a participant in the Passeport pour ma réussite Program, for his volunteer involvement in our activities.

### Volunteers in programs and services 33

Generous and dedicated volunteers help TE every day of the year. With the start of the school year in September, our new and existing volunteers help our youth during in-person and online academic support hours (tutoring, homework help, etc.), deliver school lunches or work at the school supply store.

### Volunteers for a day 60

Dozens of volunteers lent a hand to help the TE team during the Haunted House and to prepare and deliver Christmas baskets.



## STATISTICS

**Number of volunteers for the year**  
101 (including 10 board members)

**Cumulative number of hours per year**  
966

## Corporate volunteers 10

Given the rise in corporate social responsibility, employees at companies are increasingly encouraged to donate their time to a community organization. During this unusual year, TE was pleased to welcome many employees from Centraide and Telus for the Christmas Campaign.

## Trainees 2

TE is proud to offer different internship opportunities and help train the next generation of workers. Our trainees also help everyone develop innovative ideas and share knowledge and skills. Since September 2021, trainees have come to hone their knowledge at TE.



## A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND GENEROSITY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Alain Loiseau  
Alexandre Paquette  
Alexandre Sobolevski  
Anastacia Prokopchuk  
Arianne Guay  
Aurélien Breant  
Benjamin Dancause  
Benoit Marquette  
Bertrand Braschi  
Bruce O'Brien  
Caroline Arbour  
Catherine St-Antoine  
Celine Laforce  
Christanis Meril Banzouzi  
Christine Ptolemy  
Clara Aubin  
Claude Marche  
Colin Dufort  
Colin Rochereau Desjardins  
Daniel Marc

Elizabeth Dallaire  
Enrique Machaldo  
Fatima Hammadi  
Francine Beaudry  
François Guy  
Gabriel Morin  
Gabriel Palva  
Geneviève Clark  
Ghislaine Leclerc  
Gilles Beaulieu  
Hilde Wuyts  
Isabelle Quintal  
Isabelle Carreau  
Jade Lavoie  
Jade Bernier  
Jeannot Martel  
Jérémi Frandon  
Jérémie Le Roux-Drufovka  
Jessica Brisebois-Héty  
Jud Pierre

Julie Couture  
Julie Henrichon  
Kaila A. Munro  
Karine Leduc  
Katherine Poirier  
Khalil Agrebi  
Kimberly Robert-Ptolemy  
Laurence Mastromatteo  
Liette Lagacé  
Line Pilon  
Louis Vezina  
Luc Gagnon  
Luc Sabourin  
Lucie PB  
Madeleine Bachand  
Maleigha Lyons-Lamour  
Marc Bélanger  
Marc Edwards  
Marc-Antoine Côté-Laporte  
Marc-Tavio Folly

Marie Achille  
Marie Lapeyre  
Marie-Claude Jalbert  
Mathieu Bédard  
Mathieu Côté  
Matthieu Willems  
Maura Saraiva  
Michel Vardi  
Nathalie Gagné  
Norma Leon-Pardo  
Olivier Frappier  
Pascale Bédard  
Pascale Cotnoir  
Pascale Gagné  
Patrick Tourigny  
Paule Desgroseillers  
Pierre Cantin  
Pierre Parker  
Samuel Michon-Bonneau  
Sébastien Millet

Sigrid Ellefsen  
Stéphane Rochereau  
Susan Ballinger  
Sylvain Roy  
Sylvie Pichette  
Tristan Lévesque  
Vanessa Hollender  
Yves Surprenant

A special thanks  
to the children:  
Antoine, Clément,  
Elena, Jude, Kenya, Malik,  
Noémie, Samy, Sévanne,  
Sophie and Vincent

"Young people are full of vitality, courage and perseverance. It's such a joy to help a young person figure out some small detail they misunderstood but that unlocks their understanding to so many other things, such as explaining what an 'intercept' is on a graph! Thank you to Toujours ensemble and its youth workers for giving our young people confidence through their tutoring, warmth and good humour and for making this shared path possible!" — Bertrand, volunteer and recipient of the Carolyn Hayes Renaud Award



## GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY AND DEMOCRATIC LIFE

With strong roots in Verdun, TE works closely with community stakeholders to meet the needs of children and teens aged 6 to 17. By identifying the different needs of these youth, our team can provide tailored services that spark their interests and address their concerns. Since its inception, TE has helped thousands of young people persevere in their educational pathways and personal lives while developing their full potential.

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

TE is engaged in the community in different ways to better respond to the needs of neighbourhood youth and families.

#### ROUNDTABLES

- Regroupement des organismes communautaires québécois de lutte au décrochage (ROCLD)
- Concertation en développement social de Verdun
- Table de l'action communautaire (TAC)
- Comité sécurité alimentaire de Verdun
- Comité immigration Verdun
- Table de concertation jeunesse (youth roundtable, ages 6 to 17)

#### COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- Réseau d'entraide de Verdun
- Grandir Sans Frontière
- Verdun Circus School
- La Cantine pour tous
- La Fondation pour l'alphabétisation

### SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARDS

- École secondaire Monseigneur-Richard
- École primaire Chanoine-Joseph-Théorêt
- École primaire Lévis-Sauvé
- École primaire Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Toujours ensemble's annual general meeting was held on June 23, 2021. In addition to electing the Board of Directors and meeting our administrative responsibilities, we also provided a yearly report to our members, partners and volunteers. Ten out of fifteen members attended.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board members, who are elected at the annual general meeting for a period of two years, come from different professional areas and care about the success of young people. Board members promote the general interests of the organization and see to its financial stability. In 2021–2022, the Board of Directors met four times.

### WORKING COMMITTEES

The following working committees were active in 2021–2022:

- Development Committee
- Governance Committee
- Programs Committee
- Finance Committee

The mandate of these committees is to support TE's general management in its day-to-day operations.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### **Sigrid Ellefsen**

#### *Chair of the Board*

Telus, Sales Director –  
Business Solutions

Member of the Board since 2011



### **Paule Desgroseilliers**

#### *Board member*

Retired teacher, researcher and  
educational management consultant

Member of the Board since 2018



### **François Guy**

#### *Vice-Chair*

CIBC Wood Gundy, First Vice-President,  
Investment Advisor

Member of the Board since 2007



### **Marc Edwards**

#### *Board member*

Kane Biotech Inc., CEO

Member of the Board since 2005



### **Luc Sabourin**

#### *Treasurer*

Coca-Cola Refreshments Ltd.,  
Finance-Recycling  
Manager, Canadian Business Unit,

Member of the Board since 2012



### **Marc-Tavio Folly**

#### *Board member*

Air Canada, Analyst - Mission Resolution

Member of the Board since 2021



### **Pascale Bédard**

#### *Secretary*

Counsel specializing in civil law,  
commercial law, civil liability,  
and insurance

Member of the Board since 2009



### **Julie Henrichon**

#### *Board member*

Henrichon-Goulet Foundation,  
President

Member of the Board since 2021



### **Marc-Antoine Côté Laporte**

#### *Board member*

Desjardins P&C Insurance Claims,  
Director, Claims Performance

Member of the Board since 2020



### **Marie-Claude Jalbert**

#### *Board member*

Jarislowsky, Fraser Limited,  
Chief Financial Officer

Member of the Board since 2012

A special thank you to Sylvie Conroy, whose term ended in June 2021,  
for her time and dedication during her two years on the board of directors.



## TE TEAM

### Administration

- Melissa Bellerose – Executive Director
- Christine Vallières – Development Coordinator
- Nawal Mimouni – Accounting and Payroll Manager
- Tamara Speth – Administrative Assistant
- Chloé Giard-Montpetit – Administrative Assistant – Programs and Services

### Parcours Program

- Maxime Leroy – Coordinator of the Parcours Program and School Lunch Service
- Yannick Caron – Youth Worker and School Lunch Service Manager
- Marie-Josée Legault – Youth Worker and School Lunch Service Manager
- Viviane Auberson-Lavoie – Youth Worker
- Joey Gutierrez-Gosselin – Youth Worker and support for the school lunch service

### Sac à dos Program

- Christine Loiselle – Sac à dos Program Coordinator
- Myriam Courtemanche – Youth Worker
- Paul Derache – Youth Worker
- Andrew Marchand – Youth Worker
- Andrea Robin – Intervention Support
- Diego Gutierrez-Gosselin – Support for intervention and School Lunch Service

### Passeport pour ma réussite Program

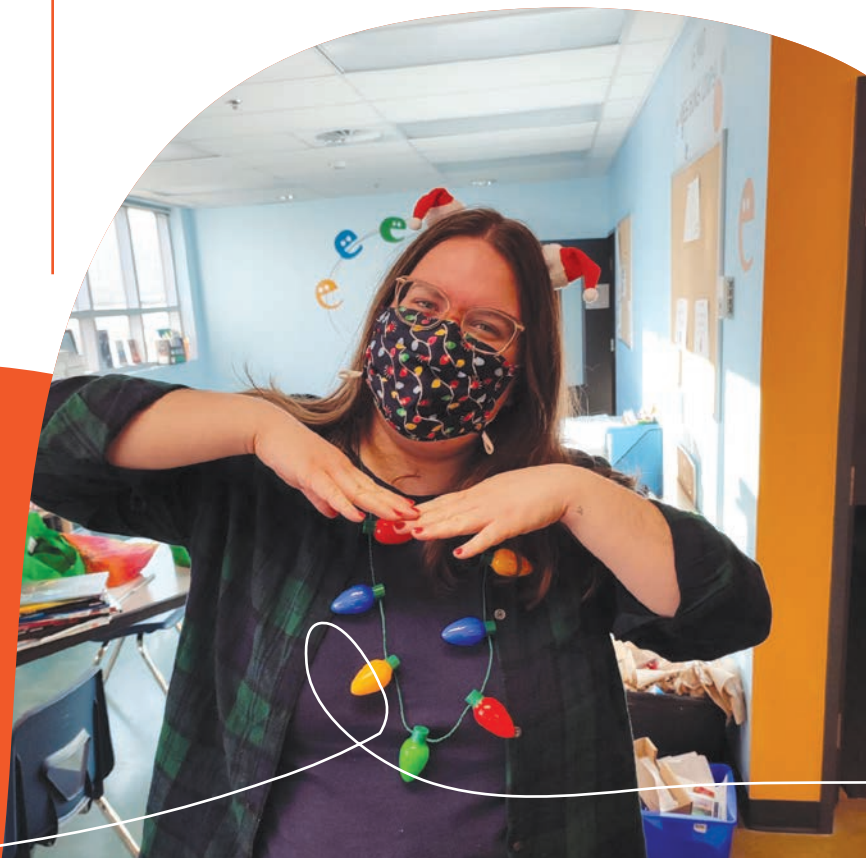
- Roch Fortuné – Passeport pour ma réussite Program Coordinator
- Audrey Terrier – Tutoring Coordinator
- Mouna Al-Deek\* – Student-Parent Support Worker
- Monica-Andrea Correa – Student-Parent Support Worker
- Evan Côté – Student-Parent Support Worker
- Marilou Joly – Student-Parent Support Worker
- Florence Garneau – Student-Parent Support Worker
- Janique Lachapelle – Student-Parent Support Worker
- Audrey Sarrazin – Student-Parent Support Worker (Maternity leave)

### School Lunch Service

- Steve Doucet – Cook, Trainer for PAAS-Action (socio-vocational integration team)
- Sylvie Hamel – Support for school lunches and homework assistance
- Johanne Thérault – School Lunch Monitor (part-time)

\* Temporary employees

Toujours ensemble thanks our four summer program employees for making this year's experience a memorable one for our participants. TE is also grateful to all employees who left us during the year (Véronique Beaulac, Nathan Bisailon, Soraya Calixte, Mariana Caloca, Mélissa Cardinal, Geneviève Chartré, Laurence Côté, Julie Felx, Lauriane Germain, Audrey Labrecque, Wisely Louis, Maude Lagacé, Annick Moreau, Sandrine Rose, Dounia Slaoui, Vicky Tremblay, Alison Vigouroux).









# DONORS AND FINANCIAL PARTNERS

On behalf of Verdun youth who are able to develop their full potential because of your support, THANK YOU!

A big thank you also to the nearly one hundred individual and anonymous donors who are not on this list but who nevertheless do so much to help our young people.

**Passeport**  
pour ma réussite



**Centraide**  
du Grand Montréal



Gouvernement  
du Canada

Government  
of Canada

**Québec**



**Verdun**  
**Montréal**

## Companies and private funds

- AirSprint inc.
- Bell
- Bonanza Lumière
- Broccolini Construction inc.
- Café Fréjus
- Café Komma Rosta inc.
- Caisse Desjardins de L'Île-des-Soeurs-Verdun
- Canderel Management inc.
- Capinabel
- Compagnie d'embouteillage Coca-Cola Canada Ltée
- Coopérative de Solidarité Abondance Urbaine Solidaire (CAUS)
- Elevation SJ
- Ernst & Young
- Fidelity Investments Canada
- Financière Sun Life
- Firstpower Investments inc.
- Gagné RH inc.
- Hoopoe Holdings Limited
- Lallemant inc.
- Le Fonds de Noël The Gazette
- Les Aliments Cell Foods
- Maçonnerie Gratton
- Maison de Massy
- Manulife - Manuvie
- Paul Samuel Cornett inc.
- Paysafe Services Canada inc.
- Paysafe Technologies inc.
- Pinafore Corporation
- Placements Mondiaux Sun Life
- S.C.Menard MD inc.
- Saputo inc.
- TELUS
- UPS National

## Foundations

- Chamandy Foundation
- CIBC Children's Foundation
- Eric T. Webster Foundation
- Fondation de la famille Gewurz
- Fondation du Grand Montréal
- Fondation Henrichon-Goulet
- Fondation Jacques Lessard
- Fondation Lise et Richard Fortin
- Fondation Marcelle et Jean Coutu
- Fondation Stratus
- Fondation Yves Phaneuf
- Fonds de dotation Léo et Éric Bouchard
- Fonds Josée et Michel Jacques
- Hylcan Foundation
- La Fondation Desjardins
- Morris and Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation
- Nan and Jack Wiseman Family Foundation
- Roasters Foundation
- Stephen and Lillian Vineberg Family Foundation
- The David Family Foundation
- The George Hogg Family Foundation
- The Mireille & Murray Steinberg Family Foundation
- The Tenaquip Foundation
- Zeller Family Foundation

## Religious communities and NPOS

- Centraide du Grand Montréal
- Église St-Willibrord
- La Cantine pour Tous
- Moisson Montréal
- Pathways to Education Canada
- Second Harvest

## Institutions and governments

- Arrondissement de Verdun – Fonds québécois d'initiatives sociales
- Arrondissement de Verdun – Programme d'assistance financière (PAF)
- CÉGEP de Rimouski
- Centre de services scolaires Marguerite-Bourgeoys
- CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal – Programme Milieu de vie favorable jeunesse
- Députée provinciale de Verdun - Parti libéral du Québec – Mme Isabelle Melançon
- Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur – Programme PACTE
- Ministère de l'emploi et solidarité sociale – Programme PAAS Action
- Réseau réussite Montréal
- Service Canada – Emplois été Canada

# INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Cumulative lifetime donations of \$100 or more.

Alain Loiseau	Élisabeth Gudas	Jeannot Martel	Margret Nodwell	Real Raymond
Alexandra Cotnoir	Elise Crepault	Jennifer Pereira Gaspar	Marie-Andrée Mauger	René Malo
Alexandros Mavrias	Émilie Baillargeon	Jocelyn Dumas	Marie-Christine Roussel	Ricardo Garrido
Alison Sullivan	Charbonneau	Jocelyne Cotnoir	Marie-Eve Bergeron	Richard Renaud
André Chénard	Eva Mboumba	Joel Pomerleau	Marie-Ève Ellefsen	Robert Cotton
Andrea Valeria	Evelyne Crête Turcotte	Johanne Barsalou	Mark Beaudet	Roy Schwartz
Anette Bollmeier	Fabien Gagnon	Johanne Fetherston	Martin Vallieres	Santa Maria Di Sensi
Anne Couture	Fannie Leduc	John LeBoutillier	Maryse Primeau	Sejal Davla
Annie Destrempe	Franca Cerretti	John A. Rae	Mathieu Caveng	Sharon Ng Cheong Ton
Arianne Guay	France Goyette	Jonathan Dellar-	Mathieu Fafard	Sigrid Ellefsen
Axelle Bérard	France Paradis	Fernandes	Mathieu Ouellet	Simon Boisvert
Beatrice Crawford	France Roy	Jordan Dupuis	Maude-Émilie St-Pierre	Sony Carpentier
Benoit Charette	Francine Beaudry	Josée Des Groseillers	Maxime Grégoire	Sophie Blanchard
Benoit Laurin	Francine Trépanier	Josée Desnoyers	Merle McPhail	Steeve Laplante
Bineta Ba	Francine Bouchard	Josée Robillard	Michael Bronstetter	Stella Nico
Brigitte Cantin	François Cardinal	Judi Kirk	Michael Giannoumis	Stéphane Rochereau
Camille Blais	François Guy	Julie Perreault	Michael Novak	Stéphanie Beaulieu
Camille Leblanc	François Senécal	Karl Boissonneault	Michel Descôteaux	Stéphanie Courtemanche
Carmelo Borgognone	Frédéric Latour	Kathy Assayag	Michel Primeau	Stephen Campellone
Carole Beaulieu	Gaelle Gautier Blanchard	Katrin Nakashima	Micheline Rouillard	Sunil Panrey
Caroline Gelineault	Geneviève Chartré	Laurence Dupont	Mireille Caya	Sylvaine Lecavalier
Caroline Goyette	Geneviève Goupil	Laurene Lachapelle-Bégin	Molly Bloom	Sylvia Frappier
Caroline Lavigne	George Ross	Léonard Baltin	Monique Aird	Sylvie Bibeau
Carolyn Renaud Renaud	Gilles Beaulieu	Line Ghilarducci	Nico Lavoie	Sylvie Poirier
Catherine Ouellet Dupuis	Ginette Benoit	Louise Bartkowiak	Nicolas Tétreault	Tamara Speth
Charles Bélanger	Guy Savoie	Louise Rousseau	Noémie Johnson	Valérie Lemieux
Charlotte Bourget-	Harry Steinbrenner	Louis-Philippe Poirier	Norma Hayes	Veronica Glemaud
Rousseau	Héloïse Rondeau-	Luc Jobin	Olivier Drouin	Veronica Radivojevic
Christian Lemay	Geoffrion	Luc Maurice	Ouamer Meddahi	Véronique Beaulac
Christian Leroux	Hugh McAdams	Luc Poirier	Pascale Bédard	Wesley Tait
Christophe Guidon	Huguette Loiselle	Luis Escobar	Pascale Cotnoir	
Constantin Fortier	Hussein Abdallah	Lynn Gignac	Patrice Grimard	
Daniel Gagnon	Isabelle Carreau	Madeleine Loiselle-	Paula Negron	
Daniel T. Murphy	Isabelle Forget	Lachaine	Paule Desgroseilliers	
David Cohen	Isabelle Langlois	Marc Edwards	Peter D. McBride	
Dimitrios Gianninas	Jacques Sicé	Marc Trottier	Priscilla Whitehead	
Donald Clarke	Jean Delage	Marc-André Dumas	Rachel Renaud	
Eliane Bassal	Jean-Francois Beauchamp	Marco Ottoni	Ray Guyatt	



# FINANCIAL SITUATION

Statement of Income FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Grants	1,013,176	1,354,681
Financial contributions	379,341	428,355
Donations	633,551	755,117
Fundraising and other income	63,350	59,360
	<b>2,089,418</b>	<b>2,597,513</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administration	369,740	456,334
Pathways to education program	655,650	649,518
Parcours program	230,877	222,487
Sac à dos program	265,396	218,771
School lunches services	187,670	240,110
Summer programming	91,605	84,192
Other support measures	69,183	66,684
	<b>1,870,121</b>	<b>1,938,096</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES BEFORE EXPENSES (REVENUES) RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS AND CLAIMS-RELATED EXPENSES</b>	<b>219,297</b>	<b>659,417</b>
<b>EXPENSES (REVENUES) RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS</b>		
Amortization of capital assets	238,638	225,643
Amortization of deferred contributions	(8,351)	(5,657)
	<b>230,287</b>	<b>219,986</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES BEFORE CLAIMS-RELATED EXPENSES</b>	<b>(10,990)</b>	<b>439,431</b>
<b>EXPENSES RELATED TO A CLAIM</b>		
Building improvements - Renaud premises	-	33,349
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>(10,990)</b>	<b>406,082</b>

# Financial Statements

**Report** FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2022

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Cash	102,067	24,754
Temporary investments - at cost, redeemable	1,066,087	860,685
Accounts receivable	43,149	45,880
Grants receivable	9,938	114,486
Prepaid expenses	35,296	22,592
	<b>1,256,537</b>	<b>1,068,397</b>
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,766,549</b>	<b>1,985,021</b>
	<b>3,023,086</b>	<b>3,053,418</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	153,820	126,190
Deferred grants and contributions	149,867	77,279
Current portion of long-term debt repayable on demand	23,210	23,210
	<b>326,897</b>	<b>226,679</b>
<b>LONG-TERM DEBT</b>	<b>28,472</b>	<b>151,682</b>
<b>DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	<b>22,946</b>	<b>19,296</b>
	<b>378,315</b>	<b>397,657</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Invested in capital assets	1,691,921	1,790,831
Internally restricted	455,811	370,651
Unrestricted	497,039	494,279
	<b>2,644,771</b>	<b>2,655,761</b>
	<b>3,023,086</b>	<b>3,053,418</b>





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