



2022-2023 IN REVIEW

# GROWING IN DOING GOOD



CHRISTIAN DIRECTION



## COME GROW WITH US

Do you remember people remarking how much you had grown when you were a child? Maybe you carefully marked your height over your head on a door frame? It's exciting to grow up, but it's also exciting to grow deeper in our knowledge and deeper in our faith.

I've now been at Christian Direction for four years, and I've had the great privilege to see our organisation grow. I've seen our team grow, our board and corporation grow, and our impact for doing good grow. I want to put a new mark on our door frame!

Each year, our team chooses a theme to focus on. This year we focused on growing. During monthly staff meetings we considered our: vocational, organisational, spiritual, and emotional growth. We capped this theme off in October with a day retreat at an Ignatian retreat centre where we talked about resiliency.

At the end of this year, we invite you to look back with us with gratitude, and to look forward with us in hope and faith. Come grow with us!

**TIM KEENER**

Executive director





## GROWING IN DOING GOOD

### WHO WE ARE

We are a community of urban practitioners with over 50 years experience partnering with local congregations and social service agencies for the social and spiritual transformation of youth, families and their communities in Quebec.

### OUR GOD-SIZED HOPE

To see God transform urban communities by the concerted actions of committed Christians. We want to help Christians put their faith into action!

## HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### **ENGAGING LEADERS**

We engage leaders from local churches and community organisations who share a common commitment to the well-being of our city and its communities.

### **BUILDING CAPACITIES**

We strengthen the capacities of urban practitioners who desire to integrate their spiritual life into a lived theology that puts their faith into practice.

### **DEVELOPING INITIATIVES**

We foster the development of creative initiatives that result in sustainable change for the wellbeing of neighbourhoods and their residents.

## GROWING IN DOING GOOD

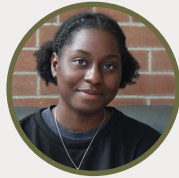
Jesus not only told us to love our neighbour as ourselves (Mark 13:31), he told us to 'Love one another, *as I have loved you*' (John 13:34). This takes our love to a whole other level! At Christian Direction, we want to invite, equip, and mobilise Christians to care for the needs of others in the care and compassion of Christ.

Here are some ways we did this over the last year:

1. Nine participants completed our Connections program for learners with individualised needs.
2. 19 families joined our Children's Library community which facilitated over 20 workshops offered to families from diverse backgrounds.
3. Innovation Assistance served 194 members and distributed an average of 1,400 lbs of food per market.
4. 23 secondary students participated in Entr'Ados for after-school tutoring or the financial capability program.
5. We received and compiled over 500 responses to our Rapha survey concerning domestic violence and the church.
6. We launched the Port to the North initiative convening church leaders, youth, and Christians around needs in the eastern part of our city.
7. We employed 10 summer employees to work in community gardens, our children's library, animating summer programs, and doing community-based research.
8. We ran three Urban Lab cohorts training dozens of young adult Christians in urban missions.
9. Over 20 church lay leaders participated in our online Faith & Work cohort.
10. The West Island Network convened churches for pastors' prayer meetings, community Forge events, and launched a new neighbourhood study.



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Bastien



Rebecca  
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Mai  
Ito



Kai  
Tissari

# INNOVATION YOUTH

*Creating space for children, youth and families to flourish in Peter-McGill*

What began as a small arts-based after-school program in the Peter-McGill neighbourhood 17 years ago has blossomed into a community hub offering: a children's library, a program for youth with individualised learning needs, an urban agriculture program, and a food security program. The vision of Innovation Youth has always been to play an integral role in the community, fostering a sense of solidarity with neighbours, community organisations, and local churches. Innovation Youth continues to be a vital learning lab for social outreach and community development.

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## CONNECTIONS

This year, the Connections program excelled in its mission of fostering the independence and confidence of young adults, while also connecting them with the tools and resources necessary for their personal growth and success. The program included over 250 hours of academic sessions, 60 hours of volunteering, along with 50 facilitated workshops. Consequently, participants experienced significant growth in academics, social skills, personal development, and vocational readiness. Nine participants successfully completed the program, embarking on their next steps with newfound confidence and a clear sense of purpose.

## CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

The children's library welcomed new part-time team members, including a parent who helped us run our first "diversity week," a week of celebrating the ethnocultural diversity in the Peter-McGill neighbourhood. We also created a new program to motivate children 4-12 years old to read more books. Another new initiative was our summer music camp, which helped introduce new families to the library. In all, 19 new families joined our library community and we had the joy of facilitating over 20 workshops for children 1-12 years old.

## **INNOVATION ASSISTANCE**

This year, Innovation Assistance grew into its role as a destination for good food and community in Peter-McGill. We continued running bimonthly solidarity and seniors markets, serving local, accessible and affordable food to just over 250 households. Out of our 250 members, 30 of them are also regular volunteers! We also formed new partnerships with the neighbourhood by collaborating with programs innovating new ways of using leftover produce and reducing food waste.

## **URBAN AGRICULTURE**

“From the Root to the City” seeks to share good news, by growing gardens, cultivating education, and developing community bonding. We tended seven urban gardens and employed 11 staff and intern gardeners. We contributed over 50 kgs of flowers, herbs, and vegetables to Innovation Assistance and we facilitated 13 workshops on: agricultural systems, soil health, pollinators, indigenous perspectives on our relationship with land. We partnered with several community organisations including Summit School, the Montreal Native Women’s Shelter, and Éco-Quartier (Ville de Montréal).



*"I love that our gardens are nestled in the heart of the city. When I'm there, I can observe neighbourhood life buzzing all around."*

*– Katya, environmental educator*

## FROM THE PORT TO THE NORTH

*Mobilising a diverse and intergenerational church from the Port to the North of Montreal*

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*"I have often thought the church is lacking, when in actuality the church is rich in resources, but its wealth is simply not adequately distributed."*

– A participant of one Urban Lab cohort in Saint-Michel

Last summer, our leadership discussed our past successes in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, emerging challenges, and signs of the Spirit moving in the neighbourhoods of Montréal-Nord. We prayed and decided to prioritise our energies on projects that engaged: local francophone Christians, in multi-ethnic neighbourhoods, from the Port to the North of our city (east of downtown). We met with Christians concerned with intergenerational poverty, immigration, homelessness, and systemic violence, and who wanted to make a difference through Christ-centred action.

Our work of over 15 years in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, particularly the Entr'Ados program, has given us valuable experience in neighbourhood transformation. 23 youth participated in Entr'Ados in 2022-2023, of which 15 participated in our financial capability program. Youth who had never done gardening before joined the Gang du Jardin, growing, harvesting, and selling their products to their community. Over 20 volunteers and interns participated in tutoring, cooking workshops, and activities focusing on health, diversity, inclusion and more.

Building on our past and moved by the enthusiasm of local Christians, like those at the *Église Évangélique Haitienne de l'Alliance Chrétienne et Missionnaire*, and the church, *Mission Chrétienne Intergénérationnelle*, we hired a part-time coordinator as a catalyst for our work. We hosted two Urban Labs training 20 young adults and church leaders in urban mission. We also provided a Faith & Work study for over 20 church lay leaders. This fall we are hosting a youth panel on homelessness and we will complete a neighbourhood exegesis for the Saint-Michel neighbourhood.



2023-2024 BUDGET – \$157,000

# URBAN MINISTRIES

*Strengthening the capacities of Christians  
and churches to live out their faith*

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## **RAPHA**

*Providing a holy interruption to domestic violence in the church*

A wide reaching conversation about domestic violence is happening in the Church. This is a direct result of Rapha, a project that began in 2021 to help Christians listen to and respond better to those impacted by domestic violence. We are already seeing the impact of this work, especially survivors who are finding victory and hope by sharing their stories to help and empower others.

This year we received over 500 responses to our survey sent out in five languages. We also completed 13 qualitative interviews with survivors and documented hundreds of pages of testimonials. We are now compiling a full report regarding the survey and the interviews. A thorough list of social, theological and pastoral resources has also been made available in French, English, and Spanish. We are deeply grateful for the hundreds of hours given by counsellors, social workers, researchers, and professionals from women's shelters.

## **YOUTH CHURCH**

*Pulling youth together for worship and service in the city*

One of the most important moments at Youth Church this year was an evening dedicated to finding God at work even among the challenges of living in the city. Youth shared their own experiences with violence, racism and homelessness. What is most unique about Youth Church is its focus on service. Youth have consistently told us that serving with others from different denominational backgrounds is why they come to Youth Church. This year's service evenings included collecting hats and gloves for the homeless, preparing chilli and muffins for local shelters, and a bake sale for a local women's shelter. Youth were engaged at every stage of the planning and organising; this is what makes Youth Church unique!



## URBAN LAB

*A learning lab for urban ministry*

The Urban Lab helps participants reframe the world in light of the Gospel, empowering them in their spiritual and practical formation. Sessions include rich Scripture studies, workshops, spiritual practices and... food and fun! The formation is an opportunity for young leaders to share about their different ministries and to encourage each other in the realities of urban mission in a secular context. 10 summer employees participated in our summer Urban Lab and we added two additional cohorts offered at two local churches. 30 participants completed the lab in all.

## WEST ISLAND NETWORK

*Churches collaborating for the common good*

The West Island Network is a network of churches collaborating for the good of the communities in the West Island. Several pastors meet bi-weekly for support and prayer, always asking how they can love their neighbours as the Body of Christ. Each summer, churches collaborate for the Big Give, collecting food for local food banks, hosting barbecues, providing bike repairs, and car washes. Volunteers also came together to paint the *La Corde* youth centre this summer and a new community exegesis was launched to study needs and opportunities in the Cloverdale neighbourhood.

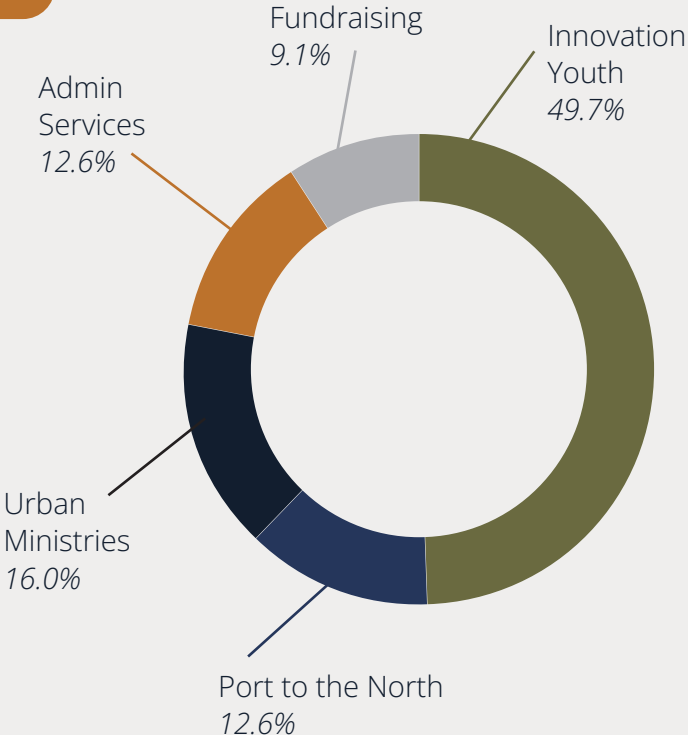




# FINANCIAL OUTLOOK, GOING FURTHER IN MINISTRY

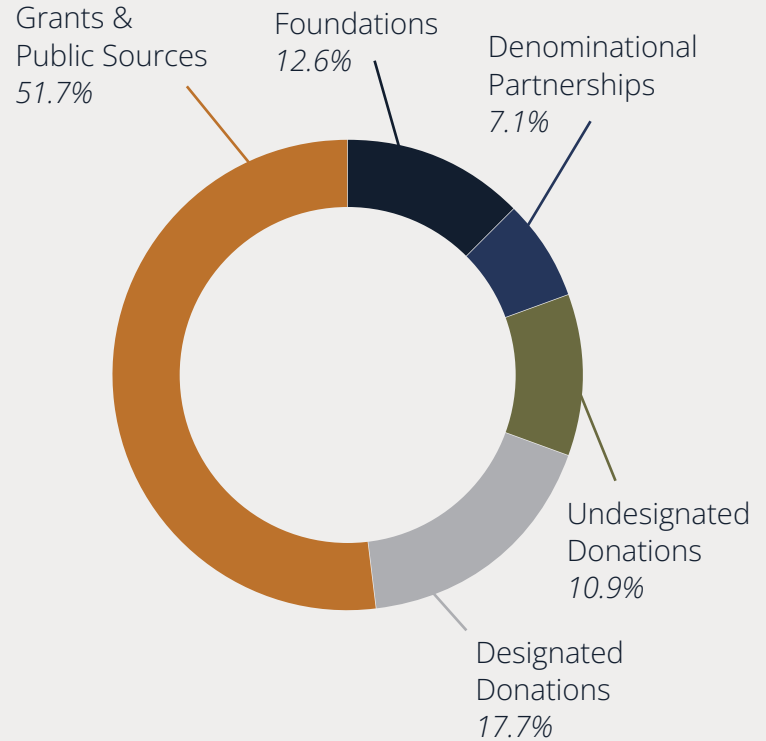
## BUDGETED MINISTRY 2023-2024

INNOVATION YOUTH	\$488,500
PORT TO THE NORTH	\$124,000
URBAN MINISTRIES	\$157,000
ADMIN SERVICES	\$124,000
FUNDRAISING	\$89,750
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$983,250</b>



## PROJECTED REVENUES FOR 2023-2024

FOUNDATIONS	\$124,000
DENOMINATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS	\$70,000
UNDESIGNATED DONATIONS	\$108,000
DESIGNATED DONATIONS	\$175,000
GRANTS & PUBLIC SOURCES	\$510,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$987,000</b>



## **CANADIAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Our entire Christian Direction team wishes to thank our valued Board and Corporation members and many financial partners. Thank you for making our work possible!

## **FINANCIAL PARTNERS**

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