



2021 IN REVIEW

ROOTED IN FAITHFULNESS



CHRISTIAN DIRECTION



As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:6-7

2021 was a year of constant change, making it difficult to plan and work strategically. We know we were not alone in this. We have watched as governments, hospitals, and schools struggle with the same challenges. Churches have not been able to meet as they need. We have all been strained by the unpredictability of our circumstances.

Like other organisations, we've seen the impact this has had on our personnel, evidenced in greater burnout and discouragement. We've tried to give additional space for self-care, rest, and recovery during this time.

Sometime during the summer, I began thinking of the *inukshuk*, the stone landmark familiar to us from the indigenous community. Sometimes made in the shape of a person, the inukshuk provides direction and sometimes marks a cache of food or supplies. It is a symbol of communication and cooperation between people. During these times we all need the cooperation and help of others.

In September 2021, our team celebrated two associates for their long service at Christian Direction, Luc Lambert (35 years) and Jacynthe Vaillancourt (15 years). For Luc, we purchased a small Inuit carving of an inukshuk. For years he has been building tools and resources that the rest of us depend on! The faithfulness of our staff over the last two years has been truly remarkable and inspiring.

Responding to uncertainty with faithfulness

Our faithfulness is first rooted in Christ as God's act of faithfulness towards us. This grounds us in our identity and calling, and it helps us respond to changing circumstances and challenges.

In these challenging times we remind ourselves of the basic elements of our identity and calling. We draw confidence from:

OUR CREED. This is the fundamental particularity of Christian Direction—we are followers of Jesus and Jesus's way!

OUR CALLING. Our work flows from a sincere belief that God is at work and has called us to this work of reconciling brokenness and making things whole.

OUR COMMUNITY OF MISSION. Christian Direction is more than a ministry, it is more than a community development agency. We are a *community of mission*. This is our essential 'nature'.

OUR CULTURE. We work to sustain a healthy culture of interdependence. We turn towards one another rather than against one another in times of need.

OUR COMPETENCIES. Overtime we have learned skills for the work we are called to do—*Cultivating the whole mission of God*. Specifically our competencies are:

- Engaging leaders with a shared commitment to our city,
- Strengthening the capacity of urban practitioners, and
- Developing joint initiatives for change.

The road ahead of us in 2022 will have new challenges. We will be moving to new administrative offices in the spring. Ministries will continue to adapt to new challenges. We will add new staff and develop new financial support for our work.

But we can face all of these with confidence because we are rooted in Christ who invites us to abide in him, being faithful to our identity, calling, and character.

Thank you for *your* faithfulness to this great community of Christian Direction!

TIM KEENER , EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

In December, we had the opportunity to call several donors to thank them for their support. We heard wonderful stories of engaged and committed partners. Stewardship and accountability are important to us! Here is a recap of our financial position for last year.

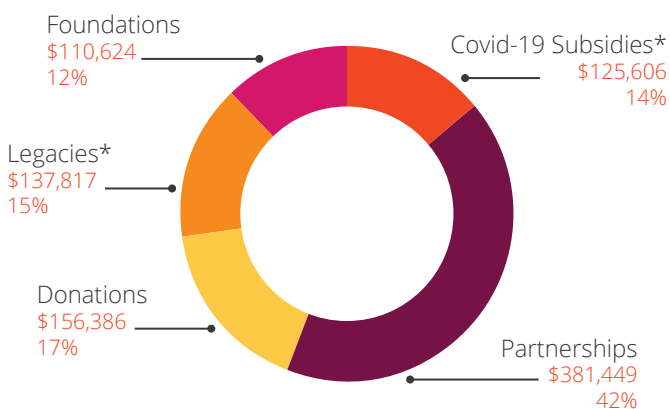
JANUARY 2021 - AUGUST 2021

Revenue	\$911,882
Expenses	\$737,660
Net worth	\$174,222
Total capital	\$291,678

SOURCES

Donors	454
Churches/ Orgs	39
Foundations and Grants	24

REVENUE



*Total Federal COVID-19 Subsidies (salary and rental subsidies) were \$125,606

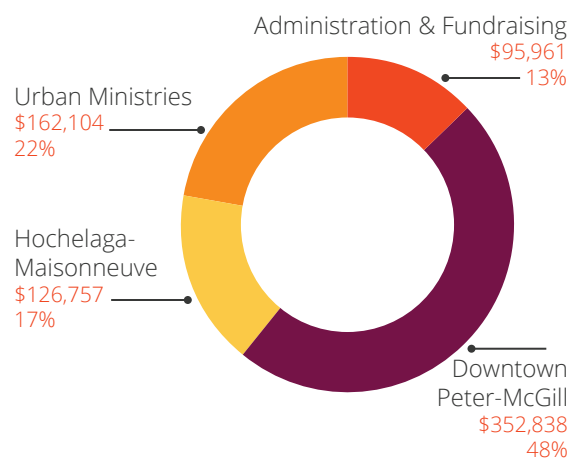
*A major legacy was received in 2021 of \$123,778.

We changed our fiscal year as of August 31st. Our 2021 fiscal year covers only January to August 2021. Like 2020, we qualified and received federal COVID-19 subsidies for salary and rent. This allowed us to end with a net gain for the second year in a row, and raised our overall capital, something largely unseen in our past. In addition, we received a large legacy gift in 2021 that is being put into savings.

This has given us some needed stability as we continue to plan for the future. Our revenues have shifted over time towards increased revenue through public sources. This has been a blessing, but we recognize the need to innovate our fundraising methods to reach and inspire new donors to partner in our work.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS AND SACRIFICIAL GIVING, AND FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR WISDOM IN STEWARDING ALL OUR RESOURCES FOR GOD'S MISSION OF RECONCILIATION!

EXPENSES



Luc Lambert celebrated 35 years serving Christian Direction in 2021. He and his wife Jeannine have played critical roles in the ministry's administrative operations.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM TO KEEP UP WITH OUR MINISTRY UPDATES!



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2021 IN REVIEW

STORIES OF FAITHFULNESS

ENTR'ADOS IN HOCHELAGA-MAISONNEUVE

HIGHLIGHT IN 2021: The opening of our rooftop garden at the Carrefour Parenfants.

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, and the departure of our coordinator on parental leave, 2021 was an excellent year for Entr'Ados in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve. Four days each week during the school year Entr'Ados provides homework help, training in cooking, financial capacities, and other success-building skills. In 2021 the program was supported by a coordinator, a social animator, a cultural animator, and garden assistants. Some of this team came from a new local church plant in the neighbourhood.

Entr'Ados is especially proud that they extended their gardening season this year from early spring to late autumn. They achieved this goal by growing their own seedlings in the spring and finishing their season by canning produce in the fall. The installation of a rooftop garden at the Carrefour Parenfants was a huge success.

► **The faithful team of Entr'Ados truly demonstrates good news to a growing community of youth and volunteers!**

INNOVATION YOUTH

Innovation Youth is a multi-faceted community development initiative in the downtown borough of Peter-McGill. Its mission is to offer a community space for youth and families living in or frequently visiting downtown. Housed in the lower level of Evangel Pentecostal Church, Innovation Youth offers: a high school diploma program, a children's library, urban agriculture initiatives, and food autonomy programs.

CONNECTIONS

HIGHLIGHT IN 2021: The resiliency of the students as they adapted to various limitations as a community.

This year 14 students, from 17-25 years old, participated in

our Connections program receiving tutoring, mentoring, and skills training. One of our most enjoyable projects was an art exhibition that challenged students to highlight various issues of our city through photography. In 2021, we also celebrated one of our graduating students as he achieved his personal goals of gaining a paying job and enrolling in a post-secondary art program tailored for his special needs.

Spiritual follow-up was more personalised this year. We did not facilitate an Alpha course, but invested individually in the spiritual care of each student according to their interest. We were grateful for four new volunteers and one new employee in 2021!



URBAN AGRICULTURE

HIGHLIGHT IN 2021: Doing community consultations with neighbours and learning about food justice.

Our urban gardening program, From the Root to the City, continues to grow. In fact, it has grown so much that we decided to do a thorough evaluation of the program this year and reshape the role of a citywide coordinator. We have developed over 10,000 square feet of urban gardens and employed over 40 youth since the beginning of this initiative!

In 2021, six interns were mentored by an environmental educator in gardening techniques and garden design, as well as community leadership. Urban gardening is central to our spirituality and practice, **it is about the renewal and redemption of individuals, neighbourhoods, and the creation we share and care for.**



CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

HIGHLIGHT IN 2021: The smiles and enthusiasm of participants at our six week mini-camp.

30 families from the Peter-McGill neighbourhood came to participate in our six-week mini-camp for French learning, socialisation, and gardening (in our urban gardens). Three staff and two volunteers worked to provide family bundles for families in the neighbourhood, diapers for babies, and books and resources for families with older children.

We too dealt with various restrictions and closures, but were able to continue weekly toddler gym, arts and crafts time, and even a paint night!

► **The children's library has become a vital hub for families in the neighbourhood, and it especially aids in the social inclusion of newcomers to Canada.**

THE URBAN LAB

MILESTONE FOR 2021: A previous participant helped lead new cohorts.

Our Urban lab saw two cohorts this year with a total of 16 participants. Participants were new staff or summer employees, and we even hosted participants from other local ministries, including *J'Aime Ma Ville*. Each week, for eight weeks, participants build a "theological framework for our practice in mission." It is a formative experience for young adults in their life and vocation. This year, a graduate from last year even helped lead one of our cohorts!



YOU(TH) CHURCH

MILESTONE FOR 2021: A new summer Internship for area youth groups.

Each month, youth gather to put their faith into practice by gathering together for You(th) Church. This network of downtown youth groups alternates between worship evenings, and service evenings, where they follow in the way of Jesus, caring for the needs of the most vulnerable. They have learned

about indigenous peoples in our city, and they have prepared and delivered food to organisations serving the unhoused.

This summer, four youth groups participated in our first youth internship, providing a week of missional formation that took them from the farm to the foodbank. They learned firsthand about community development and practised in prayer walks around the city. One of the most positive outcomes in 2021 was the encouragement and support this network brought to the youth leaders in our local churches.



RAPHA INITIATIVE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In early 2021, we launched the Christian Quebecois Initiative to Address Domestic Abuse. The project was born out of the heart of a local Christian woman concerned with the increase in frequency and severity of domestic violence being reported during the COVID-19 pandemic. A vision quickly grew—gather the narrative of Christian women and their experiences of domestic abuse, and better equip the church to support survivors in their journey of healing.

With some initial funding we were able to hire a project coordinator in 2021 and launch a consultative committee of Christian professionals in various fields to help inform our work. We are now working on a survey and developing an ambassador team to obtain the number of survey responses needed to develop an accurate portrait of our reality in Quebec.

STEWARDED RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS TRADITIONS

Churches have been experiencing the difficult realities of social distancing and pandemic-restrictions. This gives us even more cause to rejoice in our inter-church networks across the city and in the wonderful work that engaged Christians are doing in a spirit of deep unity.

Les Artisans de paix is such a network of dedicated Christian leaders in the Hochelaga-Maisonneuve neighbourhood. In the spring of 2021, these *Artisans of Peace* prayed at several green spaces (churchyards, community gardens) in Hochelaga and planted annuals and bushes at each spot. In December, during Advent, they held an outdoor carolling walk which ended at a prayer station with a nativity scene and an indoor worship service was held. They called this event the "Walk of Light", and indeed, while the world was dark and shutting down due to

the new Omicron variant, this carol service really felt like an ember of light!

The West Island Network continues to be a source of joy and strength for the West Island. The members steward relationships across church traditions and hold each other in prayer, celebrating differences rather than giving into a spirit of polarisation.

Pastors Prayer lunches were held twice a month (virtually) and Christian Direction facilitated two youth internships in local churches. The Big Give was scaled down this year due to the pandemic and the lack of a WIN coordinator for much of the year. We have since staffed the position and revised a plan of action for 2022.