



## 2010-2011 Annual Report

Prepared by: Brigid Glustein  
With contribution by staff  
For Presentation: April 30, 2011

### **6-12 Programming:**

#### **Aide aux devoirs**

The aide aux devoirs program has been growing at a steady pace throughout the last year. We have more participants, mainly referred to us from our partner schools. The school principals have stated that they are open to having touch-base meetings throughout the year, to ensure that we can communicate on a consistent basis, and identify any challenges early on. The principals have expressed that they are happy with the services delivered thus far this year, and we hope that this satisfaction will translate into improved relations.

2009-2010 school year:

School	Number of children	Grades	Days
Marc Favreau	13	1-2	2 day (Monday and Wednesday)
Marc Favreau	16	3-6	2 jours (Tuesday and Thursday)
Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne	7	3-6	4 days (Monday through Thursday)
Community members	11	1-6	5 days (Monday though Friday)
Total	47		

2010-2011 school year:

School	Number of children	Grades	Days
Marc Favreau	13	1-2	3 days (Tuesday through Thursday)
Marc Favreau	18	3-6	3 days (Tuesday through Thursday)
Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne	18	3-6	4 days (Monday through Thursday)
CSDM students	9	1-6	5 days (Monday though Friday)
Community members	7	1-6	5 days (Monday though Friday)
Total	64		

The schools continue to insist on police background checks for the staff working in the afterschool program. This fall we generously received \$1,000 from Susan Clark's discretionary fund, which allowed us to fulfill the demand this year, however, we will need to seriously examine this in the future, as the schools seem to be unwilling to pay for the background checks, and at \$82 per person, this could have serious budgetary impacts.

For the 2010-2011 academic year we received 29,618.78\$ from the CSDM. Aside from the partnerships with Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne and Marc Favreau schools, we received an additional sum of money from CSDM Reaseau West which allows for a maximum of 10 more children from CSDM schools to register for the afterschool program free of charge, as well as money for a third worker at Marc Favreau school with the Cycle 1 students.

An evaluation with the parents and staff in June 2010 demonstrated that the parents were satisfied with the program and they felt their children had benefited. The goal of this evaluation was both to learn from their feedback, and to have concrete evidence that the program was appreciated, to use to support our request for renewed financing in October when renegotiating the partnerships. The staff identified needs in training that we have brought to the Table Aide aux Devoirs, when, as a committee, we planned training for afterschool animators that was delivered in January 2011 by the CREP (division of the CSDM). This training will likely be offered again in November 2011, with alterations based on our feedback this year.

This year we hired Kadi Diop as the Head Animator for the afterschool program. Coming from another local centre, she has experience animating and coordinating children's programs, a good understanding of our local community, and has demonstrated herself to be extremely capable.

### **6-12 Open Gym**

Despite the fact that parents and children seem very interested about the Open Gym option when we present the programs, there is low participation for this program, with the same handful of children always participating.

<b>Stats:</b> approx. 20 children participated in this program
--

### **March Break**

March Break Camp ran from March 1-5<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Included in the program was an exchange with the Dawson Community Centre, outings to Mount Royal, the Dollar Cinema and Allez-Up gym. The last day we had planned a mini-Olympics day, though this had to be modified due to the gym being taken away from us, a challenge that threw a real wrench into our March Break plans, despite having done all of the administrative tasks necessary to reserve the gym.

The children enjoyed all the outings, and expressed that they want to return to Allez-Up gym this year, which will factor into our March Break plans. All of the staff who worked March Break were animators in the afterschool program, or youth development programs. The staff expressed that it was nice for them to get to see the kids in a setting where there was less stress and the children were having so much fun.

Stats: 30 children were registered in the camp, with 15 registrations in the extended day program.
--

### **Puppetry**

A puppetry program took the place of Art Zone beginning in January 2010. The program aims to introduce youth to puppet-making and encourage them to talk about their community through defining the puppet's voice, movement/surroundings and relationships with others. Puppets give an opportunity for participants to create a fictional world, either a world they would like to see, or a world that, camouflaged as fictional, reflects their reality but allows them to have control.

Participation was initially low, and there seemed to be limited interest, but quickly enough the program expanded with an average participation of 6 children per week. During the winter 2010 session participants developed many different types of puppets and two participants were active in writing a script for a puppet theatre. In the fall session, there were more participants, though they were younger than those in the fall session; these younger children also participated on a less consistent basis. During the winter session the children developed more complex puppets, and doing session-long projects, which they enjoyed. During the fall there was less time spent in character development, however this balance was regained in the winter session, where the small group of children not only developed characters, but wrote a short play and also started to develop a set.

**Stats:** approx. 15 children participated in this program

**Special events:**

The Holiday party was a success this year. We were happy to see children from all of our programs attend the party, along with their siblings and a handful of parents. This is hopefully a good precursor to strong attendance at our end of season party, and the potential to get many parents to attend the AGM.

Other special outing this year include going to the open house at the NDG sports centre, events organized through the aide aux devoirs committee at other Centres and a family picnic at the end of the school year to close the afterschool program, an easter egg hunt and trick-or-treating with the children on Halloween night.

This year we headed to the La Goudrelle sugar shack. We partnered with the Quebec Board of Black Educators on this outing, as we have in the past, and, as always, had a wonderful time with the QBBE team and their participants.

**Stats:**

**Holiday party:** 50 children, 10 Adults

**Open house at the NDG sports centre:** 25 children

**Family picnic:** 25 children, 10 Adults

**Sugar shack:** 24 parents and children

**Easter party:** 20 children and teens

**Halloween:** 15 children and parents

### **Youth development:**

#### **Leadership**

The youth leadership program was in a rebuilding phase, this year, with many other priorities taking the forefront. We are, however, cognoscente of the importance of this program, and are establishing a plan to identify goals and strategies that will be priorities for our programming this year. Notably, we will be developing internship opportunities for the teens, as well as training programs that will develop their skills, and promote commitment to the community.

#### **Drop-in**

In the spring session one of the teen workers moved away from Montreal, which had a large impact on the teens as they saw her as a friend, and were upset that she had left. The staff working the youth development program have since been trying to develop the teen's sense of belonging to the centre, and trust in the staff. This has been difficult since the introduction of new staff brought with it new expectations of the teens around issues of respect. The youth development staff care deeply for the teens, and are invested in having meaningful relationships with them. As mentioned in the winter report, while the teens have demonstrated challenging behaviours, there have also been important events with individual youth that lead us to believe that by showing them respect and empathy, we are making an important impact. Teens have come to the youth workers to speak one-on-one about challenges with the law, school and with their families.

Drop-in gym continues to be popular, and the teen boys who attend the drop-in program love to play basketball, though are completely uninterested in a structured basketball program. The girls often come with the boys, but do not play basketball. We are looking to hire a dance instructor with money donated from the Concordia residences, and will be targeting 12-15 year old teen girls.

<b>Stats:</b> approx. 50 teens participated in this program
---

#### **Its disent On Dit**

The Its disent On Dit program had a rough path this year, with many different animators and coordinators passing through the program.

This summer the youth from the summer camp participated with great enthusiasm, and produced a video that treated the issue of immigration “Nous sommes des immigrés”. The coordinator who took over the program in the fall session has spent much time investing in building relationships with the teens, and encouraging them to critically think about issues relating to community and youth. We hope that fundamental first steps will create fertile grounds upon which a new phase of the program can be developed.

We received \$13,030.00 for 2011-2012 for a revamped version of the Ils disent On Dit program, renamed Ça S’Parle NDG/Chat’Bout NDG. This year the videotography elements will be combined with puppet-making, this change in the program was motivated by our observations that youth are more willing to voice their opinions behind a mask than on camera. The puppets will therefore serve as that mask, and we hope that will encourage youth who were hesitant to participate in the program. Given the enthusiasm of the participants in the summer camp, we will be reaching out to the class d’accueil at St. Luc School, and will target those youth in recruitment efforts.

The funding for the Contrat de Ville will be multi-year funding as of next year, with a three year funding cycle, which would alleviate the uncertainty of not knowing whether our programs can be conserved from year to year, and would allow us to develop longer-term goals.

<b>Stats:</b> approx. 60 teens participated in this program
---

### **Puppetry**

During the 2010 winter session, the Teen Puppetry program got off to a very slow start. Teens were certainly interested in coming out to Loyola on Monday evenings but were generally uninterested in making puppets. By mid-session, more teens became interested and were more open minded to puppet building. The past two sessions were successful in the process of physical production of the puppet. More focus on character development would strengthen the program and is a goal for the future of puppetry. The introduction and addition of videotography to puppetry will hopefully inspire more character development within the puppetry program, as the intention is to explore social and political issues that the teens are interested in exploring and representing creatively.

<b>Stats:</b> approx. 12 teens participated in this program
---

**Les Jeunes Correspondants:**

Teens representing a wide variety of different cultures participated in the teen camp this summer. Throughout the six weeks of camp the teens published four Zines that allowed them to share their opinions on important issues with the community. The themes were: Youth and the Montreal community, Teachers and Education, The Environment and Welcome to School. Every week teens interviewed people of political or social importance or representatives of local organizations. They also visited various locations in Montreal and participated in workshops. The final Zine was published in collaboration with the Ils Disent On Dit program, as *Welcome to School* spoke about both students' first experiences at St. Luc and their experiences as new immigrants.

The employees this year were mainly francophone, university students in linguistics, education or employed in a school setting. They all had experience working with teens, and were focused on improving students' French skills. The newspaper produced this year was done in a different format than previous year, and more time was invested in writing and correcting articles. Moreover, the quality of the publish material was much improved.

The profile of the counsellors and their interests allowed for this model to work, as they were interested and committed to the newspaper. The staff competencies were far beyond their pay rate, and I fear the challenges of finding competent and dedicated staff for \$10 per hour this upcoming summer.

Recruitment was done at St. Luc School and at the Annexe as an after-thought, when there were open spots left in the program. Next year it would be interesting to speak with the school about the opportunity to include the Annexe youth in all aspects of promotion, as the students in CPF would largely benefit from this summer experience, and exchanges between the two profiles of students also help the newly arrived to socialize and integrate..

<b>Stats:</b> 43 teens (24 Boys/ 19 girls)
--

### **Sports programs**

#### **Soccer Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne:**

As in previous years, Loyola negotiated a contract with Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne to prepare children for the June tournament at Marc Favreau School. This was supposed to be done solely by the Loyola Centre, however, there was some difficulty because the initial date given by Marc Favreau School had to be changed due to a teachers strike. We also did not have enough players for certain divisions, and without recruiting additional players that team would have been disqualified. Therefore, we worked in collaboration with the principal and physical education teacher to recruit additional students.

Also, due to the fact that the tournament was on a school day, the principal asked that the school be responsible of managing the permission slips for the tournament, to ensure that the school could account for all students the day of the tournament.

On the day of the tournament, 40 students were accompanied by the coach, the program coordinator from Loyola and the physical education teacher from Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne. The students did very well, with the grade five girls placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in their division and the grade six girls and grade 5 boys placing 4<sup>th</sup>. This placement is better than it had been for the school in years. Once again, we feel training leading up to the event is very important, as it is a highly competitive environment that can leave those with less confidence psychologically scarred.

<b>Stats:</b> 31 children
---------------------------

#### **Basketball**

Beginning in the fall session, Loyola partnered with Westhaven Centre to run a joint basketball program that was funded by the Hartley Foundation. This funding allowed us to run a free basketball program for teens and children, each group meeting twice a week for a total of three hours. Loyola and Westhaven were each allotted ten places in the program, for a total of 40 participants.

The main challenge that we have experienced with the program is Westhaven's participation, which has been inconsistent. When doing the mid-term evaluation for the Hartley foundation, Westhaven acknowledged their challenges in recruiting teens and children who were willing to come to Loyola

for a structured program. Instead, we will be looking at a model whereby Westhaven and Loyola groups will practice separately, each with an assistant coach, and the coach will be at each centre every second Tuesday to ensure that the assistant coach is properly equipped to lead the training sessions. The teams will practice together on Saturdays and will have games in a community league on Saturdays this session. This model will be pending the number of registration for the Westhaven teams in the winter 2011 session.

The teens this session participated in the Jeunes Leaders basketball tournament. They were much younger and less experienced than the other teams, which inevitably impacted the team's performance, but they played with their heart, we were extremely proud of their effort, and the other teams and community members were very supportive of our new team.

Most heartening was the fact that although our children got their hat handed to them in most games, they still played out every minute of each game with the vigour and great attitude they started with. For us, this assures us that our message that it is love of the game, not about winning is getting through.

<b>Stats:</b> 27 children and 12 teens
--

### **Badminton**

Participation remains constant in the badminton program, with approximately 15 people registered each session. We lost some players with the opening of the new sports Centre, as there are times offered for adult badminton. We will be looking at promoting this program for Fall 2011 and hope to get new members.

<b>Stats:</b> Fall 15 adults, Winter 12 adults
--

### **Men's Cosom Hockey**

This group continues to use the gym from 9-11pm on Wednesday nights, and require virtually no maintenance. We have increased the fee for this program slightly and will continue to do so slowly.

### **Community partnerships:**

#### **Committee participation**

This year, as always Loyola fulfilled its responsibility to community wellbeing by participating and partnering with other community groups. Primary partners are the Comité action 6-12, table jeunesse and comité aide aux devoirs, as well as the table the sécurité urbain and CAL Jeunes en Santé. Key achievements of each table include:

##### *Table Jeunesse*

- Hiring an outreach worker
- Jeunes Leaders NDG: youth consultation and Basketball tournament

##### *Comité aide aux devoirs*

- Development of an educational resources database
- Planning of training sessions for afterschool animators

##### *Comité 6-12*

- Development of Bienvenue NDG, a referral service for new immigrant families

##### *Comité sécurité urbain*

- We continue to participate in this initiative and deem it important to represent youth and community issues at this level.

##### *CAL Jeunes en Santé*

- The Committee received a sum to hire a coordinator to elaborate a three year plan to promote health and well-being in NDG.
- The priorities have been set for the Jeunes en Santé request being made to Québec en Forme for the first year of financial support. Loyola has offered to be the main partner on three projects, and if these are accepted, they will become part of our programs and actions for next year.

#### **Get Green**

Get Green is an employability project for youth 16-25. Loyola partnered on the development of this grant and will act as a subcontractor for their life-skills component.

<b>Stats:</b> 8 youth 1 girl/7 boys
-------------------------------------

#### **CSP volunteers**

Loyola High School continues to send us volunteers; the older students help us in the afterschool program and the younger students help on Saturdays.

<b>Stats:</b> 27 teen volunteers
----------------------------------

### **Concordia Residence**

In the fall 2010 session, Concordia residences chose Loyola as a community partner, they raised approximately \$100 for the teen program, an amount raised by Concordia students that will be doubled by the university. The residence has also committed to running another fundraiser in the winter. In 2011 we will be looking for a hip-hop/stepping teacher, and see if we can interest the girls in dance workshops. This amount, along with money left over from Susan Clarke's contribution will be used as an honorarium for a volunteer who would be willing to develop and animate some workshops.

### **Ville de Montreal:**

It is impossible to talk about our year without mentioning the support provided to us by the Sports and Recreation department of the City, and particularly the support of Peggy Papadakis and Kenny Whittaker. These individuals were our go-to people for questions, requests and when needing help. They are both invaluable to the daily operations of the Centre, and we feel privileged to have their support.

This year we were fortunate to receive sports equipment from the City, which helped us expand our sports programming. They provided us with basketballs, soccer balls, sports equipment and soccer nets.

We also received a contribution of \$1,000 from Susan Clark from her discretionary fund. This money was used to help us pay for police checks, which the CSDM requires to fulfill our contract obligations. There is some money that will remain from her \$1,000 contribution which will be used for teen programming as mentioned above.

Last year, we expressed great concerns about the future of this partnership and sense of shared responsibility. While in doing so, we fulfilled our responsibility to our membership for transparency and vigilance, but we also questioned the Bourrow's commitment.

It is vital that we make clear, that our questions were situational, born of our inability to see beyond public boundaries. This year, our City partners came forth with plans for the indexation of all centres. This funding directly

addresses our expressed concerns, and assures that we can continue to offer our established base service. This means that other than the elimination of our Director position, there will be no other cuts to staff or programming.

In addition, at the Council meeting held April 4, Mayor Applebaum made public active plans for the development of the chalet in Loyola Park as a future site for our centre. While this has been our understanding, we feel that this public statement was significant.

**Generation Foundation:**

Once again, we are ever so grateful to this organization. They contributed afterschool snacks for all our children. It continues to be a valued resource, as the grants from the CSDM do not include much sums for materials etc.

**Caisse Desjardins:**

We continue to get use from the computers provided to us by the Caisse Desjardins. These computers are particularly appreciated by the teens and used during drop-in programming. They also play an integral role in the summer camp newspaper publications. This year a technician visited us on three occasions, and a number of hours were provided to us over the phone as support. Programs were also installed on all the computers which allow technicians to do virtual maintenance on the machines.

**Westhaven-Elmhurst Community Association:**

As mentioned in the above, Loyola acted as fiduciary for a grant Westhaven received from the Hartley Foundation. This allowed us to rebuild our basketball program, which was lagging due to aging out.

As a result of being able to offer the program free, we were overrun with participants.

This partnership will not continue in its present form, and is currently under review.

## Looking into the Future...

### Aide aux devoirs

We are currently serving the maximum number of children possible in our afterschool program given our physical capacity. In the fall we will ask Marc Favreau School to continue offering the homework help service three days a week to all their students, and Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne continue offering the program four days a week. As of yet, the schools appear to be happy with the services, as do the parents, and hopefully this will lead to a positive dialogue and negotiation in the fall. We hope to keep improving relations with the schools, and would like to organize visits so that they can get to better know the centre and see the high quality of our services.

In the fall we will be working with the aide aux devoirs table to evaluate this year's training and suggest improvements for the training that will be offered in November. Depending on training needs, we may also contact the CREP directly (Centre de Ressources Éducatives et Pédagogiques of the CSDM) if our specific needs can be better addressed in our own training session.

Another goal is to develop a library of French books, which will make it possible to work on literacy development with the kids. It is likely that some books will be offered to us by Les amis de la bibliothèque de Montréal, and we will be looking for other partners or community members who would be willing to donate books to develop the library.

A constant challenge is staff turnover. Given the limited number of hours offered and the salary, it is hard to retain staff, especially given that the job requires a large personal commitment.

These partnerships are vital for community children, as it represents service that parents cannot afford, and we cannot support through general operations alone. There are, however, two significant changes we would like to see.

1) We would like to be able to negotiate the contract directly with Réseau West, as this would allow us to service the family rather than the schools (i.e. we could be able to accept children from any local CSDM school, allow parents to choose center) and

b) We would like to see the contracts start in September, even if that means ending a little early. By the time children come to us in November, they have already started down the slippery slope of under achievement – a self-esteem buster. If we could start with them when they start, we get ahead of the curve and can move into the world of prevention.

We will continue to work with our partners to address these concerns. We are very blessed, in that our representative from Réseau West, Lise Couvrette, is very cognisant of community realities and is committed to the wellbeing of all children in her network.

### **Quebec en Forme:**

The NDG community has worked hard in the last years to propose a quality plan to Quebec en Forme to promote physical activity and healthy eating in the neighbourhood. The proposed plan for the next year includes three actions for which Loyola will be responsible:

- Developing promotion strategies for free, unstructured activities in the community centres in NDG
- Increased services of the NDG community basketball league,
- A physical activity and healthy eating program for 3-5 year old during the weekend.

As this program addresses broad community needs and allows us to target holistic needs that could not be met through our individual mandates, we feel that it is a worthy endeavour, and as such will continue to contribute our time to it.

### **Promotion strategies**

During the fall session we will be launching Loyola's website which will have information about all our programs, and serve as a place to get information about the centre's schedule of activities.

In the fall we will continue to work with Bienvenue NDG to promote our programs in schools. They have proved to be very effective in reaching the new immigrant population of NDG, and many of the children who participate in our sports programs learned about the Centre's activities through them. Particular emphasis will be put on promoting children's open gym, teen leadership and Ca S'Parle with the hope of increasing participation in these activities.

These visits are also key to establish familiarity with staff and administration of schools. This reduces the standoffishness, and increases the potential for the kind of partnerships that have proven so fruitful for community families.

### **Sports programs**

This season we developed a basketball league with the support of Westhaven, who shared their support from the Hartley Foundation. 7 teams participated in basketball games for a 9 week session.

For next year we proposed to Quebec en Forme an extended basketball league which would include a maximum of 6 children's teams and 6 teen teams that will play for 8 weeks in the fall session and 8 weeks in the winter session. We will continue to offer children and teen basketball training programs, and depending on registration in the fall, may have to open more sections of the activity to ensure that all groups are small enough to allow the coaches to help children develop their skill set individually.

Based on expressed interest from our membership we developed a soccer activity for 7-10 year old children in the winter 2011 session. We will continue to offer this activity next year, and will be searching for opportunities to have the children meet and play against other teams.

### **Teens**

During the summer we will be hiring a teen head animator who will be responsible to supervise the teen program, develop new initiatives and promote the program. We hope to reanimate this program with an injection of new energy and perspective.

Plans have been developed for a leadership program that will run through the summer, once a week, and six youth have currently expressed interest in the program. Their goals include developing skills that can be of use when searching for a job, becoming more informed about sex education, and travelling to Ottawa. We will continue to work with this group and are excited to help them develop skills and work towards their objectives.

In the fall session we will continue hosting Girlz Nights, an initiative started this winter for our tween girls (aged 11-14). The girlz nights have consisted of a movie and discussion around the themes of bullying, high school and relationships. Throughout the fall session we are hoping to make these evenings more regular. We are also looking to develop a dance program for teen girls, likely a stepping or hip-hop program.

Ca S'Parle will continue next year, and we hope that staff continuity will be a tool to encourage the youth from the summer camp to maintain a presence at

the centre year round, as the coordinator of this program will be running the program this summer, and next year.

### **Loyola Centre**

Goals for the centre as a whole include developing feedback mechanisms to improve communication between staff and members and developing evaluation tools to document our program's progress and better understand needs and desires which will allow for community input when developing new programs. We will also continue to develop the staff manual, ensure emergency policies are up to date and expectations are clear for all staff members. In early fall we will be having a training weekend, where the staff will be brought together to explore their goals for the community, the centre's objectives and our philosophy.

A constant preoccupation is physical space and financial concerns. We would like to see more of our programs be self financing, but to do so, we must be able to attract those who can afford to pay. For now, we do our best to keep areas clear and clean. As such, we will be looking at more open storage for books and stock accessible to members.

This year we will be getting an increase in our base funding, an indexation that will allow us to continue to offer programs that otherwise might have had to be cut. We are extremely thankful to the city for understanding the needs we have expressed to them, and being responsive. Program-specific grants continue to be available, and without that funding we would not be able to function at our current capacity, however, it is always difficult to find funding sources for long-term endeavors and recreational programs.

On a personal note, I am incredibly proud of the Centre, the team of employees, volunteers and families who have worked hard this year and together we have achieved much. Together we developed programs that are providing important services, and children and youth are growing and flourishing within our community. This work would have been impossible without the support of key players, who I hope share in my sense of pride. Thank you to the board members, I look forward to continue working with you in the coming years and thank you for your trust in me as I take on the reigns of the Centre.