



Centraide
of Greater Montreal

**WITHOUT THE
BURDEN OF POVERTY
AND EXCLUSION,
WE CAN ALL RISE UP.**



Report to Our Community
2022-2023

March 31, 2023

Let's all lend a hand

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Over 350 community agencies in our neighbourhoods work tirelessly every day to help thousands of people, which benefits our entire community. Their efforts give life to an ever-growing solidarity that unites companies, workplaces, foundations and individual donors. Thanks to all of these allies as well as to our institutional, social and community partners, our employees, and our volunteers, we can make social innovations and make a difference for our most vulnerable fellow citizens.

Despite an uncertain economic climate, this year we collected more donations than ever. The rising cost of living is putting a strain even on the financially stable, and we can easily imagine how people living in poverty feel in this situation. We are very grateful for our donors' support and generosity.

While we are very skilled at bringing people together to raise funds for a good cause, our greatest strength is knowing where and how to invest this generosity to make the biggest possible impact on the agencies we support and the people we help.

When we started our 2022-2023 campaign, we understood the true scope of the challenges before us: the housing crisis, greater food insecurity than before the pandemic, an unprecedented surge in asylum seekers, young people reeling from the health crisis, and families hit by the worst inflation in 40 years.

Through our different budget envelopes, which include our regular investments, our emergency funds (i.e. for food security and asylum seekers), the Youth Success Project, the Collective Impact Project and DATAide, we have invested \$61.8 million in the community in four areas of action:

- For young people's present and future success
- For decent living conditions
- For inclusive communities
- For a strong and cohesive social fabric.

These areas of action, as well as the people targeted by our investments, were specified in our very first [theory of change \(TOC\)](#), an exercise that also let us reaffirm our mission and reflect on our desired impact in the community



and the strategic mechanisms that we need to achieve these impacts. The TOC starts a new chapter that will let us come together even more and take action to create an inclusive Greater Montreal that is free from poverty.

This year, we contributed to:

- Helping children better socialize
- Encouraging teens to go back to school
- Providing food security for struggling families
- Supporting tenants with housing problems
- Welcoming and supporting asylum seekers
- Helping excluded and marginalized people regain their dignity
- Supporting agencies in building skills
- Creating ties between agencies, neighbourhoods and, above all, people.

We have successfully done all of this and more, as you'll discover in this Report to Our Community.

Please enjoy reading about everything we've accomplished together.

Caroline Bougie

Chair of the Board of Directors
Centraide of Greater Montreal

Claude Pinard

President and Executive Director
Centraide of Greater Montreal

HIGHLIGHTS

Centraide had a record-breaking campaign

Donors were more supportive and generous than ever

\$65.3M*

raised

- 98,000 donors
- 800 Major Donors of \$10,000 or more
- 600 partner companies and organizations

*Projected campaign result (February 2023)

2022 Co-Chairs



Paul Desmarais III,
Chairman and Chief
Executive Officer
of Sagard



Laurent Ferreira,
President and Chief
Executive Officer
of National Bank

The campaign was a clear success despite the inflation that has reached levels not seen in decades.

Emergency food security assistance

Emergency assistance of **\$1.7 million** granted to 36 agencies to ease pressure on vulnerable people due to the soaring cost of groceries.



Michèle Thibodeau-Deguire Award



Karen Macdonald, Station Manager and News Director at Global Montreal, received the **Michèle Thibodeau-Deguire Award** in recognition of her unwavering volunteer commitment to Centraide.

Speaking Truths on Housing

Centraide is coordinating the Speaking Truths series that aim to get stakeholders talking about poverty issues. The goal of this first event: Help Greater Montreal overcome the housing crisis.

Vital Signs on Housing

Centraide partnered with the **Foundation of Greater Montreal** and the **Institut du Québec** to document the housing situation, a key factor in the fight against poverty.

Collaboration with *La Presse*

Fifteen opinion letters on poverty issues written by our President and Executive Director, Claude Pinard, appeared in **La Presse**.

Emergency assistance for asylum seekers

The **Government of Quebec** released emergency aid of

\$3M

to face the unprecedented surge of asylum seekers. The fund is managed by Centraide of Greater Montreal.

Financial anxiety index

Centraide partnered with **Leger** to create the first-ever financial anxiety index to identify Quebecers' concerns about their financial situation and track changes in these concerns over time.



SOLIDAIRES 2023

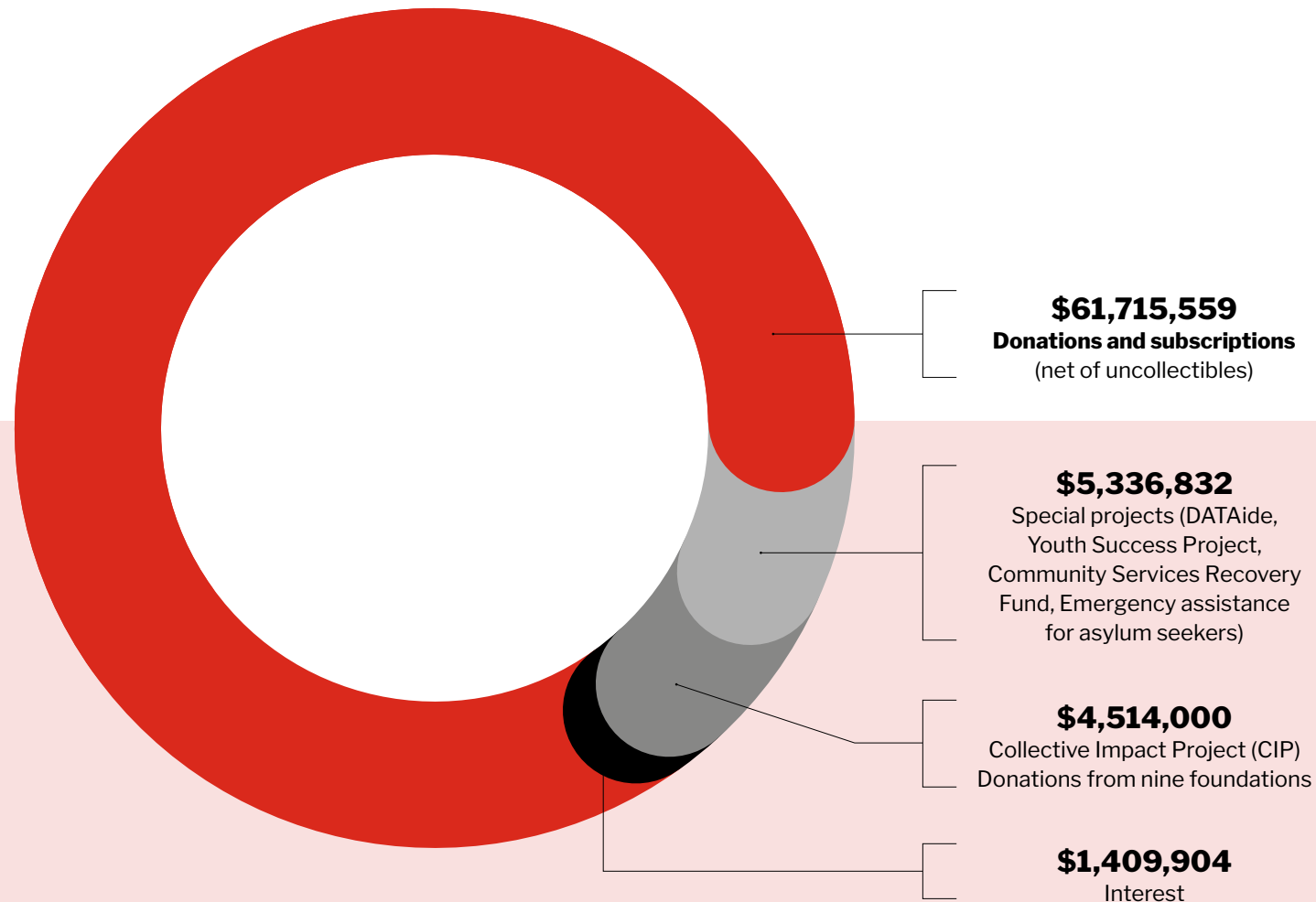
Solidaire Awards

In a fantastic return to in-person events, 25 Solidaires were awarded to companies, agencies and individuals who are Centraide partners and who showed outstanding philanthropic and community action over the past year.

AMOUNT RAISED

\$72,976,295

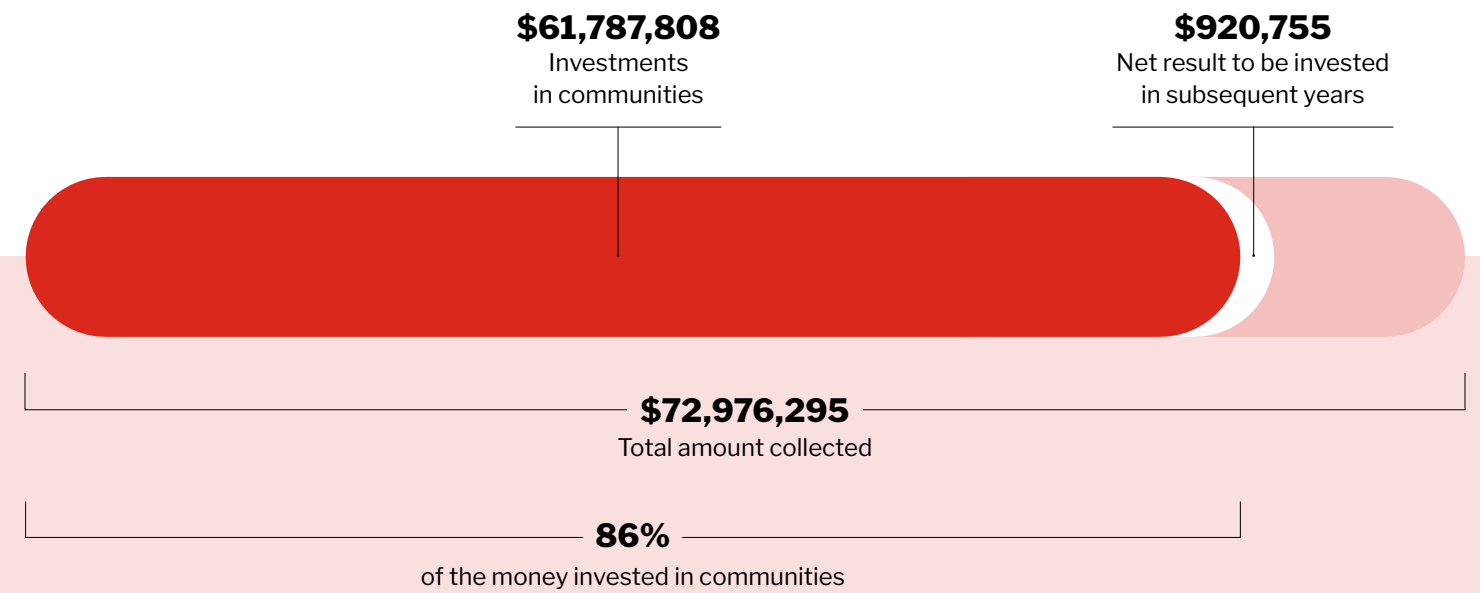
Including the Collective Impact Project (CIP), our special projects, and funds raised for the other Centraides in Quebec.



AMOUNT INVESTED

86%

of the money raised is invested



INVESTING IN AND SUPPORTING A NETWORK OF 350 COMMUNITY AGENCIES AND PROJECTS

Four priority areas of action



For young people's present and future success

\$17.3M

invested

28%

of the overall investment

177

agencies and projects supported



For decent living conditions

\$13.0M

invested

21%

of the overall investment

136

agencies and projects supported



For inclusive communities

\$18.5M

invested

30%

of the overall investment

209

agencies and projects supported



For a strong and cohesive social fabric

\$13.0M

invested

21%

of the overall investment

163

agencies and projects supported

EASING THE EFFECTS OF INFLATION

Emergency food security assistance

In 2022-2023, Quebecers faced the largest inflation spike in 40 years.

In 2022, inflation reached 6.7%.

The cost of food increased by 11% and this upward trend has only continued.

Food insecurity has hung over the heads of more and more Quebecers, whose food budgets are “squeezed” by other expenses such as rent.

On the Island of Montreal, food insecurity affects one in four people—the highest rate in Quebec.



Caf t ria
communautaire
MultiCaf

Facts that speak volumes

- In 2022, Quebec food banks fulfilled 2.2 million requests for food assistance every month, an all-time record.
- These requests served 671,000 people every month. This is 10% more than in 2021 (610,000 people) and 34% more than before the pandemic in 2019 (500,000 people).

Centraide’s Social Development team is in constant contact with agencies in the field and has reported an alarming crisis.

Exploding grocery costs have put extraordinary strain on people in a situation of poverty and, by extension, on the agencies that provide food assistance.

To support them in this time of crisis, in early 2023 Centraide deployed emergency assistance of **\$1.7 million**. This additional investment was made possible thanks to the record amount raised through the annual campaign.

This emergency assistance was on top of the **\$7.1 million** that Centraide already allocates every year to over 100 agencies for food security actions in Greater Montreal.

Emergency assistance of \$1.7M

- A one-time investment to let 36 agencies:
- Purchase food and other necessities
 - Purchase or rent refrigeration equipment and materials
 - Transport and distribute food
 - Hire temporary staff to compensate for the lack of volunteers
 - Extend food aid to more people in the Greater Montreal area

Regular annual investments of \$7.1M

These investments in nearly one hundred community agencies target a variety of strategies, from food donations to longer-term, sustainable solutions to improve people's ability to eat healthy food at a lower cost, such as collective gardens, group purchases, community grocery stores, and collective kitchens.



Centraide's financial anxiety index



Measuring the anxiety of Quebecers so that we can be more agile to meet the needs of vulnerable people

Given our current climate of economic uncertainty, Centraide partnered with Leger on its new financial anxiety index to discover Quebecers' concerns about their financial situation and track changes in these concerns over time. The index is based on the results of online surveys conducted on the LEO platform. Quebecers' financial anxiety will be measured twice a year until 2025.

What did we find out from Centraide's first financial anxiety index report?

In November 2022, the index was **38.8** out of 100. These initial results show relatively mild financial anxiety for Quebec as a whole. However, **85%** of Quebecers are experiencing economic stress to different degrees. This situation is concerning for the **42%** of the population with moderate to extreme anxiety. More than one out of two young adults aged 18 to 34 is experiencing these levels of anxiety.

People at a greater risk of poverty are more affected by severe and extreme levels of anxiety:

- People with an annual family income of less than \$40,000
- Single parents
- Women
- People with a functional limitation
- Individuals without post-secondary education

For these individuals, simply covering essential expenses becomes an everyday problem. Some have to go into debt to cover their basic needs.

ACTING ON THE CAUSES INSTEAD OF THE IMPACTS OF POVERTY

Speaking Truths

This year, Centraide launched the Speaking Truths series to bring Greater Montreal stakeholders together to talk about key poverty issues. Guided by a concrete, innovative and collaborative approach, Speaking Truths will encourage everyone concerned by these issues to develop partnerships so that we can act on the causes of poverty and decrease its impacts.

We want everyone to do their part:

- Citizens
- Community agencies and roundtables
- Business sector
- Institutions
- All three levels of government



A first Speaking Truths to talk about housing

Access to adequate and affordable housing has emerged as a key issue in the fight against inequality and poverty. In fact, the housing crisis currently gripping Greater Montreal is exacerbating the vulnerability of more people and exerting a domino effect on other social issues such as child development, mental health, food security, domestic violence, and homelessness.

In spring 2022, Centraide of Greater Montreal created a working group to:

- 1 Identify housing issues and create a quantitative and qualitative profile of housing.
- 2 Identify studies, initiatives and opportunities that can provide solutions to the identified issues.
- 3 Determine how the Speaking Truths conversations can be a platform to make these potential solutions a reality (supports, experimentation, demonstrations).

Some initiatives related to the Speaking Truths on Housing



Together for Housing

On May 15, 2023, the Speaking Truths on Housing was capped off with a connecting event called Together for Housing, whose goal was to identify and accelerate measures to solve the housing crisis.



Vital Signs on Housing

On November 22, 2022, Centraide of Greater Montreal, the Foundation of Greater Montreal, and the Institut du Québec released an edition of the Vital Signs report that addressed the housing situation in Greater Montreal. This report is a key part of Centraide's mobilization efforts to help Greater Montreal overcome its current housing crisis.

What does the Vital Signs report reveal about housing in Montreal? ¹

- The groups most affected by the challenges of high housing costs are low-income people, renter households, single parents, people living alone, people from visible minority groups, and immigrants.
- In fact, 71% of low-income people in Greater Montreal live in housing they can't afford, i.e., housing that costs over 30% of their income.
- Housing expenses absorb over 80% of the budgets of 21% of low-income people on the Island of Montreal.
- The rental market is under great strain. Over the past five years, the average cost of housing in Greater Montreal has increased by 20%. (Source: CMHC)
- Larger two- and three-bedroom units for families are also particularly hard to come by. Their vacancy rate is 2.1%, which is well below the equilibrium rate of 3%. (The lower the vacancy rate, the fewer units available on the market.) (Source: CMHC)

KEY POINTS



In summer 2022, Centraide helped develop the “Housing” and “Urban Life” sections on [Curbcut](#), a geomatics initiative of McGill University that tracks changes in different social and environmental issues of Greater Montreal.



In February 2023, Claude Pinard, our President and Executive Director, was invited to the PhiLab Podcast to talk about the housing crisis and the role of philanthropy in addressing this issue.



1. Data from the 2016 Census; data from the 2021 census was not available at the time the Vital Signs report was produced.

INTERVENING IN A TIME OF CRISIS

Emergency assistance for asylum seekers

Faced with the unprecedented surge of asylum seekers in 2022 and the pressure on the community agencies that help them, the Quebec government released \$3 million in emergency assistance in February 2023, to which Centraide added \$333,000.

This was a much-needed boost for agencies and people in crisis. Last year, 51,340 asylum seekers entered Quebec at all entry points combined (air, land and sea), or twice as many than in 2019.

Centraide of Greater Montreal was entrusted with managing the fund and worked with the Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes (TCRI) to allocate the funds among 48 agencies.



Thanks to its agility and knowledge of the issues and agencies that work with newcomers, Centraide operationalized this emergency fund in under two weeks so that the money could quickly get to where it needed to go.

This additional assistance helped meet critical needs:

- Support for the refugee claim process
- Shelter and housing
- Clothing assistance
- Food assistance
- Material assistance
- Family support

This is in addition to the \$2.3 million invested this year by Centraide in 18 agencies that actively help newcomers in precarious situations.

PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO YOUTH IN DIFFICULTY

Youth Success Project

In light of the ongoing pandemic and young people's eroding motivation, the urgency to act became all too clear in February 2022, when the Centraides of Quebec struck a major partnership with the Lucie and André Chagnon Foundation. Operated by Centraide of Greater Montreal, the Youth Success Project supported over a hundred agencies and projects to promote the self-esteem, motivation, and academic perseverance of young people in difficulty throughout Quebec. On the Island of Montreal, this situation affects one in four people, which is the highest rate in Quebec.



Je Passe Partout

\$740,000

invested in 2022-2023 to support initiatives specific to the issues faced by youths in Greater Montreal.

Montreal initiatives

This funding has served as an additional mechanism to support communities. The Youth Success Project has also driven new collaborations with emerging agencies or projects and filled gaps in services and intense needs in some neighbourhoods.

Some emerging projects



Preventing the “summer slide” in newcomer students

Thanks to the Youth Success Project, 10 summer camps that run social and language programs worked with over **350 children and 115 teens from recent immigration backgrounds** to prevent the “summer slide,” which is when students lose academic knowledge and skills over the summer break. Supported by the Fondation de lutte au décrochage scolaire de Montréal and developed with the financial collaboration of the Ministère de l'Éducation, Montreal Hooked on School, and the City of Montreal, the project helped students from 13 Montreal neighbourhoods.



Improving services for Allophone and Anglophone youths in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

Four community centres in vulnerable areas of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce joined forces to strengthen programs to support academic and social success. For example, they improved local homework assistance services and added a mental health resource. These agencies mainly assist **young people from the Anglophone and Allophone communities of Walkley Centre, Centre communautaire Saint-Raymond, Westhaven Elmhurst Community Recreation Association and Jeunesse Loyola.**



Strengthen the community's work with youths in the urban agglomeration of Longueuil

Concerned about the impact of the pandemic on young people, a youth-family emergency cell in the urban agglomeration of Longueuil implemented an initiative with outreach workers in summer 2020. Today, this project is supported by about fifteen agencies that have adopted a community “reaching-out” approach to help **youths aged 6 to 18** directly where they hang out to create meaningful relationships, help prevent problems, and refer them to available resources.



Responding to the increased needs of youths and families in Laval

The pandemic gave rise to a major increase in requests to the **Dolphin Children's House** in Laval's Chomedey neighbourhood. This resulted in waiting lists for many important programs, such as the Dolphin's Haven and tutoring programs. Support from the Youth Success Project let the agency adapt its services to increase capacity. The Haven program is a place where **children aged 6 to 12** can come after school every day of the week. The tutoring program is a personalized academic support service run by significant adults.

SUPPORTING EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PRACTICES

EDI Fund

Over the past year, Centraide increased its investments in groups that are more at-risk of poverty and social exclusion or that historically have not been as included in its network. Centraide's EDI approach is constantly evolving and focuses on listening to agencies and experimenting.



Goals:

Systemic issues

Intervene at the root of inequity. For example: facilitate the economic integration of newcomers who do not have access to government programs, such as migrants with precarious status.

Agencies without a charity registration number

Implement internal measures to support agencies without a charity registration number, but that reach out to vulnerable populations.

Ethnocultural groups

Identify cultural groups that have not usually been included in the Centraide network to connect them to existing assistance resources.

Intersectionality issues

Intervene in a targeted way with groups with combined risk factors, such as youths from 2SLGBTQIA+ communities that have come out of youth rehabilitation centres and who are at a greater risk of being marginalized.

Advocacy

To fight racism and discrimination and bring about lasting change.

EDI Fund partners

The EDI Fund was established through a financial commitment of \$1.4 million over three years from the following companies and organizations:

- BDC
- Beneva
- CDPQ
- CN
- Cogeco
- Sun Life Financial
- TD Bank Group
- iA Financial Group

New collaborations to pursue EDI goals



Mains Utiles

Mains Utiles is an agency with a social mission by and for **women from different ethnocultural communities** in Saint-Léonard. Often single mothers, these women from immigrant and racialized backgrounds frequently find themselves isolated. Mains Utiles helps them gain skills to take charge of their lives and improve their living conditions.



Regroupement pour la Valorisation de la Paternité

The mission of the Regroupement pour la Valorisation de la Paternité (RVP) is to mobilize social stakeholders in Quebec to value fatherhood. After an evaluation of RVP's programs, a need was identified to further develop knowledge about the reality of **fathers in the context of ethnic and cultural diversity**. Centraide's support helped RVP carry out an action-research project to develop coaching services for community agencies so that they can better help fathers from immigrant backgrounds.



Réseau d'aide aux travailleuses et travailleurs migrants agricoles du Québec (RATTMAQ)

The vulnerability of migrant workers was clear during the pandemic, and RATTMAQ stood out for its leadership and expertise in advocating for their rights. Although they are not Canadian citizens, **migrants with precarious status** contribute to Quebec's economy. They can also find themselves in very vulnerable situations and need help to defend their individual and collective rights. Centraide's support has been an important mechanism to deploy and consolidate the services of this new agency that makes a significant impact on migrants with precarious status.



Projet 10

Projet 10 is an agency that promotes the well-being of **2SLGBTQIA+ youths aged 14 to 25 who are mainly Anglophones from Black and Indigenous communities**. Projet 10 offers psychosocial support; provides accompaniment to medical, HIV-testing, and social assistance appointments and coop housing interviews; and gives referrals to resources such as community agencies and shelters.

Projet 10 also advocates for their rights and raises awareness through workshops on 2SLGBTQIA+ realities organized for teachers, health care staff, and social workers who interact with young people with different sexual orientations or gender identities in a variety of settings.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Collective Impact Project

In April 2022, the Collective Impact Project (CIP) entered its second phase thanks to renewed financial support over five years from nine foundations. While the first phase that began in 2015 involved 17 neighbourhoods, the second phase covers all 32 neighbourhoods in Montreal.

The community's enthusiasm to continue the experience or join the CIP for the first time was impressive. In terms of areas of action, almost all the neighbourhoods currently engaged in the process are implementing projects to promote inclusion. Food security continues to be a major concern, as five neighbourhoods have made this a key component of their projects.

Citizen involvement drives this approach in all neighbourhoods.

\$3.1M

invested in 2022-2023. \$22.5 million will be available over the next five years (2022 to 2027).

19 Montreal neighbourhoods shared \$1.6 million for their CIP Phase-2 projects. The remaining \$1.5 million was allocated to the completion of Phase-1 projects.



COLLECTIVE
IMPACT
PROJECT

MADE POSSIBLE BY



The CIP partners

Three strategic partners

- Coalition montréalaise des Tables de quartier
- Direction régionale de santé publique de Montréal
- City of Montreal

Nine philanthropic partners

- Pathy Family Foundation
- Foundation of Greater Montreal
- Lucie and André Chagnon Foundation
- Marcelle and Jean Coutu Foundation
- McConnell Foundation
- Mirella and Lino Saputo Foundation
- Molson Foundation
- Peacock Foundation
- Rossy Foundation

ABOUT THE CIP

Since its creation in 2015, the CIP has provided a new collaborative model to better support Montreal neighbourhoods in their fight against poverty and social exclusion. From 2015 to 2022, the CIP helped 17 neighbourhoods complete their action plans.

Some initiatives of the CIP Phase 2



Montréal-Nord

During the first few months of activity in the second phase of the CIP, the neighbourhood started a planning phase. Stakeholders worked with researchers to examine systemic barriers to social and economic inclusion, develop a common vision, and encourage agencies to look beyond their own missions. This study will guide the neighbourhood in its development of a collective initiative.



Pointe-aux-Trembles–Montréal-Est

Pointe-aux-Trembles–Montréal-Est wants to improve living conditions in target disadvantaged areas. Many actions have been carried out: a portrait of needs in target sectors, help to relocate residents of cooperatives during major renovations, a crisis cell set up at a seniors' residence, community support at cooperatives, and more.



West Island South

This territory wants to increase its inventory of community housing units to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness. To do so, the Community Council – West Island South (CCWIS) conducted 11 interviews with stakeholders to better understand the reality on the ground and conducted studies on four development projects. In one of the territory's municipalities, the Ricochet project was chosen to transform a seniors' residence into affordable housing.



Pointe-Saint-Charles

Pointe-Saint-Charles is working to improve its local food system by developing collective action in food production, processing, distribution and recovery. Many initiatives have been launched to help those most impacted by food insecurity to give them better access to resources and help them participate in activities in the Pointe-Saint-Charles food solidarity network.

ACCELERATING THE COMMUNITY SECTOR'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

DATAide

The year 2022-2023 marked the first year of DATAide, a project coordinated by Centraide of Greater Montreal, carried out in collaboration with the Centraides of Quebec and OpenNorth and supported financially by the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale (MESS).

By the end of the three-year program, DATAide will have distributed **\$3.8 million** in grants to support the digital transformation of community agencies across Quebec.

This support has three components:

- Orientation webinar
- Training
- Leadership support lab

A program for seed, acceleration and innovation grants supports agencies at the end of each component.



Initiative highlights

Webinars and seed grants

Five digital transition orientation webinars were conducted with 826 participants from 706 community agencies. After this webinar, 150 agencies from across Quebec received grants of \$5,000.

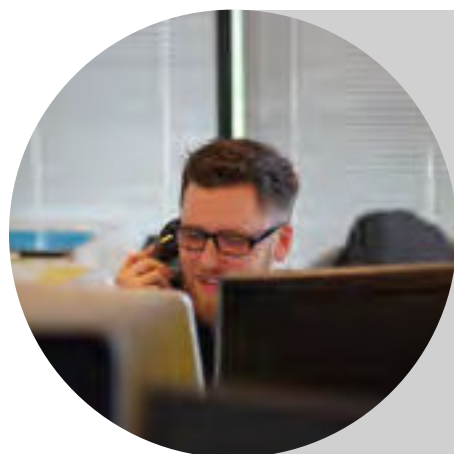
Training component and accelerator grants

Two cohorts with 85 participants from 55 agencies completed the 6-module training component. After completing the training, the agencies could apply for \$15,000 in grants to carry out the project that they had planned during the training. These applications are currently being evaluated.

Leadership support

Leadership support is being developed with Dynamo, Centraide's partner for many years in the Leadership Rassembleur™ program. A first cohort of 20 leaders will start the training in September 2023.

Some digital transformation initiatives



CCSE Maisonneuve Recipient of a Seed Grant

A flagship agency in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, the CCSE Maisonneuve has had to cope with very outdated computer equipment. Phase 1 of this project will upgrade the computers for their management and administration department, which cannot keep up with capacity. The agency wants to upgrade these computers and enhance security to be more efficient.

Table de quartier de Parc-Extension Recipient of a Seed Grant

The digital transformation project of the Table de quartier de Parc-Extension will optimize the team's time and work methods through the efficient use of computer tools. The project involves:

- Training staff to avoid any digital exclusion resulting from the transformation.
- Buying equipment to improve remote work and remote collaboration.
- Updating digital security practices and standards to keep sensitive data and information secure.

MOVING INTO THE FUTURE

Our outlooks

The year 2023-2024 marks Centraide's 50th fundraising campaign, which will highlight 50 years of solidarity and collaboration with community agencies, citizens, institutional and social partners, businesses and workplaces to address the challenges of marginalized groups and people in Greater Montreal who are living in poverty. Over its history, Centraide has become a major social development ally for the communities it serves through the actions of the network it supports and its many partnerships and collective projects.



Camp
Amy Molson

Tackling the root causes of poverty and social exclusion



With this year’s Speaking Truths on poverty issues, Centraide is embarking on a social development approach to address the root causes of poverty and social exclusion.

Housing has quickly emerged as the first issue for discussion and action. **Together for Housing**, the flagship event of the Speaking Truths on Housing, has already taken place at the time of writing. This event brought together local, regional and national stakeholders to identify sustainable solutions to the current housing crisis.

More Speaking Truths will follow in the coming years to help us think about innovative solutions that bring people together around the complex issues that lead to poverty. Of course, one topic on tap for these conversations will be food security, a major concern given the rampant inflation we have experienced in the past year. It is hard to believe that, in a wealthy society like ours, nearly one quarter (22%) of the Quebec population is food insecure. However, this is indeed the result revealed by Centraide’s second financial anxiety index report conducted with Leger and released in April 2023. Centraide will track how Quebecers’ financial situations evolve over the next two years, with a particular focus on populations that live on a low income. More reports will be released in the fall and spring to help us clearly understand the situation and better support agencies and their needs related to this issue.

Meeting basic needs

In the areas of housing and food, crisis is the new normal for more and more people. Given the skyrocketing costs of housing and groceries, finding a place to live and getting enough food to eat are becoming a real challenge for people in a situation of poverty. Centraide will continue to support agencies that help anyone facing an emergency housing situation and that work to sustain their food security, first through food assistance but also through local, sustainable and inclusive food-system projects in neighbourhoods and municipalities. Greater Montreal has a growing number of people experiencing homelessness, a crisis exacerbated by a limited housing supply and unaffordable rents. We will continue to support measures to address homelessness while paying particular attention to target populations with specific needs who find themselves on the street (women, seniors, Indigenous populations, etc.).

Giving special attention to groups at a higher risk of poverty



Faced with unique challenges and barriers keeping them from fully participating in society, some groups need special attention, such as refugees or migrants with precarious status, people from 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, people with disabilities, and members of Indigenous communities. Without support, they risk falling into cycles of poverty and social exclusion that can have negative consequences on their mental and physical health and overall well-being. Equal opportunity remains a priority for Centraide, which will continue to strengthen its relationships with communities that are at a greater risk of poverty, social exclusion, discrimination, and stigma and invest in agencies and projects that foster inclusion and diversity and advocate for people’s rights.

Focusing on young people's struggles



At the start of the pandemic in March 2020, we had assumed that the health crisis would significantly impact young people and affect their academic motivation and success.

Many students have faced major challenges such as social isolation, stress and anxiety, struggles with online learning, family difficulties, and more. Three years later, it is still difficult to get accurate school dropout data for Quebec. However, we do know that the pandemic has affected some determinants of academic perseverance, such as self-esteem, motivation and engagement, the valuing of education and parental support, and the school climate, which in turn could have impacts on the dropout rate.

We are closely tracking the following assumptions:

- Small children have been particularly affected by the pandemic, and this could impact the rest of their school careers.
- Teen mental health has been shaken by the crisis, which could have an impact on students' readiness to learn.
- Long-term effects could be experienced by students who were having trouble before the crisis and by those who fell even further behind and are struggling because of these delays.
- More young people may decide to put off further or higher education.

Supporting agencies at the end of their ropes



Community agencies that worked non-stop to support people at the peak of the health crisis and have continued at the same pace due to the current inflation problem are being stretched past their limits. They are coping with severe labour shortages and staff fatigue, increased operating costs, and accessibility issues. Many have to move to larger spaces to meet the ever-increasing demand for support and services. Centraide is working to consolidate and strengthen their capacity, especially by helping agencies share and combine their tools and strengths to make the most of these resources. Centraide will also continue to support the following digital transformation initiatives to help agencies make this important shift.

Supporting community recovery

After administering the Emergency Community Support Fund in fall 2022, Centraide of Greater Montreal, the Foundation of Greater Montreal, and the Red Cross were selected to jointly administer a \$24-million fund (divided between all three partners) as part of the Community Services Recovery Fund, a \$400-million investment by the Government of Canada. This fund was created to help charities and nonprofits affected by the immediate and lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to adapt and modernize. After a stringent selection process involving the expertise of Centraide of Greater Montreal's advisors and a group of volunteers working closely with the agencies eligible for this funding, \$8.4 million will be awarded to more than 100 agencies.

WINNERS OF THE SOLIDAIRES AWARDS

Honoured agencies



Racine Croisée
Solidarity Sawa

Food Integration Baskets
Food as a way to integrate newcomers

Solidaires Equity, Diversity and Inclusion 2023

This award recognizes the determined efforts of an agency or collective initiative to implement equity, diversity and inclusion strategies and approaches within its organization and in its interactions with its community.



Œil de Côte-des-Neige and CDC de Côte-des-Neiges

Côte-des-Neiges Safe Housing Roundtable and Brigade
Better living conditions for tenants

Solidaires Impact 2023

This award recognizes the significant efforts of an agency, a collective initiative or a consensus-building body to demonstrate the relevance and impact of its actions on individuals based on targets for intervention, services and social transformation.



Maison de la famille de Saint-Léonard

L'Allée Léo Toy Library
A new space where kids and adults can play

Solidaires Resource Sharing 2023

This award recognizes the significant efforts of an agency, a collective body or a group of organizations to implement good practices or models that promote the pooling and sharing of resources, tools, knowledge or skills to optimize their access to the greatest number of people.



Centre d'intégration à la vie active (CIVA)

CIVA's digital transition
Adapted services just a click away

Solidaires Digital Transformation 2023

This award recognizes a digital transformation project that has engaged the community and helped develop or reinforce a digital culture within an agency or collective initiative and optimize services or activities to better serve users.



Maison des familles de Mercier-Est

Citizen Organizers
A safety and solidarity net in Mercier-Est

Solidaires Citizen Involvement 2023

This award recognizes the involvement of a citizen or group of citizens that contributes to advancing an issue in the community or to mobilizing other citizens around a concrete and lasting social initiative.



Réseau alimentaire de l'Est de Montréal (RAEM)

La Grande Boucle Solidaire
Feeding an entire neighbourhood

Solidaires Supportive Communities 2023

This award is given to a collective body or group of agencies that stand out through their ability to mobilize local stakeholders in a collective action, project or approach that contributed to the community's social development during the pandemic.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE IN THE CENTRAIDE COMMUNITY

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...And all of the
volunteers, donors,
community agencies
that work with us
to build an inclusive
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without poverty.



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