



Toujours  
ensemble

Impact Report  
2024-2025

# Building Connections That Matter for Youth

A real impact for Verdun youth, supported by an integrated approach that brings together families, schools, and the community.



Parcours  
Program



Sac à dos  
Program



Family Support  
Measures



Pathways to  
Education Program

## Message from the Chair of the Board and the Executive Director

In 2024–2025, Toujours ensemble continued its mission with determination to support youth in Verdun–Nun’s Island in reaching their full potential.

In a context of increasingly complex needs, lingering effects of the pandemic, and growing challenges related to mental health and social integration, our organization responded with agility, consistency — and above all, heart.

We deeply believe that young people don’t succeed alone. By strengthening the ties between school, family, and community, we create supportive environments that foster perseverance, self-esteem, and personal growth.

## Innovative Projects Serving Youth and Families

Thanks to a dedicated frontline team and a committed board of directors, we’ve made meaningful progress. This year, more than 600 young people received continuous support from elementary through high school. Key achievements include:

- The arrival of a community-school worker in two elementary schools
- Expansion of the *Sac à dos* program, especially for newly immigrated youth
- Two immersive sociolinguistic camps to support integration
- A community kitchen delivering over 170 hot school lunches every day
- *Héllys*, a project to strengthen youth workers’ skills in supporting parents of adolescents

## Stronger Connections Across Our Programs

A key milestone this year was the appointment of Christine Loiseau as Director of the Continuum of Programs and Services. This new role reinforces the coherence and continuity of our holistic approach, ensuring that youth and families benefit from consistent, coordinated support across all programs.

These tangible advances reflect the vision of our 2024–2029 Strategic Plan, which places youth at the heart of our actions and guides our efforts toward equity, social innovation, and sustainability.

**We extend our heartfelt thanks to the individuals, families, institutions, volunteers, donors, and partners who make our mission possible.** Your trust allows us to build, with heart and conviction, a more just future for all young people.



A blue ink signature of François Guy.

**François Guy**  
Chair of the Board



A blue ink signature of Melissa Bellerose.

**Melissa Bellerose**  
Executive Director

The fiscal year for Toujours ensemble runs from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, while program and service data follow the school calendar.

# Our Impact at a Glance



## A Holistic Approach To Help Youth Succeed

- **Over 684 youth** aged 6 to 17 took part in our educational and support programs
- **271 teens** were supported through the *Pathways to Education* program
- **116 elementary students** supported through *Sac à dos*, including many in reception classes
- **258 youth** participated in the *Parcours* program, including the new Teen Lounge
- **30 youth** in French integration (youth and teen streams) attended an immersive language camp
- **12 youth** aged 8 to 10 built their autonomy through the *Brigade autonomie*



## Concrete Actions To Meet Real Needs

- **300 youth** received school supplies tailored to their level
- **208 youth** enrolled in summer programming — a growing and consistent demand
- **105 transit passes, 68 financial supports, and 35 laptops** were distributed to help teens pursue their education
- **Close to 34,000 hot meals** were served this year (up from 24,650 the year before), in two Verdun elementary schools — plus about 20 students who eat lunch daily at TE



## Direct Support For Local Families

- **325 households reached** during the Holiday Food Drive, representing **1,143 people** — including **511 children**
- **70 families** supported by our new community-school worker (CSW) in two elementary schools



## A Vibrant Mission Propelled by People

- A team of nearly **40 people**: youth workers, coordinators, cooks, support staff, and leadership
- Nearly **100 volunteers** mobilized throughout the year: a valuable support for tutoring, food basket deliveries, and school supply distributions

# Our Programs in Action



## Sac à dos

The First Steps Toward Lifelong Perseverance

Since its launch in 2015, the *Sac à dos* program has played a central role in the educational success of elementary students. This year, thanks to increased funding from the Ministry of Education and Réseau réussite Montréal, we were able to expand our reach:

**116 children were supported, compared to 85 the previous year, including 29 in welcome classes for newly arrived or non-French-speaking students.**

**Two new groups** were created at Chanoine-Joseph-Théorêt Elementary School, supported by a strengthened team. The program was enhanced with outdoor activities, creative workshops, cooking, visual arts, and even circus arts in partnership with the Verdun Circus School.

These activities not only strengthen academic skills but also build self-confidence, autonomy, and connection to school.



*“It was a wonderful year with Toujours ensemble. You truly make a difference in our students’ lives.”*

**Marie-Hélène Gauthier,**  
Principal, Chanoine-Joseph-Théorêt School



## Yolande’s Story

Yolande is an elementary student who experienced major upheavals over the past year. These challenges significantly impacted her mental health and school motivation. She struggled to concentrate, complete her homework, and participate in *Sac à dos* group activities.

Thanks to her courage and the combined support of her school, the CLSC, and our youth workers, Yolande gradually regained confidence. She now participates more, focuses better in class, and can complete her homework independently.

Impressed by her efforts, the *Sac à dos* team nominated her for the “I Can, I Succeed” recognition award – which she won. Her journey reflects one of many stories of perseverance among our youth, who overcome life’s daily challenges to continue their educational journey.



## Parcours

Move, Create, Connect

The *Parcours* program offers a safe, stimulating, and welcoming space for youth aged 9 to 17, every day.

| In 2024–2025, **258 youth** took part in the program.

*Parcours* complements *Sac à dos* and *Pathways to Education* by focusing on **recreation-based intervention**. Moving, laughing, creating, and socializing are not side activities — they are powerful tools for building confidence and developing life skills.

This year, we increased participation among younger youth while expanding the **Teen Lounge**, a living space where a **dozen teens** regularly gather after school every day.

Thanks to the recent hiring of a dedicated youth worker for the teen space, the programming became even more dynamic: art therapy, bike mechanics, themed clubs, active games, digital support, and open discussions.



## Highlights of the Year

- **Stays at Camps Minogami and Mariste** — meaningful immersive experiences that created lasting memories, strong bonds, and a new appreciation for nature
- **A year-end school trip to Gaspésie for nine elementary students** — a highly anticipated moment that recognized their participation and regular attendance
- **The TE Talent Gala**, where youth showcased their creations, passions, and projects in front of peers, families, and the team. During this emotional and festive evening, **five youth received certificates and \$100 bursaries** recognizing their perseverance, ability to overcome challenges, and the support that helped them succeed

These bursaries were made possible thanks to the loyal support of **Desjardins – Caisse de Verdun–Île-des-Sœurs**, whom we warmly thank.

*Parcours* is more than a program — it's a living environment. A space where youth feel seen, valued, and equipped to move forward at their own pace, with pride.





## Pathways to Education Verdun

A Long-Term Commitment to Youth Success

Since 2007, Toujours ensemble has coffered Pathways to Education in Verdun, a prevention-based initiative supporting high school students. This long-term program combines **mentoring, motivation, academic support, and material assistance** to break the cycle of poverty and help youth pursue their goals with confidence.



### Young people benefit from four streams of intervention:

- 1 Individual guidance** from dedicated youth workers
- 2 Academic support and homework help**
- 3 Structured group activities** to build life skills
- 4 Material support** to ease financial pressures

In 2024–2025, **271 youth** were supported through this program, despite labour shortages that affected staff recruitment at the beginning of the year.

Thanks to the dedication of the team and its partners, youth had access to:

- **105 STM monthly transit passes**
- **68 financial supports** to cover school-related expenses
- **38 school uniforms**
- **35 laptop computers**



## New Collaborations For Greater Impact

This year, the program was enriched by several new partnerships:

- **Science podcast mentorship** with *Mégaphone*
- **One-day job shadowing experiences** with *JeunesExplo*
- **Educational workshops** with *Alloprof*
- **Study skills workshops** with the *Carrefour jeunesse-emploi de Verdun*
- **Creative writing workshop in English** with *The Suspicious Fish*



These collaborations helped youth imagine their future, better understand their strengths, and explore various fields with confidence.



## Emilio's Story Finding His Voice Again

Originally from Chile, **Emilio** joined an integration class at École secondaire Monseigneur-Richard. During the summer, he participated in our **sociolinguistic camp** and then enrolled in the *Pathways to Education* program.

Thanks to the attentive support of his youth worker, Emilio regained confidence, especially by taking part in a podcast project. In October, **he transitioned into a regular Grade 7 class**, greeted with applause from his peers. A successful transition that speaks to his perseverance and the support surrounding him.

## Samuel's Story From Waiting to Action

**Samuel Rodríguez Orozco**, 19, is a powerful example of determination.

Arriving from Colombia three years ago, **Samuel** learned French, completed high school with distinction, and was awarded the **Forces Avenir scholarship** for his community involvement. He was accepted into a double DEC in Natural Sciences and Social Sciences — but his dream was nearly derailed by an endlessly delayed study permit.

For over six months, Samuel was in limbo, unable to begin college. But thanks to the mobilization of the community, the support of the *Pathways* team, and widespread advocacy, he finally received his study visa and started CEGEP in fall 2024.

Meanwhile, Samuel continues to give back: he is a tutor, activity leader, food bank volunteer — and most of all, a role model for engagement. His story illustrates the power of community-based support and the urgent need to dismantle systemic barriers faced by immigrant youth.

Samuel's journey was featured in *FamillÉduc* magazine, in an article written by Melissa Bellerose.

# Family Support Measures

Toujours ensemble is actively committed to reducing the inequalities faced by the most vulnerable families in our community. Among the major initiatives that marked the year:



## School Supplies

A More Equitable  
Back-to-School

In August 2024, more than 300 youth from Verdun-Nun's Island received backpacks and school supplies adapted to their grade level. This distribution was made possible thanks to the support of many volunteers, including Pascale Cotnoir, who played a central role in organizing the effort. This concrete gesture helped youth return to school with dignity and confidence.



## Holiday Food Baskets

Festive Solidarity

On December 19, 325 Verdun households each received an average of four grocery bags filled with food: meat, fruits, vegetables, prepared meals, fresh produce, and canned goods — enough to feed a family for a week.

This initiative reached 1,143 people, including 511 children, thanks to the dedication of 55 volunteers and the invaluable support of loyal partners. Together, we were able to provide festive meals to families facing economic hardship during the heart of winter.

*A heartfelt thank you to the Henrichon-Goulet Foundation, the Renaud family, and everyone who answered the call.*





## A New Resource for Families: The Community-School Worker (CSW) in Underprivileged Areas

Since the start of the school year, Jeanne Dessureault, Toujours ensemble’s community-school worker (CSW), has supported **70 families** living in vulnerable situations in two Verdun elementary schools: Chanoine-Joseph-Théorêt (50 families) and Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs (20 families).

Thanks to one-time funding from the Quebec Ministry of Education (MEQ) and Réseau réussite Montréal (RRM), this new role has strengthened our School-Family-Community approach and helped us reach youth who are often marginalized. Around 20 of the families supported were in reception classes and had recently immigrated.

All families were referred by the school—by principals, teachers, technicians, or social workers. The CSW serves as a true bridge between home and school, breaking isolation, facilitating access to resources, and creating a climate of trust.

The support focused on basic needs (housing, food, clothing, hygiene), parental guidance, access to information, and psychosocial support. Community events — such as a Halloween supper, a community clothing drive, and employment workshops — created meaningful moments where families felt seen, heard, and supported.



The school principals, Marie-Michèle Prud’homme (Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs) and Marie-Hélène Gauthier (Chanoine-J.-Théorêt), are pictured with Jeanne (centre), our community-school worker. She has been working in these two Verdun elementary schools since the start of the school year.

Thank you to Réseau réussite Montréal and the CSSMB — together, we’re working toward educational success for all youth.

*“Jeanne’s work with our school’s families is absolutely essential. Thanks to her support, vulnerable families feel heard, guided, and better equipped to support their children’s success. Her role as a bridge between the school, families, and community makes a real difference.”*

**Marie-Michèle Prud’homme,**  
Principal, Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs School



## School Lunches

A Kitchen at the Heart of the Community

Every day at noon, *Toujours ensemble* welcomes around twenty students from Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes School for a hot meal and supervised activities. This key moment of the school day offers more than just food — it’s also a space for respite, socialization, and support for our most vulnerable youth.

In parallel, thanks to our partnership with *La Cantine pour tous*, we prepare and deliver over 170 meals daily to Lévis-Sauvé and Verdun Elementary Schools. This initiative has responded to a threefold increase in demand over the past three years — a clear sign of growing food insecurity in our neighbourhood.

Our kitchen is truly the heart of *Toujours ensemble*: a place of preparation, sharing, and human warmth. To continue meeting growing demand, we are considering expanding our facilities and strengthening our team. Our goal: better serve the community, offer healthy meals to more students, and solidify our role as a key player in food solidarity in Verdun.

### Did you know

**Toujours ensemble is an affiliated member of the Quebec Food Banks (BAQ)?**

This provincial network brings together more than 1,200 community organizations and ensures rigorous standards in food security. Through this affiliation, we have regular access to quality food and logistical support, allowing us to enhance and expand our food offerings for the youth and families we serve.



Alejandra Zaga Mendez, MNA for Verdun, donated \$10,000 to *Toujours ensemble* to support the school lunch program and contribute to the fight against food insecurity.

*“Solidarity is the glue of our community. Thank you to *Toujours ensemble* for ensuring no one is left behind. This donation is a spark for a more equitable future.”*

**Alejandra Zaga Mendez**, MNA for Verdun

# Summer Programming

## A Vibrant, Accessible Summer Rooted in the Community

Over the eight weeks of summer 2024, Toujours ensemble reached **208 youth** aged 8 to 17 through inclusive drop-in programming offered Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with some evening activities. Activities, outings, and camps helped strengthen autonomy, social bonds, and inclusion, while offering much-needed structured respite to low-income families.



### New Sociolinguistic Camp (Youth and Teen)

Launched in 2022 for teens, this camp showed strong potential from its first edition. In 2024, a youth stream was added to meet growing demand from families who wanted younger siblings in elementary school to participate too. This immersive program focused on French language learning, neighbourhood discovery, and cultural integration, and welcomed **30 youth aged 9 to 17, many of whom were in reception classes**. Offered at low cost, the camp meets a real need for school integration among newly arrived youth.

### New Autonomy Brigade

This innovative program helped **12 children aged 8 to 10**, including youth from immigrant backgrounds, build their autonomy, learn how to navigate the neighbourhood safely, and boost their self-confidence. Through a progressive approach using both traditional and digital tools, the participants developed concrete skills and received a symbolic “Smart Pedestrian” diploma.

#### Shared Objectives

- Promote inclusion, autonomy, and accountability among youth
- Reduce social isolation
- Encourage continued participation in other Toujours ensemble programs
- Respond to the needs of families without access to traditional summer camps



# Special Projects

## Exploring, Learning, Shining

### Hély's Project

#### Positive Parenting and Support for Youth Aged 12-17

In 2024, two youth workers from Toujours ensemble participated in Project Hély's, an initiative led by Boscoville and supported by Réseau réussite Montréal. The goal was to strengthen youth workers' skills in supporting parents of adolescents through a lens of listening, collaboration, and compassion.

Thanks to workshops, practical tools, and shared reflection, our team enriched their field practices, enhancing the quality of support offered to both youth and families.



### Tisser Verdun

#### Past, Present, and Sharing Across Generations

*Tisser Verdun* is an intergenerational cultural mediation project led by visual artist Fannie Bertrand in collaboration with Toujours ensemble, the Entre-deux-âges cooperative, and the Verdun Cultural District Committee, with support from the City of Montreal and the Government of Quebec.

For three months, youth from Toujours ensemble and local seniors worked together to create collages inspired by their memories of the neighbourhood, displayed in symbolic vintage drawers. The initiative helped weave bonds between generations and celebrate Verdun's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



### Voix de Verdun

#### A Podcast to Celebrate 150 Years of History

Toujours ensemble is proud to contribute to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Verdun with *Voix de Verdun*, a podcast currently in production by and for youth. Selected as one of 25 projects supported by the borough, the podcast gives Verdun youth a platform to share their neighbourhood's story through their voices, perspectives, and lived experiences.

Episodes are being produced in collaboration with *Virage Sonore* and will be released in fall 2025 in partnership with the hyperlocal media outlet *Explore Verdun-IDS*.



# Community Engagement and Collective Action

## Uniting for Sustainable Impact

As an autonomous community organization, we believe that educational success relies on collective engagement and ongoing collaboration with the key players in our community.

Throughout the year, we actively participated in **several local and sectoral roundtables**, which help us better understand the lived realities of youth and families and respond in a coordinated, meaningful way.

### Key Roundtables and Collaborations:

- Verdun Immigration Committee
- Verdun Food Security Committee
- Verdun Social Development Roundtable
- ROCLD (Quebec Network of Community Organizations Against Dropout)
- Verdun Family Roundtable
- Verdun Youth Roundtable – Ages 6–17 Committee
- Verdun Community Action Roundtable

We also maintained partnerships with several key organizations and institutions that share our commitment to youth. Together, we take concrete action to support young people, build their independence, and create an environment that nurtures their development.

## The Perseverance Butterflies

### Giving Youth Wings

From February 12 to 16, 2025, the Toujours ensemble team and youth came together to celebrate **Hooked on School Days**.

As part of the *Sac à dos* and school lunch programs, they created and decorated “**Perseverance Butterflies**,” each carrying a word, sentence, dream, or challenge they had overcome. The butterflies were then displayed at schools and TE, creating a touching and inspiring mosaic.

*“Persevering means not giving up, even when it’s hard.”*

*“I learned to read this year. I’m proud.”*

*“Coming back to school after moving was hard, but now I have friends.”*

These messages remind us that school perseverance isn’t just about grades. It’s a complex, often invisible journey made of small daily victories, human connections, and regained confidence.

At TE, we deeply believe that perseverance starts in elementary school and is built collectively — with youth, families, schools, and the broader community.



# Philanthropic and Financial Overview

## Investing Where It Matters

In 2024–2025, over 80% of donations received were directly invested in Toujours ensemble's programs and services. This financial discipline, supported by the generosity of our partners, helped sustain a strong impact on youth and families in Verdun.

The Board of Directors also approved the allocation of certain reserve funds to support priority projects. Audited financial statements prepared by Paquin & Associés CPA provide detailed information on the fiscal year.

## Statement of operations

For the year ended March 31, 2025

	2025	2024
<b>Revenues</b>	\$	\$
Grants	1 189 461	997 890
Organizations	584 834	499 207
Donations	890 551	1 005 144
Fundraising and other income	102 610	85 508
	<b>2 767 456</b>	<b>2 587 749</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administration	263 901	466 322
Fundraising	87 771	30 707
Pathways to Education program	785 669	735 941
Parcours Program	304 002	264 275
Sac à dos Program	397 904	355 590
Summer programming	178 387	122 265
School lunches services	345 833	258 272
Family Support Measures (Holiday Food Drive, School Supplies Campaign, and other supports)	156 137	90 300
	<b>2 519 604</b>	<b>2 323 672</b>
<b>Excess of revenues over expenses before expenses (revenues) related to capital assets</b>	<b>247 852</b>	<b>264 077</b>
<b>Expenses (revenues) related to capital assets</b>		
Amortization of capital assets	171 325	214 539
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets	(8 515)	(15 598)
	<b>162 810</b>	<b>198 841</b>
<b>Excess of income over expenses before expenses over projects financed by internally restricted net assets</b>	<b>85 042</b>	<b>65 236</b>
<b>Projects expenses funded by internally restricted net assets</b>		
Salaries of two new hirings	41 304	-
Revitalization of Renaud and Coutu centres	74 871	-
Optimization of information technology systems and databases	11 891	-
Analysis of human resources policy and maintenance of salary equity	12 429	-
	<b>140 495</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of income over expenses</b>	<b>(55 453)</b>	<b>65 236</b>

# A Collective Effort for Our Youth

Thank you to our donors and partners

**Passeport**  
pour ma réussite



**Centraide**  
du Grand Montréal



Gouvernement  
du Canada

Government  
of Canada

**Québec**



**Verdun**  
**Montréal**

Afeyan, Levon  
Ambiance, a Groupe Maurice  
residence, Nuns' Island  
Association des médecins  
du Sud-Ouest  
axcess international Inc  
Bastion Asset Management  
BCI-Foods Inc.  
Beaudet, Mark  
Bell Canada  
BMO Capital Markets  
Bonanza Lalumière  
Caisse Desjardins de  
L'Île-des-Soeurs-Verdun  
Canderel Management Inc.  
Card Department, Desjardins  
Carter, Anne  
Centraide of Greater Montreal  
Centraide, private donations  
Chamandy Foundation  
CIBC Children's Foundation  
CIBC Inc. Asset Management  
Clarke, Donald  
Clinique Médicale  
du Sud-Ouest  
Coke Canada Bottling plant  
Coulombe, Normand  
Courchesne Larose  
Crepault, Elise  
Delage, Jean  
Descôteaux, Michel  
Desmarais, Jr., Paul  
Dyanamic Funds -  
Asset Management  
Dynamic Alimentation  
Edwards, Anne  
Elevation SJ  
Eric T. Webster Foundation  
Ernst & Young  
Famularo, Sergio  
Fidelity Investments Canada  
Firstpower Investments Inc.  
Frances, Robert  
Gelineault, Caroline  
Gemieux, Michel  
HVAC Rentals  
iA Financial Group  
Invesco Canada LTD  
Jalbert, Marie-Claude  
Kavanagh, Judith

Kits For A Cause  
Kruyt, Peter  
La Cantine pour Tous  
Labelle, Philippe  
Latour, Frédéric  
Laurive Group  
LeBoutillier, John  
Lemay, Christian  
Manulife Investments  
Marcoux, Nathalie  
Martel, Guillaume  
McAdams, Hugh  
Montessori School of Montreal  
Montreal Alliance  
Montreal Hooked On School  
Myrand, Pierre  
Negrón, Paula  
Novak, Michael  
Nunsubco Trois Inc.  
Oeuvres Régis-Vernet - Soeurs  
de la Présentation de Marie  
Olymel  
Ouimet, Raymond  
Parc Jean-Drapeau  
Paré, Daniel-Marc  
Pathways to Education  
Canada  
Pereira Gaspar, Jennifer  
Poirier, Luc  
Pomerleau  
Pomerleau, Joel  
Rae, John  
Réchaud-Bus  
Saputo inc.  
Sarpe, Viorica  
St-Hubert Express (Verdun)  
Summum Réfrigération  
Sun Life  
The Benoit Family Foundation  
The Bertrand Family  
Foundation  
The Chamberland-Tremblay  
Family Foundation  
The Corporation des conces-  
sionnaires d'automobiles de  
Montréal (CCAM) Foundation  
The D'Amours Foundation  
The David Family Foundation  
The Foundation of Greater  
Montréal, Toujours ensemble  
Fund

The George Hogg Family  
Foundation  
The Godin Family Foundation  
The Henrichon-Goulet  
Foundation  
The Hewitt Foundation  
The Inter Echo Foundation  
The J.A. DeSève Foundation  
The Jacques Lessard  
Foundation  
The Jeanne-Esther Foundation  
The John Dobson Foundation  
The Léo and Éric Bouchard  
Endowment Fund  
The Lise and Richard Fortin  
Foundation  
The Marcelle and Jean Coutu  
Foundation  
The Marie-François Fund  
The Ménard-Dumas  
Family Fund from Foundation  
of Greater Montréal  
The Mireille & Murray  
Steinberg Family Foundation  
The Morrie M. Cohen Family  
Foundation  
The Morris and Rosalind  
Goodman Family Foundation  
The Nan and Jack Wiseman  
Family Foundation at the  
Jewish Foundation of  
Greater Toronto  
The R. Howard Webster  
Foundation  
The Richelieu Verdun  
Foundation  
The Sandra and  
Alain Bouchard Foundation  
The Sibylla Hesse Foundation  
The Stephen and Lillian  
Vineberg Family Foundation  
The Stratus Foundation  
The Tenaquip Foundation  
The YMCAs of Québec,  
Alternative Suspension  
Program  
The Zeller Family  
Foundation  
Tousignant, Lucie  
Trottier, Marc  
Wall, Anne  
Zaga Mendez, Alejandra

## Grants

### Municipal

Verdun Borough, Culture,  
sports, recreation and social  
development  
Verdun Borough, Quebec  
Social Initiatives Fund  
Verdun Borough, City Hall -  
District council  
Verdun Borough,  
Prévention Montréal  
Verdun Borough, Financial  
assistance program

### Provincial

Centre de services scolaire  
Marguerite-Bourgeoys,  
Centre éducatif  
CIUSSS du Centre-Sud de  
l'Île-de-Montréal, Programme  
Milieu de vie favorable  
Ministère de l'éducation et  
de l'Enseignement supérieur,  
PACTE Program  
Ministère de l'Emploi et de la  
Solidarité Sociale, Management  
Coaching Subvention  
Ministère de l'Emploi et de  
la Solidarité Sociale, PRIIME  
Program  
Ministère du Travail, de  
l'Emploi et de la Solidarité  
Sociale, PAAS Action Program

### Federal

Service Canada,  
Canada Summer Jobs

Donors who contributed \$500 or more are listed here. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our donors who supported us during 2024–2025.

# Our Team

## At the Frontlines of Youth Success

Toujours ensemble relies on a committed multidisciplinary team made up of youth workers, community workers, coordinators, and administrative support staff. Since the start of the 2024 school year, the team reflects the diversity, professionalism, and humanity that are TE's strength.

### Leadership Team

**Melissa Bellerose**

Executive Director

**Christine Loiselle**

Director of the Continuum of Programs and Services

**Gabrielle Marleau-Lamontagne**

Director, Pathways to Education Verdun

### Development and Organizational Support

**Matthias Hebig**

Executive Assistant

**Patrick Laplante**

Accounting and Payroll Technician

**Diana Martinez**

Administrative Assistant, Programs and Services

**Vincent Ploux**

Philanthropic Development Advisor

**Tamara Speth**

Executive Assistant and IT Manager (on maternity leave)

### Youth Programs (Ages 8–12)

**Ilham Abaraghe**

Program Coordinator, *Parcours* and *Sac à dos*

**Myriam Courtemanche**

Clinical Coordinator, *Parcours* and *Sac à dos*

**Rudine Lozama**

Summer Program Manager and Youth Worker

- *Sac à dos* Program Youth Workers

**Yves Boone****Léonie Bouchain****Paul Derache****Joaquim Falisse****Agathe Jacque****Maru Nacher****Andrea Robin**

- *Parcours* Program Youth Workers (Elementary)

**Yannick Caron****Diego Gutierrez Gosselin****Camila Lopez****Camille Mauget****Samuel Rodriguez Orozco****Yan Plante**

- Intervention and School Lunch Support

**Johanne Thérout**

### Teen Programs (Ages 13–17)

**Vanessa Caraman-Firmin**

Tutoring and Postsecondary Transition Lead

**Viviana Gomez Giraldo**

Youth Worker and Teen Life Coordinator, *Parcours* Program

**Stevie Lopez**

Clinical Lead, Teen Program and Parent-Student Resource Counsellor, Pathways to Education

- Parent-Student Resource Counsellors – Pathways to Education

**Viviane Auberson-Lavoie****Sofia Benmakhlof****Josianne Caron****Élizabeth Chau****Evan Côté****Fiona Gillard****Alexis Potvin****Monica-Andréa Correa**

Parent-Student Counsellor and ESMR Service Point Lead

**Zoé Bogris McCambridge**

Liaison Officer, English-Speaking Communities and Parent-Student Counsellor

## Family Support and Food Services

**Émilie Bourgey**  
Registration Agent  
and Kitchen Assistant

**Geneviève Couture**  
Head Chef

**Jeanne Dessureault**  
Community-School Worker

**Andrew Marchand**  
Family Support Coordinator

**Meleena Nicolas Langlois**  
and **Josée Perreault**  
Kitchen Assistants, PAAS Action

**Frédéric Benoit**  
Janitorial Role, School Lunch  
Program – PAAS Action

## Special Thanks to Our Collaborators

**Mylène Filiatrault**  
Project Manager,  
Holiday Campaign

**Josée Robillard**  
Breton Accounting  
Services Inc.

## Summer 2024 Program Facilitators

Tshelsea-Anna Charles, Samuel Rodriguez Orozco,  
Angelis Agbo, Valeria Bautista Cardenas

## Tutoring Support Staff

Tristan Brier, Daniar Egemberdiev, Juan Andres Falla Pardo,  
Coralie Fitzpatrick, Joane Bérénice Toali Gbo, Mehrin Sreya Hossain,  
Imanol Juge, Chris Mekpo, Thaishe Miranda, Leila Nouisser,  
Anahita Nourbaksh, Maria José Pérez, Irma PionBatard,  
Victoria Saile Valero Alivares, Axel Ryan Yonkeu Domguia

## Faithful Volunteers

Madeleine Bachand  
Carmelo Borgognone  
Bertrand Braschi  
Tristan Brier  
Kate Brown  
Serge Cauchon  
Marie-Ève Chartré  
George Chen  
Christine Chenard  
Mareva Delpino  
Paule Desgroseilliers  
Louise Dumoulin  
Ahmed El Shebshiry  
François Fortier  
Sky Fugère Rondeau  
Denise Gauvin

Sinda Gueguez  
Christophe Guidon  
Joey Gutierrez  
Mai-Thi Ho  
Jennifer Ireland  
Vincent Jarry  
Cindy Karek  
Geneviève Labelle  
Catherine Lacoste  
Céline Laforce  
Karine Leduc  
Norma Leon Pardo  
Alain & Lyne Loiseau  
José Luis  
Claude Marche  
Fanny McKenna

Pascal Pellegrin  
Daphné Poirier  
Katherine Poirier  
Joël Pomerleau  
Sylvain Roy  
Charles Saint-Arnault  
Eleonora Sevilla  
Michael Shields  
Youde Simon  
Brian Tadié  
Mateo Toriz  
Matthieu Verrette  
Matthieu Willems

**Toujours ensemble also thanks all volunteers who support the youth of Verdun-IDS whose names do not appear here.**



Pascale Cotnoir, devoted volunteer for TE's school supply campaign.

# Board of Directors 2024–2025

## Dedicated Individuals

### Serving Youth

The volunteer members of the Board of Directors play a crucial role in the governance and vitality of *Toujours ensemble*. The Board stands out for its diversity and representation, in line with the organization's bylaws. It brings together individuals from the business, education, philanthropy, and community sectors, as well as two *Toujours ensemble* alumni. Elected for two-year terms, members provide strong, community-rooted leadership.

In 2024–2025, the Board met **seven times** to guide the team in strategic decisions. We thank each member for their loyal and essential support.

### Board Members

#### **François Guy**

##### **Chair**

*Member since June 21, 2007*

#### **Julie Henrichon**

##### **Vice-Chair**

*Member since June 22, 2021*

#### **Alain Laurendeau**

##### **Treasurer**

*Member since June 21, 2022*

#### **Marc-Tavio Folly**

##### **Secretary**

*Member since June 22, 2021*

*Toujours ensemble past participant*

#### **Marie-Claude Jalbert**

##### **Director and Interim Treasurer**

*Member since June 19, 2012*

#### **Paule Desgroseilliers**

##### **Director**

*Member since June 21, 2018*

#### **Marc Edwards**

##### **Director**

*Member since June 21, 2005*

#### **Lucie Tousignant**

##### **Director**

*Member since June 21, 2022*

#### **Karina Dite**

##### **Director**

*Member since June 20, 2024*

*Toujours ensemble past participant*

---

#### **Carolyn H. Renaud**

##### **Honorary Chair**

#### **Reford MacDougall**

##### **Honorary Director**



## Thank You

Marc Edwards

After over 20 years of active involvement on the Board of Directors, Marc Edwards will complete his final term in 2025.

His strategic insight, availability, and unwavering support have helped strengthen Toujours ensemble. We express our deepest thanks for his generosity and steadfast commitment.

## Working Committees

The Board of Directors has created working committees responsible for specific areas. These committees may include board members, staff, and external professionals.

### Program Committee

Oversees all organizational programs and ensures smooth operations.

### Ethics and Governance Committee

Ensures sound governance practices and compliance with bylaws.

### Philanthropic Development Committee

Strengthens stakeholder engagement and supports other teams in achieving their goals.

### Audit and Finance Committee

Advises on financial matters, planning, audits, investments, and safeguarding organizational assets.

## Together Toward Tomorrow

As Toujours ensemble approaches its 50th anniversary, we move forward with clarity in a changing world, alongside youth. Needs are evolving, challenges are increasing, but our mission remains clear: to support youth educational success by fostering strong school-family-community connections. In the year ahead, we will continue to improve our programming and build organizational capacity to respond effectively and cohesively on the ground.

Thank you to everyone who makes this possible—together, we move forward.

## Mission

Help young people aged 6 to 17 in Verdun-Nun's Island to realize their full potential through a continuum of academic, family, economic and social programs and services.

## Vision

An inclusive community where every young person succeeds, free from barriers to education and personal growth.

## Values

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



## Contact Information

### **Carolyn Hayes Renaud Centre**

4926 Verdun Street  
Verdun, Quebec H4G 1N3  
T. 514 761-7867

### **Marcelle and Jean Coutu School Perseverance Centre**

601 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Verdun, Quebec H4G 2W7  
T. 514 761-7867

## Please Donate

Your support helps hundreds of youth feel valued, supported, and empowered to succeed.

Make a donation  
today at

[www.imakeanonlinedonation.org/  
toujoursensemble](http://www.imakeanonlinedonation.org/toujoursensemble)