



BENOIT LABRE
MAISON • HOUSE

**Activity
Report**
2022/2023





LA MAISON BENOIT LABRE - BENEDICT LABRE HOUSE
Registered Charitable Organization Number: 118803261 RR 0001

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A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In the name of the board of directors, Andréane and our dedicated staff, I want to sincerely thank all our volunteers, sponsors and community partners for your continued support. Your support has allowed us to continue offering frontline services to people in need while continuing to build our new home. The construction of the new Labre House is advancing fast and it should be done by Fall! We're looking forward to welcoming our guests and volunteers in our new day centre and our 36 residential units. By adding a housing component to our existing service offer, the Labre House contributes to the creation of a supportive housing solution that will help individuals in their transition toward stable housing.

Santiago Garcia-Rejon
President

INTRODUCTION



A WORD FROM OUR MANAGEMENT TEAM

This year, the increase in aid requests and the scale of the needs have led us once again to grow, not only in terms of the solutions provided to the community, but also regarding the consolidation of our organizational structure.

Whether it concerns the Cleaning Brigade, the Mobile Intervention Unit or the development of the Atwater Project that is about to see the light of day, you will see in this report that the Benedict Labre House is able to meet a great number of difficult challenges, and this thanks to a committed and passionate team that makes the organization shine daily.

In 2022–2023, significant work was done on our internal policies, to improve working conditions, foster the retention of competent personnel and ensure better clinical support for the intervention team.

Our search for innovative practices in terms of housing intervention and the development of an intervention framework have allowed us to anchor the Atwater Project in its low-threshold approach.

Needless to say, a task of this size takes an enormous amount of time and energy, but we are certain that with all these efforts to seek the best possible way to operate, always in continuity with the vision of Mr. Tony Walsh, while respecting our mission, our values and the reality of the people that come to Benedict Labre.

We are hoping that you will be able to feel all the dedication that lies at the root of this report.

Happy reading!

Val and Andréane

Members of the Board of Directors

- **Santiago Garcia-Rejon**
President
- **Danielle Olofsson**
Vice-President
- **Emmanuel Valery Tchamba**
Treasurer
- **Joshua Parr**
Secretary

Members of the Community

- **Mathieu Davoine-Tousignant**
- **Michel Primeau**
- **Sarah Harding**
- **Francesca Taddeo**
- **Cadet Fleurilus**
- **Liam Mayes**
- **Alain Kasparian**
- **Franco San Gregorio**

INTRODUCTION



BENOIT LABRE

MAISON • HOUSE

OUR MISSION

To be an inclusive and welcoming place that provides the necessary support, services and resources to the most vulnerable population to improve the living conditions of everyone.

RESPECT

Respect and accept each person, no matter their situation.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Support equality and equity among all, and the elimination of all sources of discrimination and oppression.

OPENNESS

Show tolerance, understanding and consideration.

INTEGRITY

Demonstrate honesty within the different actions and interactions.

EQUALITY

Reduce discrimination and see to the equality of everyone.

INCLUSIVITY

Respect diversity and make the most of everyone's complementarity.

OUR MANDATES

To be a harmonious and empowering community for people in need;

To promote social justice by encouraging peaceful relationships;

To help communities take care of their members, notably by serving them meals and by offering the necessary support for their social reintegration and the strengthening of their self-esteem;

To promote involvement and networking among individuals, businesses and corporations working in similar fields and, in some cases, to provide the necessary financial assistance.

OUR OBJECTIVES

We have several objectives that shape the way we proceed. Our first objective is to act on **the consequences of homelessness**. In this respect, we provide all individuals with an opportunity to regain control of their lives, and to reconnect with themselves and with society. Our second objective is to promote the overall health of everyone who use our services. We want to prevent homelessness and develop collaborations with other health, social services and community network authorities to guide people who feel ready to take control of their lives. Finally, our third objective is to be a place of learning and mentorship for students and interns in social work.

OUR ORGANIZATION

70 YEARS OF SUPPORT

In 2022, the House celebrated its 70th anniversary welcoming and supporting homeless individuals and other people in a vulnerable situation. In 1952, Tony Walsh launched the beginnings of the Benedict Labre House, in the form of a rest area and soup kitchen. Today, the House is a day centre that offers two meals a day as well as showers and clothes. It also includes a social involvement program and an overdose and addiction prevention program. Several of our social service workers provide guidance to our visitors to look after their wellbeing. In 70 years, the Benedict Labre House has developed and improved the available support for the most vulnerable community.

OUR TEAM

The team grew over the year to follow the development of the new programs and the existing ones. Among other things, we now have a coordination team that ensures adequate support for the team and a better alignment between the programs.

For example, exciting new opportunities were created over the last year. Since October 2022, the position of Program and Community Relations Coordinator was established to align the various programs of the House, by supporting our workers in charge of donations and our volunteers in the kitchen, in the social involvement and overdose prevention programs, and in the Mobile Intervention Unit. This person ensures a link with the community to raise awareness about the different realities and needs of the organization.

The coordination team ensures a presence on the various cohabitation committees and creates a link among our visitors, schools, businesses, the borough and the accommodated members of the community. A perfect example of what this work involves is the partnership that brings together the Commercial Development Corporation (SDC) – Les Quartiers du Canal and the Benedict Labre House, that led to a special project that includes our Cleaning Brigade, which participates in the embellishment of the main commercial streets in the borough. It is an occasion for businesses to notice the precious work that our Cleaning Brigade does while contributing to the community. What started as a pilot project with the City of Montreal has quickly attracted the attention of the SDC, who put in place a privileged partnership that led, concretely, to a month-long project that will be repeated in April 2024.

Not to mention that we are always looking for new and better practices within our team. To that end, we carried out several days of retreat, some self-instruction workshops and we put the emphasis on team cohesion. We also had the help of a human resources consultant to improve working conditions and communication within the team.



- **Andréane Désilets**
Executive Director
- **Valérie Pelletier,**
Assistant Director
- **Shari Granillo**
Administrative Assistant
- **Vincent Lao**
Accounting Clerk
- **Francine Nadler**
Programs and Community Relations
Coordinator
- **Pascale Tremblay**
Philanthropic Development Coordinator
- **Valeria Doval**
Day Centre Intervention Coordinator
- **Francis Giroux**
Housing Coordinator
- **Thierry Jean-Baptiste**
Social Involvement Coordinator

**Special thanks to
our social service workers**

PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND PROJECTS

THE DAY CENTRE



35,056 visitors in 2022 *12,000 more than in 2021

83% were men *
we notice the increasing presence of women

234 persons who identified with gender diversity, in comparison with 38 the previous year

80% were between 31 and 64 years old

30,800 interventions

THE DAY CENTRE

At the Benedict Labre House, 2022–2023 unfolded within the context of the pandemic. It was marked by the end of sanitary measures, though the consequences of the pandemic on vulnerable populations are far from over. Indeed, financial insecurity, the judicialization of homelessness and the physical and psychological fragility caused by the pandemic continue to leave marks that are visible daily on the persons that come to our day centre. Therefore, we maintained our efforts to respond to the various needs of the visitors that come to see us, to meet their basic needs (clothing, food and showers), healthcare needs (references, overdose prevention and first aid) or to build significant relationships. The work team has made considerable efforts to meet the numerous challenges tangled up within the housing crisis, opioid crisis, labour shortage and inaccessibility to healthcare issues. Over the course of the year, we counted **30,800 interventions at the day centre.**

This year, the intervention workers at the day centre have had to face a particular challenge. Indeed, when people came looking for housing or accommodation, depending on their needs, active steps were taken in collaboration with other organizations to register them on waiting lists, ensure transport to other resources or evaluate the possibility of welcoming them at the day centre. Nevertheless, many of the steps taken were unsuccessful, since rental housing is scarce and emergency accommodations are often at their maximum capacity. Though the housing crisis is a complex situation, our capacity to assist vulnerable people looking for housing adapted to their needs and financial means was largely affected. We have observed, directly linked to this crisis, several precipitating factors in our area, including the sale of some rooming houses and the lack of affordable housing.

The team at the day centre is committed to its mandate of providing a **welcoming environment for people** to meet and grow, and it has increased its efforts to make the day centre a friendly place for everyone, where it is possible to find support and entertainment, and where visitors can see each other and get involved. Proof of this engagement can be found just as much in simple and daily actions such as offering basic commodities, as in the organization of a safe and clean space. This engagement entails collaboration with the social involvement programs of the Benedict Labre House and our partners.

PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND PROJECTS

THE DAY CENTRE

In 2022–2023, we received the visit of 35,056 people, that is **12,000 more than the previous year**, which amounts to an increase of about 30% in one year. Among these persons, 83% were men and 16% women. We also received the visit of 234 persons who identify with gender diversity, in comparison with 38 the previous year.

This year, to improve access to our services, we reinstalled the computer station that was open to visitors and extended the rest area. We also added a baby foot table in the entertainment area, as well as a display space for announcing internal or external activities. Moreover, with the goal of regularly updating our intervention practices and align them with the realities in the field, the intervention team underwent various training workshops over the year:

- 🏠 Pillar Training of *La Clinique Droits Devant* (CDD) on accompaniment and human rights defence with respect to judicialization (3 social service workers);
- 🏠 OMEGA Training of the *Association paritaire pour la santé et la sécurité du travail du secteur des affaires sociales* (ASSTSAS) on skills for safe intervention during displays of aggressivity (5 social service workers);
- 🏠 How the Welfare system Works by *L'Organisation populaire des droits sociaux* (OPDS) on social welfare and social solidarity approaches and issues;
- 🏠 Hearing Voices, by *L'Association québécoise pour la réadaptation psychosociale* (AQRP);
- 🏠 Training for community centres, by the *Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals* (SPCA) on good practices with vulnerable populations and their animal companions;
- 🏠 Internal training on the identification of the signs of an overdose and the administration of naloxone.

The day centre offers:

MEALS AND SNACKS

SHOWERS

CHECK-ROOM SERVICE (CLOTHING)

SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

BARBERSHOP SERVICES

ACTIVITIES AND ENTERTAINMENT

REST AREA

COMPUTER, TELEPHONE AND TELEVISION

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

SOCIALIZATION SPACE



FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM

The House's kitchen is a vital component of the organization that aims not only to improve access to food security for vulnerable populations, but also to improve the global health of our visitors.

Over the years, we can proudly say that the objectives of this component are reached, despite the acute lack of funding. We observe the impact of this initiative on the health of our visitors, who have daily access to quality food products and to a balanced diet. We believe that the food component of the organization allows us to have an important social impact, by giving us the possibility to get our community involved through volunteering, but also by allowing us to act directly on the vulnerability factors within our community.

In 2022–2023, we were able to meet the needs of an average of 200 vulnerable people a day, which represents constant support despite the challenges induced by rising food prices. **It is an average of 250 different persons more a month.** Not to mention that we have distributed **more than 500 food baskets to people** living in camps, to whom we also provide equipment to make their own meals (distribution of camping stoves, etc.). To sum up, it is more than **111,587 food services that are offered within the organization.** Having said that, food support needs keep growing. We now receive more than **250 persons a day** during the weekend.

Marie-Ange's Testimonial



"In March 2002, I left the school system to start my own food service business. Until 2017, I cooked and served several hundreds of thousands of customers. This made me happy, but I had to close my business following an important shortage of staff.

If I had to find something to say that brings me a lot of joy, I would say that working at the Benedict Labre House,

I discovered in myself a great person that loves making people happy. The most important thing for me is to be able to help people that are underprivileged and provide them with a plate full of love while cooking for them twice a day. A simple and sincere gesture on our part can open the heart of many people, including those who have no family, and those who suffer from mental health issues.

Among the cooks, the social service workers and the public, we created one big family.

I love my work as head chef and the team I am part of. The Benedict Labre House is the ideal environment for taking up challenges and to see all kinds of people of different social statuses join forces.

I was right; instinct is a sixth sense that never fails. I am still learning, and every day it's a joy to improve myself and help others grow.

I don't know how much this testimonial can influence you, but what I would like you to retain is that if you have the desire to do so, you can help us meet a lot of challenges.

To reach your goals, all you need to do is show your determination and find the necessary tools. When an opportunity shows up, overdose your courage and welcome the challenge with open arms!"

Marie-Ange Benoit, Head Chef at the Benedict Labre House

THE SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

The social involvement program allows our visitors to live a positive experience by getting involved at the Benedict Labre House for financial compensation.

THE PROPULSION COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAM

We offer the Propulsion component for participants that want to develop a stable work routine in which their psychosocial reality and the issues that may be connected to their physical health are taken into account. **Participants can use this opportunity as a springboard for a new job or training.** They can also transition to a pre-employment program or return to school to finish their studies. For that matter, participants can simply use their experience to stabilize their life situation (look for housing, look for therapy and work on their immigration process, etc.) through an intervention plan and regular follow-up meetings with an intervention worker.

This year, we welcomed **32 people**, among which 25 men and 5 women. The average age in the group was 40 years old. For this component of the program, we received **55 participation requests**, of which 32 were accepted.

The Challenges

Our participants' biggest challenges remain substance use, mental health, physical health and the lack of housing in Montreal. We observed the necessity of having to offer more support to our participants in their social procedures to help them better navigate the complexity of the different government services (health, legal, local employment centres, etc.). The challenges experienced by our participants are a major impediment to their social participation, since they need to spend most of their inner resources to face them.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

HOMELESS	16
PRECARIOUS HOUSING	4
JUDICIALIZED INDIVIDUALS	12
ACTIVE DRUG USERS	20
MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES	25
PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	15

Nine of our participants have successfully completed the program and have moved on to other projects: Two of them transitioned to pre-employment programs, one moved to in-house therapy, another went to a wet shelter, one followed a personal project that was at the heart of their intervention plan, one got involved with another community organization with young adults, two found a full-time job and the last one became a peer helper in a withdrawal centre.

Testimony From One of the Participants of the Propulsion Component of the Program

"The Propulsion program gave me the desire to move forward and change. I reconnected with my passion, cooking. Before I was part of Propulsion, I was running in circles, but thanks to this program, I was able to reconnect with myself, and I feel I'm moving toward a better future for myself."

– Christo



THE CLEANING BRIGADE

Since August 2022, we launched a new paid by the day component in the Social Involvement Program that allows our visitors to get involved for a 3-hour shift. The task consists of cleaning waste linked to the use of public space by homeless people in the Saint-Henri area, to act directly on irritants. The goal is to promote a more harmonious sharing of public space. This project was made possible thanks to a partnership with the City of Montreal. For our part, we have an interest in involving our visitors in positive public utility activities to promote our coexistence with citizens and businesses in the neighbourhood.

The Cleaning Brigade project received significantly more interest than we had anticipated when we set it up. Since its beginnings, the number of candidates among visitors kept exceeding the number of available places, which led to an increase in urban cleaning periods. Participants said the financial compensation was a big help, but that they also benefited from the opportunity it gave them to accomplish work that was beneficial to everyone in the community using the clean public spaces. It gave to many of them a feeling of belonging to the space and the area. The intervention workers at the day centre have noted more and more substantial efforts from visitors toward maintaining the premises, whether inside or outside, and that, furthermore, it was done through their own initiative and on a voluntary basis. These visitors sometimes even raised awareness with other people to explain the importance of taking care of our living space.

In the same vein, many of our visitors and the members of our team have participated in the TRAC ("Travail de rue d'action communautaire") street cleaning blitz that was organized last May. The goal of this activity was to pick up syringes that were left behind in the Sud-Ouest and Verdun boroughs.



Statistics from the Brigade

ON AVERAGE, HERE IS ...			
NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO REGISTER/MONTH	NUMBER OF NEW PEOPLE/MONTH	NUMBER OF MEN/MONTH	NUMBER OF WOMEN/MONTH
103	17	79	24

DURING THE LAST SEVEN MONTHS, WE PICKED UP ...			
NUMBER OF CRACK PIPES	NUMBER OF CRYSTAL METH PIPES	NUMBER OF SYRINGES	NUMBER OF GARBAGE BAGS
24	5	105	108

Testimonials:

Here are a few lines by the participants of the Cleaning Brigade when we asked them what the objective was behind their participation:

"It keeps my brain busy, it keeps me busy and I don't do anything stupid during that time."

- Sonia F.

"Working with the Brigade prevents me from stealing and doing stupid stuff. With \$40, I can easily manage with my worries."

- Jonathan R.

"It really helps me make ends meet at the end of the month."

- Isabelle D. .

THE NEW PARTICIPANTS

Over the last six months, several people that were regularly participating in the Cleaning Brigade have shown an interest in getting involved in a program with more structure and supervision. Nine people made a request for the Propulsion component of the program, and two people are currently involved. Those that show an interest report that it would allow them to have personal support in their process, and a certain stability and routine. Five other people have also expressed interest in the Propulsion component of the program, but without making a request. Most people say they are not ready yet, but that they are nonetheless aware of this type of initiative.

PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND PROJECTS

THE OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

15,775
syringes
and needles
distributed

6,989
crack
pipes

2,701
crystal meth
pipes

1,393
naloxone
kits

9,792
fentanyl
tests

455
new
persons

THE OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

The overdose prevention site became a popular service in 2022. Following the introduction of several workshops by the project managers and the promotion of the prevention material exchange counter, people using the centre have become familiar with this program. The latter makes it possible to: (1) obtain prevention material; (2) have support and intervention toward adequate resources; (3) get workshops on safe drug use and overdose prevention. **We work with a harm reduction approach**, and we ensure that individuals using our services are at the heart of our activities. They are the ones that are best positioned to help us improve and direct our daily activities.

The previous team was able to put in place solid foundations for this recent program. They implemented a simple, effective and user-friendly mode of operation that respects confidentiality. Additional resources targeting the possible needs of the individuals using the exchange counter were added (treatment centres for substance use and addiction, medical clinics, lists of support group meetings like Narcotics Anonymous, etc.). The development of a partnership with the cohort study on Hepatitis C (HEPCO) with the CHUM was reinforced. Since we are on the lookout for the needs of the people we reach, and **since we are conscious of the increase in overdoses in our area**, we requested an exemption at the federal level to allow illegal substance use lawfully within our walls.

In collaboration with the DRSP (“Direction régionale de la santé publique”), we participated in the supraregional project on drug analysis in the urine of people who use drugs in Quebec. The objective of the Institut national de santé

publique du Québec (INSPQ) concerning this project is *to characterize the content of the drugs used, and document the use of harm reduction and overdose prevention services*.¹ This exercise allowed us to understand the pertinence of the interventions and preventions that are done at the centre. As a result, not only we adjusted our messages raising awareness on overdoses with concrete results to back them up, but the exercise also contributed to growing numbers of visitors to our exchange counter, and to people’s trust in the expertise of our social service workers.

From the viewpoint of harm reduction, it is important for us to keep in mind the needs of our visitors. The discussions we have with individuals using drugs have allowed us to adjust what we offer on-site and improve access to prevention material at the centre. Following these discussions, we developed a partnership with GRIP, an organization that comes two afternoons a month to sample and test the substances of people who would like to do so. Because of this service, new people have started to visit the exchange counter; people that we did not reach before, that then bring others, who then bring others, etc. Individuals using the overdose prevention service come back on a regular basis, since **we offer a judgment-free space and an unconditional welcome**. After collecting their sterile material, these people often take some time to talk about their situation with social service workers on-site. These privileged moments allow us to accompany them in their process or refer them to appropriate resources.

To be part of the response to the opioid crisis, we also put **naloxone kits at the entrance of the organization**, at the disposal of everyone and accessible to anyone. We make sure to promote these kits and inform visitors on the importance of having such a kit in case of an opioid overdose. That is why our intervention team regularly receives updates and training on how to use naloxone in case of an overdose. It allows our social service workers to explain to visitors how to use the kits, which ultimately creates a network of people able to use them.

With our partnership with GRIP and our overdose awareness campaign, and consequently the importance of drug checking, we noticed an increase in the number of naloxone kits distributed and of requests for a drug check. Not to mention the most important fact: People spread the prevention messages in their surroundings and share the information that we are a welcoming place and that we distribute prevention material, among other things.

¹ <https://www.inspq.qc.ca/substances-psychoactives/projets/analyse-drogues-urine-personnes-qui-consomme>

MOBILE INTERVENTION UNIT

For a third consecutive year, the Benedict Labre House has offered its evening shuttle service. However, this year we decided to change the formula. The service is now called the **Mobile Intervention Unit**, and its primary mission is to reduce the risk of overdoses in the Sud-Ouest. The Mobile Intervention Unit was created to connect individuals in a precarious situation to their living space (metro stations, parks, streets, etc.) in the Sud-Ouest and Verdun neighbourhoods. The social service workers appointed to the unit have distributed STBBIs prevention material and have offered information on good drug use practices, to reduce health risks. Social service workers have also offered fentanyl tests, to reduce the risk of overdose in our populations. The intervention team has also offered warm clothes, warm drinks, food and survival gear to reduce the risks of hypothermia and frostbite. Moreover, it provided support and accompaniment toward available resources and, especially, it **created a bridge between the Benedict Labre House and the members of the homeless community.**

This year as every year, this service is greatly appreciated by the visitors using our services, as well as other individuals coming from other organizations. For people who are homeless, it can be very stressful to not be able to find a warm place to spend the night. We helped these people find some comfort by taking them to shelters, as well as providing them with day-to-day information on the opening/closing of emergency shelters. Once again, the COVID-19 pandemic has had serious consequences and has created a lot of uncertainty as to the availability of these services; the few places available would fill up within minutes of opening.

In addition, if a person did not need transportation or preferred not moving to an emergency shelter, we could offer them other things, like time to talk, coffee, snacks, sandwiches, warm clothing, blankets, tents and sleeping bags.

Unfortunately, because of staff shortage during the first month, we were only able to offer this service three evenings a week. However, since we were successful in reaching out to a large number of people every evening, this confirmed there clearly was a great need and that we were on the right path. We established a partnership with TRAC intervention workers, to ensure a more stable continuous service, with a fixed schedule five evenings a week from 16h30 to midnight. At the end of 2022, with the arrival of the extreme cold, we restarted operations to offer support to homeless people during the holidays.

Thanks to financing for this new project, we also had the opportunity to buy our own vehicle to offer this service; previously, we used to rent a vehicle by the month.

To give an idea of the number of people using this service, the intervention team was able to reach, on average, **a dozen people a night**, for a total of around 900 people after only three months of service. Among these individuals, a hundred of them have had the opportunity to obtain prevention material, thereby ensuring good substance use practices that are safer and more hygienic.



PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND PROJECTS

THE ANIMAL INCLUSION PROJECT



THE ANIMAL INCLUSION PROJECT

The Animal Inclusion Project is a pilot project that saw the light of day during 2022. The initial goal of this project was to better support individuals that visit the organization and have animal companions. Originally, this project targeted the transitional housing program to allow visitors who live with animals in the streets to find housing. The organization wanted to stand out with inclusive practices that have a positive impact on the social reintegration process, which is rather uncommon in housing programs for homeless people. Although this initiative is now integrated in the different components of the organization, like the day centre and the overdose prevention program, the project recently took a new direction.

Following some research and contact with different partners and organizations sensitive to animal issues, the *Animal Mediation in Social Intervention* approach was suggested to us. This innovative practice, which is little known in the Montreal area, was decisive, and it allowed us to establish new foundations for the *Animal Inclusion Project*. Thus, a pilot project was created to develop **better animal inclusivity practices** while taking into account the needs of the organization's services.

This committee is made up of the following actors:

- 🏠 **Caroline Leblanc**
T.S., M.Serv.soc. - F.A.C.E Research Project: PhD candidate in Community Health - Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences - University of Sherbrooke
- 🏠 **Jamie Saad**
Community Project Manager - SPCA
- 🏠 **Animal Law Committee at the University of Sherbrooke**
- 🏠 **PACS Project**
Social Service Student at Dawson College



The project activities that took place this year:

- 🏠 Creation of an action plan and a follow-up committee;
- 🏠 SPCA training on welcoming animals;
- 🏠 Creation of a protocol for welcoming animals at the day centre;
- 🏠 Setting up adapted tools for welcoming animals and taking care of their wellbeing;
- 🏠 Creation of a partnership with the veterinarian clinic in the Sud-Ouest neighbourhood, to offer free services to visitors that have animal companions;
- 🏠 Fundraisings for the *Animal Inclusion Project*.

Here are the activities in progress for the following year:

- 🏠 Writing an animal companion protocol for the housing program and the Overdose Prevention Centre (CPS);
- 🏠 Evaluate possible legal issues and the responsibility of the organization concerning animals;
- 🏠 Arrangement of the space in our new house to create an inclusive environment that takes into consideration the needs of animals;
- 🏠 Dog training offer;
- 🏠 Partnership with veterinarian clinics for animal care.

THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

After several years spent dreaming of the day when our new building would welcome our new housing component, the 2022–2023 year will have been the one that has made this ambition a reality for the Benedict Labre House. Even before the first day of the fiscal year, a *Project Manager* position was posted to hire a person that would start doing research on innovative practices in housing intervention, do networking with organizations and prepare our arrival in the neighbourhood. The goal was to build the foundation of our transitional housing program to adequately answer the needs of the people we reach.

Many months of contact and meetings with transitional housing organizations from here and abroad have allowed us to better understand their expertise and the challenges they face. To this initiative must be added to the hundreds of hours of protocol writing to support and frame interventions. Moreover, multiple periods of time dedicated to reflection were necessary to visualize the integration of future residents in their lodgings and to articulate our vision of community support. Through our discipline and determination, we were successful!

The Transitional Housing Program of the Benedict Labre House will offer 36 studios (1½) for homeless people living with addictions and mental health issues. Within a harm reduction perspective, this five-year transitional program with low threshold requirements aims to allow people to develop the necessary skills to achieve autonomy for residential stability. In order to get there, a psychosocial intervention team will support the selected residents in the realization of their action plan, through self-determined objectives, workshops and learning activities linked with the needs of the local community.



To promote this program, various activities were carried out during the year. A citizen meeting was organized in collaboration with the Sud-Ouest borough, to **announce our arrival and present our actions, all for a healthy and harmonious coexistence.** Our participation in the *Les murs qui nous habitent* docuseries, and an interview with the show *Daybreak* at CBC News, have allowed us to explain our program to several community partners as well as the larger community. This is in addition to the many meetings and our participation to various conferences related to social housing.

Though our hard work last year has made it possible to build this component



of the program, the challenges this year are even more stimulating. In collaboration with the day centre, and with the support of a coordination team, the recent hiring of two social service workers will allow us to start our selection process with our visitors and to accompany the selected candidates toward the preliminary steps for their integration into their new home. The first group participating in the program should get started at the beginning of September 2023. The team will be able to experiment with the program and adapt to develop their own expertise in community housing. At the same time, we set our search for funding as a top priority to increase the number of social service workers assigned to this component. We aim to acquire five additional intervention workers to improve community support as well as to develop educational programming adapted to the needs of our residents.

It is not just our organization that is impatiently waiting for the beginning of this adventure. The Benedict Labre House is a small village for people coming to the day centre. **Many of our visitors have shown a strong interest in participating in the transitional housing program.** Though we would like to offer housing to everyone, the selection criteria will be based on motivation, dedication and the benefits that having a roof will give to the selected candidates.

A WORD ON THE COORDINATION OF INTERVENTIONS AT THE DAY CENTRE



It was a year of change, reorganization and consolidation for clinical coordination. A better distribution of tasks, roles and responsibilities among the different coordinators was imperative, because we were expanding as a team and new components to our programs arrived at top speed to add to the mix of activities already offered. As early as last summer, we carried out a few changes at the level of the coordinator positions. To the Day Centre Coordinator was added the Social Involvement Program Coordinator (the Propulsion and Cleaning Brigade components), the Programs and Community Relations Coordinator and the Housing Coordinator.

The day centre is a gathering place for socializing; for some, it is also a refuge for taking a break, or a space that each person can live in and be themselves. A harmonious coexistence grows daily through the social service workers that organize it skilfully and professionally, so that everyone finds their place. We have an experienced intervention team that know how to support and assist their new colleagues. It is a competent, qualified, dedicated and considerate team that are committed to each and every person that crosses our doorstep. Working at the day centre means welcoming, making contact and building trusting relationships with the other person, who gives the fullest meaning to our presence there and who can transform us in the process.

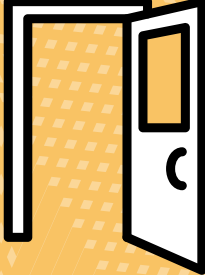


Individual supervision, team meeting discussions, debriefing exchanges, trainings and workshops are all privileged moments making it possible to share the situations that are lived in the field. The coordination team assists, questions, supply, guide, equip, lead and support the intervention team in its reflections and needs, to contribute to professional judgment and ensure an overall coherence among the different interventions, the respect of the ethical code and the development of good intervention practices.




New tools have been developed to facilitate the integration of new employees in the organization: *Operation and Protocols at the Day Centre* (guideposts); *Introduction of Newcomers - MBL 101*. They also serve as points of reference for social workers already in place.


MORE THAN
250
PEOPLE A DAY,
ON AVERAGE,
EVERY DAY
DURING THE
WEEKEND



A
30%
INCREASE IN THE
NUMBER OF PEOPLE
AT THE CENTRE




51,236
VISITS



ON AVERAGE,
103
PARTICIPANTS
A MONTH IN
THE CLEANING
BRIGADE



80%
OF VISITORS
BETWEEN
31 AND
64 YEARS
OLD



30,800
INTERVENTIONS



OUR SUPPORTERS VOLUNTEERING



Annette's Testimonial

"This winter, I served breakfast once a week at the Benedict Labre House. I am very touched by this very warm and positive community that welcomed me as a volunteer. There's an extraordinary climate of respect and acceptance here. I am also impressed by the way the staff has transformed a church basement into a dynamic service centre, and this with very few means. A constant flow of visitors arrives in the morning, and everyone, from visitors to workers, is placed on an equal footing. In fact, as a newcomer in the kitchen, I don't always know if I'm serving a visitor, a worker or an employee! I think that this egalitarian approach is part of what makes this space very special. It's a privilege to see such a competent and considerate team at work, and to bear witness to the relationships that were developed thanks to this approach."

VOLUNTEERING

During the 2022–2023 year, we had a slight increase in the number of volunteers in comparison with the previous year. Indeed, we had the good luck to have an average of **12 volunteers monthly** to help us, particularly for the check-room and the kitchen. The volunteers **undertook 95 hours of work per month**, on average, with a minimum of three hours a week. Volunteering takes place on Tuesdays to Thursdays, as well as Saturdays and Sundays, with two time slots available: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Volunteering is an act of sharing, humanity and social development. It is creating bonds with people and talking about their needs. Being a volunteer is to have a sense of belonging, a belief, a goal: that of helping others.

The main goal of this program is to have volunteers integrate the everyday life of our organization, by helping out according to our needs. It was a big success this year. The very important work accomplished by our volunteers is done in tandem with the organization's staff as well as the people working in the Social Involvement Program.

The kitchen is the service that requires the most volunteers, especially for breakfast and lunch. These people provide crucial help by preparing two meals a day, serving food in trays and in executing numerous other related tasks necessary to the kitchen's proper functioning.

The clothing room is the second service requiring a significant amount of volunteer work. Clothes intended for visitors are cleaned, sorted and prepared. All these clothes are donations received from various people and organizations that, through their material support, help us offer this service that meets a basic need.

OUR SUPPORTERS VOLUNTEERING

Jude's Testimonial

"Since my first moments volunteering at the organization, I have felt at home.

There's a great dynamic at play, as much between workers and visitors than with everyone else there. It's a place where I feel love and compassion for every individual.

What touched me the most is the humanity of the people working there, whether they are volunteers, visitors or social service workers.

For me, doing volunteering at the Benedict Labre House is an opportunity to give to those who might not have had the same luck in their life as I had ... I can give with simple gestures that, added to the organization's mission, bring about considerable change in the life of the people that come to the organization.

Thank you for this beautiful volunteering experience and for all the joy that you bring to each person and myself!



In addition, volunteer barber is also an important position at the Benedict Labre House. Someone comes once a week for five hours. Visitors appreciate this service a lot. The very simple fact of getting a haircut and their beard shaved is for many people using **this service an essential for their wellbeing and dignity**. We can only offer this service thanks to volunteer work.

This year, we started a partnership with the Montréal Volunteer Bureau (CABM), which has greatly improved the visibility of our organization. We changed to a certain extent our conception of volunteering, by appealing to the creativity of volunteers, and inviting them to be more proactive and independent. We also modified our registration forms to facilitate recruitment and the management of the many people involved. We added several other positions like volunteer management, driver, activity leader and the management of participation to special events. Through these initiatives, we seek to explore the skills of each and every person and use these to the benefit of our organization.

Last but not least, we have our teams in charge of the meals. These are teams of volunteers that come during the weekend with ready-made meals and who serve them to visitors. As a result, we have teams available almost every weekend. These people do, on average, three hours of volunteering a day.



OUR SUPPORTERS THE TEAMS IN CHARGE OF THE MEALS



THE TEAMS IN CHARGE OF THE MEALS

The Soup Kitchen of the St. Kevin Parish Lends a Hand to the Benedict Labre House

The soup kitchen of the St. Kevin Parish lends a hand to fulfill its mission to take care of individuals in a precarious situation. The soup kitchen is made up of retired parishioners that serve homeless people by offering them warm meals in the parish hall once a week. This initiative works thanks to the donations generated by specific contributions to the cause.

Despite the fact that the soup kitchen had to stop temporarily because of the COVID-19 restrictions, the organization did not stop fulfilling its mission. In collaboration with the Benedict Labre House, we set up a volunteer team involving meal planners, businesses, people in charge of fundraising and cooks for preparing complete meals each Sunday. These meals are then distributed to the Benedict Labre House, to support homeless people and individuals in precarious situations. The parish is grateful toward the different government departments, religious organizations and individuals that fund the expenses for the weekly meals. The support of these sponsors is a source of inspiration for the volunteers that continue to accomplish their mission with joy and gratitude.



Testimonial

We also welcomed a student that was doing a full-time 12-week internship. Here's their testimonial:

"From September to December, I did an internship at the Benedict Labre House, as part of my bachelor's degree in Criminology. I got many positive memories out of that, and I learned a lot from my experience. I was able to put my academic learning to the test and learn more on community intervention with vulnerable people, namely those in a crisis. Thanks to the help and supervision of my colleagues, the Benedict Labre House showed me intervention tools that reflect well what I have learned at school. Thanks to the team and their support in clinical supervision, I feel finally ready to develop my career as an intervention worker."

THE INTERNSHIPS: A PLACE FOR LEARNING AND MENTORSHIP

The Benedict Labre House is a place for learning and mentorship for students in social work. In 2022, we welcomed students that had to do a one-day job shadowing internship as part of their studies in social work. Four interns from the Maisonneuve College and six interns from Ahuntsic College began their first contact in an intervention setting with adult clients within our organization. These students had the opportunity to see the working conditions as a social service worker in the field, the roles that are taken on by each person, and the behaviour and attitudes that they need to adopt. During this job shadowing experience, students can, among other things, validate or invalidate preconceived ideas about the field, and begin to reflect on the direction they want to give to their future career.

OUR SUPPORTERS

OUR SUBSTANTIAL NEEDS IN TERMS OF MATERIAL DONATIONS



OUR SUBSTANTIAL NEEDS IN TERMS OF MATERIAL DONATIONS

As a non-profit organization, donations are a significant and essential part of the services we offer at the day centre. The donations we receive, whether in monetary form or in various other forms, aim to meet the basic needs of the visitors on a daily basis. Whether in terms of hygiene products (such as soap, shower gel, shampoo/conditioner, toothbrushes, deodorant, etc.), clothes and underwear, food, and house or camping items—all donations find a use within our organization or for our clients, and this, for free.

Jason's Testimonial

"I donate to the Benedict Labre House because we are all humans, because the world needs more kindness and because kindness is contagious. We should judge a society by how it treats its most vulnerable members, and it is clear we are failing; we confuse a person with their circumstances, difficulty with laziness. Since we quickly judge another human being, when we cannot even spend a day walking in their shoes ... be a part of the change you want to see in the world; give, because that's the only right thing to do. The Benedict Labre House helps take care of various problems that affect the most vulnerable members of our society, and I am proud to be able to contribute."

— **Jason Reti (Regular donator)**

Stanley's Testimonial

"By being witness to the people I know who struggle through difficult times, I feel the work that the Benedict Labre House accomplishes is of critical importance for the less fortunate among us and for the community. Any help that we can provide is important for these disadvantaged individuals."

— **Stanley Silverstone (Regular donator).**

For 2022, we can say that roughly 50% of the donations we received were clothes (including underwear, socks and accessories), 25% hygiene products of all types, 15% outdoor and camping items, and 10% of various other items (kitchenware, bedding, backpacks, etc.).

At the Benedict Labre House, every day is an opportunity to give to the most vulnerable people. They come to see us daily for our check-room service, or to go see a social service worker, when they have more specific needs. We prepare small kits of hygiene products for them, and emergency baskets that contain snacks and survival items. With a list that constantly needs to be updated, we also distribute coats, boots, sleeping bags and tents.

We often receive comments from them: "You're my favourite," "I knew I would find what I was looking for here" or "Thanks, you made my day." It is these short messages that show us the importance of the donations we receive at the day centre. These donations make a difference for each person.

One of the major changes concerning the donations program during the past year is the assignment of a stable manager in charge of donations. This has ensured that we were able to maintain a more precise inventory adapted to suit our needs, our new partnerships and the development of relationships with different donators. It has also ensured a more stable weekly reception of donations.

In short, donations are essential to the services offered at the Benedict Labre House and, fundamentally, to the organization's proper functioning. They will always be welcome.



OUTINGS AND **ACTIVITIES**

SUGAR SHACK

On April 16, 2023, the Benedict Labre House went to the Meunier sugar shack. It has now been more than five years since we chose this sugar shack. We were 50 people, including the team and the visitors. It was the most anticipated and appreciated activity of the year! We ate, and there was a contest to see who could eat the most sugar pies. After that, there were a few farm-style activities and a tractor ride. At the end, everybody was sleeping in the bus, with their stomach full!



OUTING AT LA RONDE

This year, we had the good luck to get tickets for La Ronde. There were 13 participants. The tickets were offered by the borough. It was an activity that people very much appreciated, and everyone laughed and had a good time.



NUIT DE SANS-ABRI

We were there in October for the *Nuit des sans-abri*, and we noticed that prejudices are still very present and that homeless issues are still misunderstood. Our government must change its approach.



OUTING AT THE YAYOI KUSAMA EXHIBITION WITH THE PHI FOUNDATION

This year, we also had the opportunity to go to the Yayoi Kusama exhibition, and the tickets were offered by the borough.



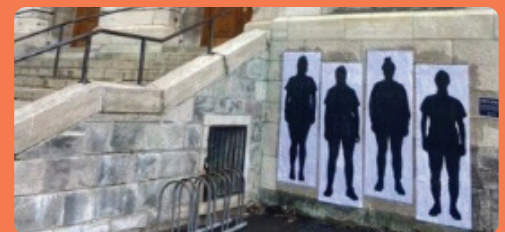
CHRISTMAS AT THE CENTRE

The holidays are always an occasion to bring joy to our visitors. Many gifts were distributed thanks to our donors and volunteers. This year, we were lucky enough to have several volunteer teams, including several members of the **Demix Construction** team, who brought comforting meals and distributed sweet beverages all day on the 21st.



NE LES OUBLIEZ PAS (THE "DON'T FORGET THEM" CAMPAIGN)

We participated in the *Ne les oubliez pas* pre-election denunciation campaign day. In solidarity, we put up four posters of human shapes on our outside walls, to speak out against the invisibility of marginalized and homeless individuals in the context of the coming election day.





MAY 12, 2022: 70 YEARS ON THE WAY TOWARD THE FUTURE

On May 12, 2022, we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Benedict Labre House. The beautiful temperature allowed us to enjoy the wonderful Riverside St-Henri terrasse. In addition to having the sun on our side, the Chez Tomio food truck was just what we needed to satisfy our craving for tasty Japanese-Thai-Vietnamese fusion cuisine at an affordable price. After our welcome cocktails, an amazing show awaited our esteemed guests.

It is Montreal talent that collaborated with the Benedict Labre House to celebrate the 70th anniversary. The atmosphere was lively throughout with our DJ Anthony Dagger. We laughed thanks to Jo Cormier, Patrick Guérard and Luka Lemay. We got carried away with the performances of Malia Laura, Maza, Noble, Ketsmy, Rupert Common, Moun and Jocelyn Pelichet. Moreover, we had the opportunity to attend the progress of a painting under a superhero theme, which will be put up in our new house. Many thanks to the painters of the RGB arts Collective for executing this splendid painting in front of our guests.

The night would not have had such a success without the undeniable support of our organizers: Pascale Tremblay, Ayana Monuma, Salina Berhane and Victoria Jean-François. We would also like to thank the team that was present on site: Sophie Tousignant, Maxime Pretin, Olivia Buies-Tremblay, Samantha Lauriola, Catherine Blain, Léora Boussand-Nadler, Shari Granillo, Thierry Jean-Baptiste and Valeria Doval. **Heartfelt thanks to our main partner for the event, La Caisse Desjardins du Sud-Ouest de Montréal.**

Thank you to our partners and suppliers for the event: Le WarmUp, Riverside St-Henri, Mouvement Malté, Les Thés DAVIDS TEA, Intik, Camellia Sinensis, Satay Brothers and the Great Gentlemen. Finally, and especially, a big thank you to all the guests. The support of each person was the perfect recipe for an unforgettable fundraiser night!



JUNE 9, 2022: CITIZEN MEETING ON THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

On June 9, 2022, a citizen meeting took place to introduce the organization and the construction project of the new house that will welcome the current services, including the all-new Transitional Housing Program and our future Overdose Prevention Centre. After more than a hundred notifications and announcements for this meeting, around thirty participants have shown up. Local residents and partners have come together to know more about the fast-growing construction site, at the corner of Atwater and Greene, where our new building will be.

Through the official presentation of the organization and development of its services, participants were able to inquire about us and express their fears concerning our arrival in the area. The aim of this citizen meeting was to improve the ongoing coexistence plan to have **positive relationships between the organization and its neighbours**. It is essential for us, at the Benedict Labre House, to be welcomed and accepted in the neighbourhood when our new house will be in operation.



As a result of the rich exchanges between the organization and the participants, we were able to adjust certain parameters for optimal coexistence:

- 🏠 Explain some issues about life in the street;
- 🏠 Offer a poster about the available resources concerning coexistence;
- 🏠 Target other areas where there are coexistence issues;
- 🏠 Direct our forthcoming project with the Cleaning Brigade;
- 🏠 Better align the interventions of community actors with homeless individuals.

This meeting was a **first step** in our coexistence plan, not to mention individual meetings with some local residents that could not be there for the meeting. As for what happens next, the Benedict Labre House is currently collaborating with the Commercial Development Corporation (SDC) – Les Quartier du Canal to set up meetings with businesses to integrate them in our harmonious coexistence process. We also continue to be present on different committees and roundtables linked to urban safety and homelessness.

JUNE 27: AGM

This year, with the sanitary measures becoming less and less restrictive, combined with a decrease in the spread of COVID-19, it was possible to do last summer's annual general meeting directly in our premises. It allowed some of our members to see our workspace and to talk with the new team for the first time. When we tabled the annual report, the social service workers presented to the members of the board of directors and to some of our partners that were there, their respective program and a summary of the realities encountered during the year. Some important changes in our general regulations were voted and approved. Therefore, the end of the fiscal year will no longer be April 30th, but March 31st of each year. Member categories were also modified. We added a member category without voting power. Indeed, for the sake of the democratic process, the paid members of the team will no longer have the right to vote during assemblies, nor of being elected administrators.



LA RUE EN FÊTE 2022

The second edition of *La Rue en Fête* was definitely a success. The hot temperatures and the good mood of all certainly had a positive effect on this weekend afternoon.

We are very happy to have seen and shared some beautiful moments.

Here's a short summary: Our host Luka Lemay made us laugh, we danced thanks to a bunch of artists and the good music of DJ Mars. We also ate to our fill, thanks to our cooking team on the grill. More than 700 hotdogs were distributed, 18 volunteer artists performed for us, and more than a hundred tattoos in total were applied to visitors. Many people danced to the rhythm of music, and families mixed in with the crowd, which left many children filled with wonder at the songs of our artists

Let us take this opportunity to give a big thank you to all the volunteer artists that have made this event a real success. Special thanks to the eight volunteers that got involved during the event. Thank you to GRIP for their presence. Thank you to **Spicebros**, who provided us, for a second consecutive year, with samosas and mango lassis.

See you next year, in August 2023!

THE "À BAS LE FROID!" ("DOWN WITH THE COLD!") FUNDRAISING

For the third consecutive year, our "À bas le froid!" fundraiser took place during the whole month of November and ended on November 29th, during Giving Tuesday. The aim was to give an opportunity to the community to warm up the most vulnerable population with monetary donations ensuring the purchase of essential winter bags. We reached our objective! This year, 150 well-stocked backpacks and more than \$4,500 were collected out of an objective of \$5,000.

A big thank you to the participants that have made of this fundraising a huge success.

Thank you to our two volunteer teams: Caisse Desjardins du Sud-Ouest de Montréal and Omnia Technologies, that were there on the 28th and 29th to prepare and distribute the backpacks to our visitors. We also take this opportunity to thank the Monseigneur-Richard Secondary School, who helped us sort the accessories and winter clothes on November 18, 2022.

Each backpack contained pairs of socks, underwear, snacks, hand warmers, a blanket, a tuque, a pair of gloves, a pair of jogging pants or corduroy pants and a bag.



THE SUPPORTERS OF THE CAUSE

THANK YOU!

The team at the Benedict Labre House would like to thank the extraordinary generosity of its donors and partners. The support provided to our mission makes our actions possible and allow us to improve our programs to better meet the needs of marginalized and homeless communities in the south-west of Montreal. We would also like to say thank you to all the donors that want to remain anonymous.



The Altruist \$50,000 +

- › CIUSSS
- › Ministry of Health and Social Services
- › Vers un Chez Soi
- › City of Montreal
- › Direction régionale de santé publique (DRSP)
- › FNF Canada
- › Centraide
- › Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation
- › McConnell Foundation

The Visionary \$20,000 – \$49,000

- › Caisse Desjardins du Sud-Ouest de Montréal
- › Québec Emploi
- › Canada Summer Jobs
- › Hewitt Foundation
- › Fondation Jeanne-Esther

The Charitable \$10,000 – \$19,000

- › Echo Foundation
- › Fondation Lise et Richard Fortin
- › Lionel Carmant
- › Susan Porteous

The Kind-Hearted \$3,000 – \$9,999

- › Ergogrip (material donation)
- › Hockey Helps the Homeless
- › Mazon Canada
- › The Barwick Family Foundation
- › H&R Block
- › Jacques Poulin
- › Pfizer Canada
- › Power Corporation of Canada
- › Eric T. Webster Foundation
- › La fondation T.R.E.E.
- › Les Tricots Duval et Raymond Ltée (material donation)
- › Stanley Silverstone (material donation)
- › Industrielle Alliance

The Ambassador \$500 – \$2,999

- › Rachel Ship Foundation
- › Social Action Committee – St. Edmunds
- › Danielle Miller Olofsson
- › Jean Boulet
- › François Legault
- › Antonio Di Schiavi
- › Luis Onofre
- › Sacré-Cœur de Montréal School
- › Institute for Christian Communities
- › Le Collectif RGB (material donation)
- › Dawn Pouteau
- › Fabrique de La Paroisse Saint-Luc
- › 119438 Canada Inc.
- › AJung Moon
- › George A. Lortie
- › Shannon Lemm
- › Ascension of Our Lord Parish

The Friend \$300 – \$499

- › Kerrigan Turner
- › Bryan Carroll
- › Society of the Sacred Heart
- › Samantha Bolger
- › Franco San Gregorio
- › Andrew Dias
- › Michael Rogers
- › The Catholic Women's League of Canada
- › Susan Perreault
- › Knight of Columbus – Montreal Council
- › Rosemary MacDonald
- › Social Action Committee – St. Edmunds

THE SUPPORTERS OF THE CAUSE

THANK YOU!

By doing work with us, our various partners collaborate and contribute to improving accessibility to different services. We would like to thank our partners for their close collaboration: Doctors of the World; HEPCO Cohort; Mitchell McLarnon; H&R Block; GRIP. A big thank you to the new social partners that have joined us: Regard collectif; Bonhomme à lunettes; Mobile Legal Clinic.

We work together to fulfill our mission.

- 🏠 **Médecins du Monde**, a mobile health and psychological services clinic that offer services inside communities that have difficulty accessing healthcare. The organization also provides referrals to other resources.
- 🏠 **TRAC**, Travail de Rue Action Communautaire
- 🏠 **HEPCO Cohort**, research and treatment of Hepatitis C, affiliated with the research department of the CHUM.
- 🏠 **Mitchell McLarnon**, from the Education Department at Concordia University.
- 🏠 **GRIP**, Groupe de recherche et intervention psychosociale (“Research and Psychosocial Intervention Group”) – is a mobile unit that provide our visitors with the opportunity to do drug checking, thus reducing overdose risks.
- 🏠 **H&R Block**, Returning Hope Program – this initiative is a big help during tax season.
- 🏠 **Mobile Legal Clinic (MLC)**, promotes access to justice for the homeless, impoverished and/or marginalized members of our communities, who are often helpless in the face of the complexity of the justice system. It offers access to legal information, referrals and accompaniment, and assistance in regularizing legal debts. The MLC also contributes to the social reintegration process of homeless people. The originality of the work accomplished by the MLC’s volunteers, who are students from the Law Faculties of UQÀM, Université de Montréal, McGill University and Laval University, lies in their mobility, for they travel on a monthly basis to 15 different shelters and community organizations who work with the homeless in Montreal. Their work is supervised by law professors and lawyers who are members of le Barreau du Québec, under the general management of M. Donald Tremblay.
- 🏠 **Regard collectif**, is a mobile clinic from the School of Optometry at the Université de Montréal. Dr. Benoît Tousignant is the professor in charge. Optometrist teachers and three student interns offer full oculo-visual exams for free, five to six times a year.
- 🏠 **Bonhomme à lunettes Mobile Clinic (Philippe Rochette, Optician)**, Mr. Luc Sauvageau, optician, comes at the same time as the mobile clinic that offers eye exams to our visitors. He offers all lens prescriptions as well as a wide range of quality frames, to make glasses accessible to everyone.

INVOLVEMENT ROUNDTABLES AND COMMITTEES

RAPSIM

- Opérations droits devant Committee (Assistant Director)
- Organizing meetings with social workers on housing (Assistant Director)
- Participation to the call-to-action on the right to housing (Everyone)
- Participation in the Les murs qui nous habitent documentary (Participant in the Propulsion Program)
- Participation to the forum on the Homelessness of Individuals in Precarious Situations (Management)
- Participation to the AGM of the RSIQ as a representative of RAPSIM (Director)

OTHERS


- St-Henri Homelessness Committee (Management)
- Sud-Ouest Homelessness Committee (Management)
- Verdun Homelessness Committee (Management)
- Emergency Housing Services Sub-Committee (Assistant Director)
- Coexistence Committee (Coordination)
- Mental Health and Addictions Roundtable (Coordination)
- CAMS (Overdose)
- Sud-Ouest Urban Safety Committee (Coordination)
- Salsa Committee (Coordination)
- Participation to the first AGM of TAPAJ Québec (Director and Coordination)
- Involvement and call-to-action with TOMS (Director)
- Regional Coexistence Committee (Director)
- Participation to the Architecture + Homelessness Symposium: Conversation for an Inclusive and Supportive City (Director)
- Participation to the AGM of the FOHM (Director and Coordination)
- Participation in the preparation for the deployment of the homelessness team of the CIUSSS Centre-Sud (Assistant Director)






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