



The Association pour le Développement Jeunesse de Loyola is a charitable community organization located in the Loyola sector of NDG that currently offers programming for over 600 youth annually. Thanks to a partnership agreement with the borough of CDN-NDG, initially signed in 1998, the association is provided with funding from the borough and access to infrastructure in exchange for delivering sports and recreation programs to the community. At the initial signing of this agreement, the association was mandated to manage one of the City of Montreal sports and recreation installations, the Centre

Jeunesse Loyola. The Centre Jeunesse Loyola was not a dedicated facility; in 1998 the city had a rental agreement with the Commission des Écoles Catholiques de Montréal, and used rooms at Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne school. Not having a dedicated facility, combined with changing realities in our neighbourhood over the last 20 years has forced the Centre Jeunesse Loyola to be displaced on numerous occasions, and placed in temporary spaces that have never been an adequate long-term solution to provide quality services to the community. We have, in fact, occupied 8 locations in the last 20 years¹. The threat of losing access to the space that is currently rented for the association by the City is once again looming, we may be forced to leave our current location as early as June 2019.

Studies have demonstrated that investing in leisure activities and infrastructure has significant social and financial effects for society including: Improvement of mental and physical well-being, strengthening of social bonds, developing strong family and community environments, developing respect for nature, and economic benefits². Recreational activities has an impact on the behaviour of young people with regard to the prevention or reduction of negative behaviour, stress and petty crime, alcohol or drug consumption, and eating disorders³, and is significant on crime prevention and the integration of new immigrant families⁴.

The park has always been integral to the activities of the association. During the summer we run Ca Bouge Dans Mon Parc, a park animation program that provides animation and supervision for children 6-12 years old who are not registered in day camps and who spend their summers in the park. After the end of the school day, the 80 children registered in our afterschool program play in

¹ Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne elementary school (prior 1992), prefabs annexed to Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne school (1992-2015), École Les Enfants du Monde (summer 2012), Focus-Outreach school (2015-present), Confederation sports centre (2015-2017), Westhill sports centre(2015-2017), Trenholme gymnasium (2017-present), Walkley community centre (office use exclusively, 2018-present)

² Sur la voie du bien-être, Cadre stratégique 2015 pour le loisir au Canada, Initiative du Conseil interprovincial du sport et des loisirs et de l'Association canadienne des parcs et loisirs

³ Torjman, S. (2004). Culture et loisirs: liens au mieux-être. Ottawa, ON: Caledon Institute of Social Policy.

⁴ Briand, Sauvé, and Fréchette (2011). The Benefits and Economic Value of Community Recreation: Proposal for an Analytical Framework Based on an Exploratory Study. Université du Québec en Outaouais: ANSERJ Canadian Journal of Nonprofit and Social Economy Research *Revue canadienne de recherche sur les OSBL et l'économie sociale*

the park, and our soccer and basketball programs do drills in the park. The park is also a site for us to animate family picnics and community events. Our presence in the park encourages our 600 young participants to develop a sense of belonging to the collective spaces of our borough, to respect nature and through our presence, we participate in the surveillance and security of this public place. We feel strongly that the integration of the association's programs with the park brings an added value for the entire community.

In 2017 three community organizations, including our association, were asked by the city administration to work on a proposal to explore the potential of developing infrastructure to provide sports, recreation, community and social development services. The proposal to include this permanent facility in the potential redevelopment and expansion of Loyola Park was submitted to the elected officials in November 2017. The proposition to have three community groups cohabit a building on the perimeter of the north-east corner of Loyola Park was shared publicly by councillor Jeremy Searle during the 2017 elections.

A permanent facility for the Centre Jeunesse Loyola would be a home base for all members of the community, where residents of our sector can create significant **B**onds, feel **A**cknowledged, **S**afe and where all members of the community have **E**quitable opportunities to reach their full potential. **B.A.S.E** has become the motto for our future dream.

The need for a permanent and quality infrastructure for the Centre Jeunesse Loyola has been highlighted in reports and included in City of Montreal action plans for over 10 years. Numerous reports have been filed by architects, city planners, and research firms that all agree that given the popularity of the services offered by the association, a solution must be found. The association continues to advocate for permanent and quality community infrastructure, and believes that Loyola Park should be an inclusive space, where all residents of the sector can congregate to build community, enjoy leisure activities and have their needs met. A community centre integrated into the future vision of Loyola Park would allow the park to be used throughout



all months of the year by all residents of our sector to participate in sport, recreation and social development programs, and would ensure stability of services currently being offered, and a space to develop new programs and services to answer to the needs of all residents.

For more information about our association please visit our website, www.jeunesseloyola.org or contact us at 514-872-6721 or loyola.primaire@gmail.com