



2018 Annual report  
Association pour le développement jeunesse de Loyola  
Presented to the membership at the Annual General Assembly  
May 1st 2019

### Director's welcome

2018 has come and gone - it was a year of new experiences, adapting and learning. The following pages present a summary of our activities in 2018. As you will see, it was a year with many great moments, as well as some challenges.

The challenges of funding and infrastructure remained two huge mountains to climb this year, and the board of directors spent many hours developing their skills and advocating for the association. We were fortunate this year to be provided with opportunities for training from Dynamo, COCo, and support from the community organizer from the CIUSS, Sylvie Laferriere. The association's concerns were heard by all levels of government and our community mobilized to advocate for our needs.

All of our accomplishments would not have been possible without the wonderful staff, our funders, our partners at the City of Montreal and our parent volunteers. Special thanks to the board of directors, and to our colleagues who work in the community sector in NDG, who this year were very active in helping us advocate for the needs of the kids and families of the Loyola sector. 2019 promises to be another year of changes, and we are looking forward to embarking on new challenges and forging new relationships.

- Brigid Glustein (director)

### President's welcome

Over fifty years ago I played in Loyola park, I grew up learning about community, this community. Although it has changed greatly in some aspects, it also remains the same. It's the same community where children need a safe place to go, to thrive and to grow. We at Loyola believe our responsibility is just that. We pay it forward so that the next generation can have a sense of belonging and continue to pay it forward.

We are Loyola

We are N.D.G.

- Dan Brasloff (president)

### Introduction

**Mission** "Our goal is to create a safe, positive environment in which there is always room for and movement towards improvement and growth. We take great pride in our programs at Loyola Center, we promote respectful treatment of others and a strong sense of belonging. Our participants, parents, staff, volunteers and guests are ambassadors who invite others to visit the center based on their own experiences and to become a part of the Loyola Family. Every individual is encouraged to take on the challenges of personal growth, while contributing to the growth of Loyola Center." The Loyola Center provides educational, cultural, social recreational and community

programs to the children, adolescents and adults of the community. We aim to ensure the needs of the community are met through providing access to quality programming, delivered in partnership with educational institutions, community organizations, and programs and services offered by various levels of government.

In 2018 the Association pour le développement jeunesse de Loyola offered 13 programs at Focus and Outreach school as well as operated a teen drop-in program at Trenholme gymnasium two evenings a week. Our programming in 2018 included an afterschool program for children from local elementary schools, basketball, soccer and dance programs, the only summer camp targeting new immigrant teenagers in our borough, a park animation program in Loyola Park during the summer and leadership opportunities for the youth.

Over 600 youth participate in our programs annually. Our participants represent cultural communities from all over the world and more than 30 languages are spoken in the homes of our members.

Most of these youth come NDG's priority sectors including Benny Farm, Fielding-Walkley and Westhaven. We receive financial support from many of our partners, which enables us to offer low cost programs to meet the needs of families in difficulty. We believe strongly that our community centre is a safe and inclusive space, where everyone in the community can come together to share assets and answer to the needs of all. It is in that optic that we include on all of our publicity (flyers, website, posters etc.) the following statement: **NO CHILD WILL BE DENIED REGISTRATION DUE TO A LACK OF FINANCIAL MEANS.** In 2018, 328 of our 639 participants participated in free programs. Additionally, the equivalent of 2270\$ was given as subsidies for low-income families who were unable to pay program registration fees.

Our association takes our commitment to the youth and their families seriously. We work closely with a variety of partner organizations on multi-faceted interventions and actively collaborate with the CIUSS-CO/CLSC Benny Farm, the neighbourhood schools, and other community organizations. Many of the families who participate in our programs return year after year, children grow up with us, become volunteers, staff and leaders in our community.

### **History: Association pour le développement jeunesse de Loyola**

The Loyola Association for the Development for Youth consists of volunteer parents and community members, who work together to provide educational, cultural, social and recreational programs to the children and adolescents from the surrounding community who are 4-17 years old. Programs aim to help participants develop skills such as cooperation, leadership, a sense of

belonging, independent thinking, and build healthy interpersonal relationships. Our programs, employees and volunteers promote values of acceptance, integration and self-esteem.

In 1996 the department of Sports, Leisure, Culture and Social Development of the Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce borough (DSLCCDS-CDN-NDG) decentralised the animation and management of sports and recreation services previously delivered by the City of Montreal to 23 local non-profit organizations. The decentralisation was based on three development principles:

- Residents are and must be the main focus of recreational activities;
- The responsibility for recreational activities must be given to the level closest to residents, i.e. the local community;
- Residents' quality of life depends on the community making the most of all its available resources<sup>1</sup>.

This policy allowed for local community groups to become more involved in managing services offered on their territory. In 1998 the Association pour le Développement Jeunesse de Loyola was formalized as a charitable organization and entered into a partnership with the borough to manage the Loyola Youth Centre located in Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne elementary school and in four prefabricated units annexed to the school.

Throughout the years the Association has offered a diversity of programs to children and teens. We aim to offer a space where the community can learn and grow in an environment where they feel safe and a sense of belonging and where members can pass on fond memories to their children, who now make up our current generation of members.

In 2018 the theme for the United Nations International Youth Day was Safe Spaces For Youth. “Youth need safe spaces where they can come together, engage in activities related to their diverse needs and interests, participate in decision making processes and freely express themselves<sup>2</sup>”. The objective of ensuring the physical and psychological safety of youth in our sector is at the forefront of all choices and interventions carried out by the association.

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<sup>1</sup> CDN—NDG borough council: Highlights of the meeting on December 3, 2007

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/international-youth-day-2018.html>

## **PROFILE OF OUR CLIENTELE**

In 2018, 639 youth registered in programs at the Loyola Centre. 88.6% live in the borough of CDN-NDG or are registered at a school in the borough. Based on the map produced by the CLSC which divides NDG into sub-sectors, over 60% of the youth live in the Loyola and Walkley sectors (both located in the Loyola electoral sector for municipal affairs.)

	2018	2017
Loyola	32.4%	29%
Walkley	30.1%	32%
Westhaven and Saint-Raymond	11%	11%
Ndg east	6.1%	5%
cdn	9%	9%
Other - ville de montréal (St henri, Little Burgundy, lasalle, lachine)	5.8%	7%
Other - autres villes (CSL, Mtl West)	5%	4%
other	0.6%	3%

104 participants identified themselves as being newly-arrived immigrants, representing 24% of the youth (nb. Participants of the teen open gym program were not asked to provide this information, therefore the calculation is based on 420 youth who provided this information)

## PROGRAMS

### GUIDING VALUES OF LOYOLA CENTRE'S PROGRAMS

1. Community life: Encourage youth to learn about, and participate actively in community life, develop better relationships and improve interpersonal skills. Our interventions aim to minimize youth's dissociation, marginalization and isolation.
2. Self-image: Encourage the development of youth's a positive self-image and support the development of autonomy and self-control
3. Skills development: Encourage the acquisition of necessary skills for a healthy life and accompany youth towards a positive transition to adulthood. Support the development of skills for critical thinking and analysis.
4. Empowerment and self-advocacy: Support youth in the development of their own voices, and the defense and promotion of their own rights and the rights of their community

Our programs promote a safe and welcoming environment for all where individuals can cohabitate and learn from each other. Programs and staff interventions strive to break isolation and develop respect for, and understanding of, commonalities and differences in the community. Our environment promotes inclusion, acceptance and respect for diversity.

Our programs offer youth the possibility to develop quality relationships with significant adults. We offer youth an active ear, assist in analyzing choices and planning for the future, work with them to advocate for their needs, offer mediation in conflict situations and refer or accompany youth to other services and experts. Our interventions are carried out in collaboration with family members and service providers.

### **Afterschool**

The aide aux devoirs program remains an important program at the Loyola Centre. Again this year we find ourselves with a full program, and wait lists of parents in the community who request this service for their children. We continue to have a partnership with Marc-Favreau elementary school and Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne school. These schools fund their students' participation in the afterschool program. We also have participants in our program from Judith-Jasmin, Les-Enfants-du-Monde and Iona schools, as well as one registrant from an EMSB school.

The children in this program come from 6 schools<sup>3</sup>. The first child arrives at 3pm, and they have time playing games in the gymnasium and eating snack until 4pm, when all of the children have

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<sup>3</sup> École Les Enfants du Monde, École Judith Jasmin, École Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne, École Marc Favreau, École Iona, Edinburgh school

arrived and they begin to do schoolwork before participating in sports and leisure activities. The large majority of the children participating in our programs are referred by their teachers and have been identified because they are struggling academically or socially, and often come from new immigrant families, where the parents are unable to help the children with their French schoolwork.

### **Basketball**

In 2018 Basketball continued to be the most widely requested sport at Loyola Centre. This year the youth participated in games at St Raymond's community centre with Comité Jeunesse, MMAC (Chinese community association), CELO and Tyndale. The children also participated in the Trevor Williams Foundation fundraiser HoopFest and a tournament at Pagé high school.

### **Soccer**

In the past years there has been an increasing request to have soccer activities at the Centre. This year we had two groups of soccer that each practiced once a week. Similarly to the Family Skills day for basketball, we hope to host a family soccer event, where parents and older siblings can share their love of this sport with the young players in their families.

### **March Break**

In 2018 we hosted a March Break camp. The children went to the swimming pool, and an amusement centre as well as participated in cooking activities and group games.

### **Musical theatre**

We have many talented children in our community who love to sing, dance and act! This year the children performed scenes from snow white and the seven dwarfs and Lion King.

### **Ca Bouge Dans Mon Parc**

Beginning five summers ago, it was observed that many youth in our neighbourhood were not attending summer camp during the summer and congregating in local parks. Thanks to Quebec en Forme, a coalition of community organisations were able to develop Ca Bouge Dans Mon Parc, a park animation program, to keep the children engaged and safe in the summer. The majority of participants in this program were low-income and new immigrant families.

### **Lunch Bunch**

For a second year we offered parents to pay a nominal fee to register for a lunch program on Saturdays in an attempt to add convenience for families who had registered their children for numerous programs on Saturdays. This also allowed us to ensure that lunches were available for children who did not otherwise have food packed.

### **Arts and crafts**

Every year we make a point of offering at least one free program for children 5-12 years old. This is a way to encourage new families, and low-income families, to come to the Centre for a first time.

### **Loyola Dance Crew**

Again this year youth in the dance program demonstrated talent, passion and commitment. Youth from 4-17 years old danced in our annual show at Loyola Centre, at the NDG Reads evening, at the Monnaie Money talent show, St Raymonds Got Talent and the Youth Stars show in Pierrefonds. While some dances were simply fun, others dealt with important subjects including mental health and the stages of grieving a loss.

### **Family open gym**

We reserve one hour every weekend to open the gymnasium for families. This is an opportunity for parents, siblings or neighbours over 12 years old to bring young children to open gym, and play with them in an informal setting. This activity is particularly popular during the winter, where many of the children in our soccer and basketball activities come to get extra time in the gym.

### **Teen camp**

The Les Jeunes Correspondants Camp is a summer day camp for newly arrived teenagers attending welcome class (“classes d’accueil”), and youth with learning and language difficulties attending École secondaire Saint-Luc (CSDM). This camp has four objectives:

- encourage youth to practice speaking French, and the encouragement of school perseverance
- encourage the development of friendships between newly arrived youth who have lost their social networks when they had to leave their friends and families
- develop a sense of belonging and encourage youth’s integration into the Montreal community
- expose youth to community resources that could offer support to their families and communities

This summer youth produced a video where they shared memories and knowledge from their cultures. At the end of the summer, teenagers visited a day camp in our neighborhood to present their video clips to local children and host workshops on cultural sharing and multiculturalism.

### **Teen open gym**

Since leaving Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne in 2015, this program has been run as a satellite to our other activities at Loyola Centre. The gymnasium at 4850 Coronation is simply not big enough to accommodate the teens of this program. As a result, the younger kids are no longer able to spend time with the teens, and the teens lose their bond with the staff they’ve known for years. Throughout the last four years this program has been run out of Westhill Centre (Royal Vale School) and Confederation Centre (École secondaire Saint-Luc). In the summer 2018, both locations underwent

renovations and the program was moved to the gymnasium in Trenholme Park. While we were all reluctant to embrace another move, it has been a great development for this program. Trenholme gymnasium is equipped with air conditioning (an asset this very hot summer), and is a stand-alone facility, which has supported the youth developing a feeling of ownership of the space. Most importantly, we have been offered to use that location both Friday and Saturday nights. For quite a while teen open gym was offered at different locations on different days, leading to much confusion. Being able to let the youth know there is one location, with one phone number, where they can reach the staff, has been very important in bringing some stability to this program.

In 2019, we are hoping to be able to return to the gymnasium at Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne school. The school will be rebuilding a double gymnasium, and returning to our old home, and in close proximity to the children's programs, would help us bring back a sense of unity and normalcy for all of the youth in our programs.

### **Leadership**

Our association aims to support the youth of today in becoming the leaders of tomorrow. Every year we are able to work closely with a small number of teens in a leadership program that aims to give teens an opportunity to give back to their community, a first job experience, and a way for youth to develop skills. This year 8 youth took on the role of assistants in our various programs. Additionally, the grade 5 and 6 children also began various volunteer initiatives in our centre.

### **Teen tutoring**

In the winter months of 2018 we were able to continue to offer two evenings a week where teenagers from local high schools could come and work with Loyola Centre staff to receive tutoring services, financed by the comité aide aux devoirs.

In the fall this committee began elaborating a new project whereby five community centres (Westhaven centre, Walkley Centre, Loyola Centre, St Raymonds Centre and the YMCA) would together hire a coordinator for this program who would recruit and oversee volunteers to offer tutoring services in the five location. We aim to begin welcoming teens into this revised program in fall 2019.

### **Objectives for 2019:**

- Continue to offer a variety of sport, recreation, cultural and educational programs for the youth of NDG.
- Promote our programming within the community and to our targeted clientele, including new immigrants, those facing financial hardships and families living in close proximity to the Loyola Centre.

- Ensure access to quality, affordable programming for all youth in our sector and provide financial aid to those who would otherwise be unable to participate.
- Improve sport and recreation programming so that it better meets the needs of girls. Assess our own practices and bring them inline with the best practices outlined by organizations such as Equilibre and FilleActive in order to promote participation in sports among girls.
- Continue to work to find solutions for our infrastructure needs, both immediate and long-term.
- Work to recruit new board members and strengthen the structure and functioning of the board of directors.
- Encourage our community to advocate for themselves and provide them the tools they need to do so effectively and confidently.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

2018 saw a substantial decrease in our funding, with an operating budget of 161 267\$, down from \$178 385 in 2017. This decrease was due to non-recurrent project-specific funding from 2017 that could not be renewed in 2018.

This year, 52.6% of our funding came from the three levels of government: 39.6% from municipal, 1.7% from provincial and 11.2% from federal. Registration fees accounted for 7.4%. 24.5% was contributed by the Commission scolaire de Montréal, and the remaining 15.5% was contributed by foundations and projects with our local network of community partners (ex. Comité aide aux devoirs and funding for Ca bouge dans mon parc).

Thanks to our equal access policy, 2,270\$ in subsidies were given to families struggling to pay the registration fees for our programs, and their children were able to participate in activities for free. This was an increase from 1,435\$ in the previous year.

Of course, a decrease in funding had an impact and we had no choice but to adjust our programming:

- In order to cover the cost, we were no longer able to offer Un repas en famille free of charge. As a result, we saw registration drop and the program was cancelled.
- 4-6 year old basketball was cancelled
- In order to decrease our payroll expenses, we had to cancel programming on Sundays.
- On a more positive note, we were able to partner with The Depot to get free snacks for our after school programming.

Knowing that we had a smaller budget this year, we were very vigilant with our spending and we were able to end the year with a small surplus of 1.8%.

In 2019 our operating budget will increase. We are pleased to announce that some new funding has been confirmed for this year.

- The borough of CDN-NDG will be increasing our funding
- Réseau Réussite Montréal will be contributing to funding the teen summer camp
- Two grants for new projects have been approved for 2019 through the City of Montreal's *Politique de l'enfant* and *Département de la Culture*
- We have received new grants from Programme Montréal Interculturel and the Fondation du Grand Montréal

**While we are very happy with these new developments, the association remains concerned that the majority of this funding is project specific and some of it is non-renewable. To be able to ensure the viability of our already existing services we need to find base/mission funding.**

### **Our partners**

#### **Ville de Montréal**

The City of Montreal continues to be our most important partner and provides us with financial support and use of facilities. From the DSLCDS we receive funding, access to infrastructure and the support and expertise of our animator, Kenny Whittaker and agente de développement, Amelie Franck. There have been many changes this year, and we are very thankful to Kenny and Amelie who have advocated for us, ensured that the changes have the fewest repercussions for the children and families participating the our programs.

#### **Commission scolaire de Montréal**

The Commission Scolaire de Montréal continues to work with us to develop and offer services to students in our community. Again this year we were able to work in close collaboration with Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne and Marc-Favreau schools for the afterschool program and École Secondaire Saint-Luc for the summer camp. Our partnership with the school principals, teachers and social workers in the schools is of great importance to plan interventions in tandem, and to plan for the future of all in the community.

#### **English Montreal School Board**

We have now been running programs at an EMSB school for the last four years, and we are very thankful to the teachers, the principal and the janitor of Focus-Outreach school for their ongoing collaboration.

#### **St-Viateur Bagel**

This year St-Viateur Bagel generously donated bagels to our camp, Ca Bouge Dans Mon Parc and the after school program. The bakery delivered bagels weekly for the children.

#### **Federal government**

We have benefited for many years from the **Service Canada** summer employment program for full-time students. This year the program allowed us to hire students as counsellors for our summer camp and Ca Bouge Dans Mon Parc.

### **Generation Foundation**

The Foundation continues to generously offer us snacks for our various programs once a month. The afterschool program particularly benefits from this donation.

### **Gazette Christmas Fund**

The Gazette Christmas Fund looks to local partners to find families who are in need of financial help over the holiday period. We are honoured to be a local partner for this important project. This year, 11 families were able to benefit from the support of The Gazette.

### **Caisse populaire Desjardins**

Through the Aide aux devoirs committee, funding from the Caisse populaire Desjardins was received to help with the purchase of pedagogical supplies for the afterschool program to help the children with their school work. The Caisse populaire Desjardins was also very generous and contributed financially to the summer camp.

The Provincial government's program **Soutien Action Bénévole** supported volunteers in developing special initiatives for the children at the centre. We also received support for summer camp from Kathleen Weil's discretionary fund.

### **Fondation BonDépart**

In 2018 Canadian Tire's JumpStart Foundation funded our dance program. This foundation aims to make sports activities accessible to low-income children. Thanks to their support we were able to offer free dance programs to over 50 teenagers.

### **Fondation des Canadiens pour l'enfance**

This year the dance program also benefited from the support of the Montreal Canadiens' Children's foundation. This foundation allowed us to develop a choreography component to the teen dance program, which encouraged the youth to use dance as a medium to tell their stories and communicate their emotions. The youth learned to choreograph and perform solos and duos through these workshops.

### **Fondation Réno Jouets**

For the Christmas holidays we received a donation of toys from the Réno Dépot foundation. This donation allowed us to ensure that all parents were able to give a gift to their children during the holidays.

In 2018 we partnered with the **NDG Depot** and we received snacks for the afterschool program, summer camp and Ca bouge dans mon parc. This initiative was made possible due to the City of Montreal's program Politique de l'Enfant: Naître, Grandir, s'épanouir à Montréal

Every year a good amount of time is spent sitting on numerous committees and developing partnerships with other community groups. Working with these various committees allows us to get a full understanding of challenges facing our community, exchange and network with partners groups and develop strategies and programs together. Our centre is represented on the following committees:

**Table Jeunesse** A committee for youth organizations in NDG to exchange on issues and work together to find solutions. Highlights of the Table Jeunesse's work has included hiring an outreach worker and the Jeunes Leaders program. Loyola has sat on the Table Jeunesse's coordinating committee since 2013.

**Comité aide aux devoirs** This committee works with organizations providing homework support for youth in the community. This year, the committee spent much time talking about issues experienced in each of the community centres and it became a place for dialogue and problem solving between coordinators.

**Communauté de suivi** This is the second year that the SPVM has invited community groups to work in partnership with the police to discuss concerns and strategies for our neighbourhood.

**Démarche de revitalisation Fielding-Walkley** Loyola has participated in this committee which focuses on the improvement of the "Fielding-Walkley sector" with local community organizations, the municipal services, and health and educational institutions. In 2018 this committee was inactive, however we continued to work with the community organiser and mobiliser from this project. In 2019 this committee will be restructured as one of four neighbourhood committees, each one representing one of the four vulnerable sectors of NDG.

**Comité de Quartier CSDM** Directors from CSDM elementary and high schools, parent-representatives, community partners and representatives from the school board meet many times a year to collaborate on projects benefiting CSDM students. The French day camp for children and teenagers is an initiative of this committee. Many discussions are about the overpopulation of our neighbourhood schools and developing programs to answer to the needs of the school-aged youth.

**Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne governing board** In fall 2014 we were invited to sit as the community representative on Sainte-Catherine-de-Sienne's governing board. Participating in this committee allows for better flow of information with the school.

**Table des coordonnateurs des camps de jour** Every summer staff from various community groups work together to discuss challenges in our camps, and organise activities for the children of the borough. This summer many discussions were about children in the camps with special needs, and what additional services were needed to integrate these children and ensure that they have a positive and safe summer experience.