



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

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WHO WE ARE...

CARE Jeunesse

The Quebec network of youth in care and alumni of care

About Us

Founded by former youth in care, Centre Amitié, Ressources et Entraide pour la Jeunesse (CARE Jeunesse) is the Quebec network of youth in care and alumni of care. We are a bilingual non-profit organization serving people in and from care aged 16+ across the province.

Our Mission

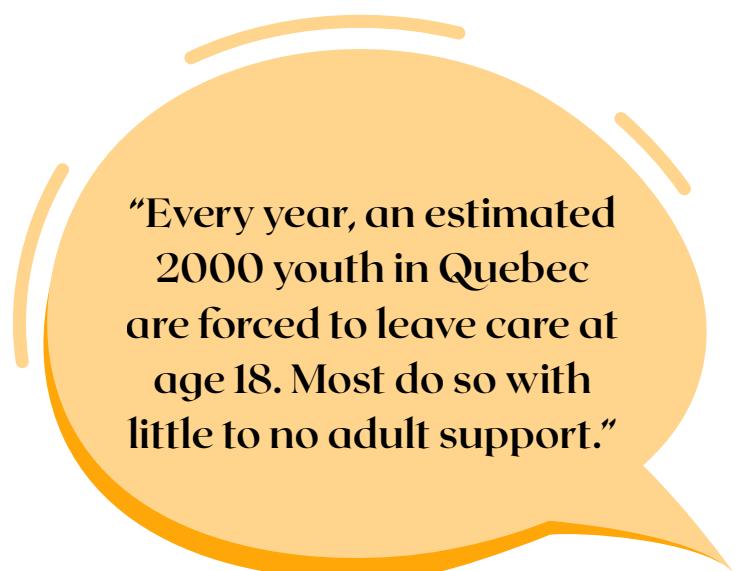
To improve the quality of life in care by providing a safe environment for members to connect and form supportive relationships as well as providing advocacy, education and empowerment opportunities. CARE Jeunesse connects youth to resources, examines policies related to youth in care and offers training and consultation to professionals on the issues relevant to youth in care. CARE Jeunesse offers support to youth and alumni from all systems of care.

Our Vision

To cultivate a community and voice in Quebec for youth in care and alumni of care

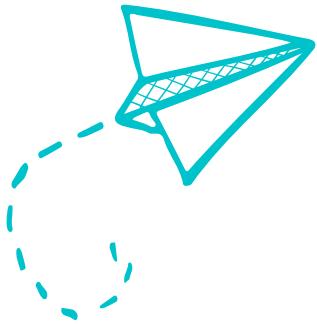
Our Values

- Community
- Autonomy
- Inclusion
- Empowerment
- Advocacy
- Respect
- Well-being



“Every year, an estimated 2000 youth in Quebec are forced to leave care at age 18. Most do so with little to no adult support.”

A WORD FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



“ —

Dear CARE Jeunesse members, sponsors, allies and friends,

Each year in Quebec, nearly 2000 young people leave youth protection services (DPJ) when they turn 18. Many of them - some members at CARE Jeunesse - face this transition into adulthood without the support of a formal family structure, financial stability, or emotional guidance. The path forward can be challenging, and it's one that no young person should have to walk alone.

This year marked an exciting moment for CARE Jeunesse, as we celebrated our **10th year anniversary**. Since our official founding in 2015, we remain deeply thankful to our visionary founding members, who recognized the urgent need to create Quebec's first-ever network for youth and alumni of care. It's worth remembering that Quebec was the last province in Canada to establish such a community—and thanks to your support, that gap is now being bridged.

What began as a bilingual grassroots, volunteer-driven organization has grown into something truly amazing. Over the past couple of years, we've been working hard behind the scenes to strengthen our foundation—and last year, we proudly gained our **registered Canadian charitable organization status**.

This year, we completed our organizational transformation by moving from a single Executive Director led organization to a co-leadership model, now guided by a Program Manager and a Financial and Administrative Manager. This strategic shift has increased our expertise, enhanced our capacity to manage operations, deliver programming and sustain our growth.

True to our **“For Us, By Us”** model, we're proud to share that 75% of our staff team and 33% of our Board are care-alumni themselves. This lived experience is at the heart of everything we do.

We deeply thank our team for continuing to deliver crucial member services during this period of change. We're also incredibly grateful to our funders and supporters, whose continued trust gave us the time and space to build for the future.

This year we've also expanded our programs, increased in-person events, and made major strides in advocacy. Notably, we partnered with other youth-led organizations to bring alumni of care's voices and concerns directly to the National Director of Youth Protection (DPJ).

These developments are more than just milestones—they represent a renewed commitment to ensuring youth in and from care are seen, heard, and empowered across the province.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to nurturing strong partnerships—with funders, allies, youth organizations, and volunteers—so that together, we can continue to advocate for meaningful change in policies, programs, and the respect of rights for all youth in care and care alumni.

Thank you for standing with CARE Jeunesse.

Warmly,

CARE Jeunesse's Board of Directors



MEET THE TEAM

Michelle Raposo - Program Manager

Michelle has been with CARE Jeunesse for four years, holding different roles along the way. Now, as our Program Manager and an alumni of care, she brings both professional experience and personal insight to her work. Michelle holds two bachelor's degrees from Concordia University in Women's Studies and Sexuality Studies, and has a professional background in Human Resources. She is dedicated to creating safe spaces where youth from care feel seen, heard, and supported.



Shari Granillo - Finance & Admin Manager

Shari joined CARE Jeunesse in March 2025. Holding a university degree in Business & Administration and Project Management from McGill, Shari first built nearly a decade of experience in the corporate world before transitioning her career to the community sector. Deeply committed to social causes, Shari is honored to embrace this new challenge with CARE Jeunesse and to serve as a trusted resource and support for her colleagues.

Bianca Fabrizio - Services & Outreach Coordinator

Bianca began her journey with CARE Jeunesse as a board member and now, as a staff member, plays a key role in delivering our services and engaging youth who are preparing to age out of care. She is committed to ensuring that young people remain connected, have access to resources, and know they can rely on CARE Jeunesse for support when they need it most.



Janis Taily-Dion - Special Projects Coordinator

Janis has been a long-time member of CARE Jeunesse and now, as a staff member, she brings her experience and insight to the team. In her role as Special Projects Coordinator, she works hard to develop creative initiatives and offer a strong perspective on what our youth need. Janis is dedicated to ensuring that every project reflects the voices of youth from care and creates meaningful opportunities for them to thrive.

MEET THE BOARD

Anick Charland - President

Anick comes to CARE Jeunesse after a fulfilling career in cybersecurity. Herself an alumni of care, Anick now invests her time advocating for the rights and well-being of youth aging out of care. She is committed to ensuring that youth be provided with the services and support that they need to pursue their dreams as they prepare their transition to adulthood. An avid traveler, she has backpacked solo around the world. Her current passion is exploring North America in her minivan.



David Andrelli - Secretary



David is dedicated to supporting youth as they transition from care to independent adulthood. A graduate of Concordia University with a B.A. in Joint Specialization in English and History, David has long been engaged in community service, including volunteering with Le Club des petits déjeuners and the Fraser-Hickson Institute's minibiblioPLUS. After 14 years with Apple, David transitioned into the field of philanthropy in January 2022. Currently a consultant in major gifts and corporate partnerships with the Montreal Heart Institute Foundation, he is also a Member of AFP Quebec's membership committee. David brings expertise in operational excellence and strategic planning, combined with a deep passion for teamwork, inclusivity and empowering others.

Adella Rose - Treasurer

Having aged out of the system independently at eighteen, Adella is deeply committed to supporting youth facing similar experiences. After earning a diploma in 2013, Adella launched her own firm, AR TAX PREP, with a mission to help individuals and small businesses gain confidence and understanding in managing their finances. As a board member of CARE Jeunesse, she strives to make financial education accessible to everyone, drawing on her expertise in the tax and accounting industry. Outside of her work, Adella loves to travel, read, and spend time with her family and loved ones.



MEET THE BOARD

Varda Mann-Feder - Board Member

Varda is a Professor in the Department of Applied Human Sciences at Concordia University where she teaches Youth Work and Counselling. She worked for more than 30 years as a psychologist in the care system in Montreal and her research documents the experiences of youth aging out Quebec. Varda started out as an “adult ally” to CARE when the organization first began, and served as our Board President for many years. Varda loves attending CARE events and sculpts and reads novels in her spare time.



Elaine Larivière - Board Member



Elaine 's commitment to CARE Jeunesse's mandate stems from both personal and professional involvement in advocating for, and giving a voice to youth in care. Having worked in various capacities within the Protection system for over 25 years and having had the privilege to raise a foster child, Elaine is passionate about the need to walk alongside and assist youth transitioning into adulthood. Elaine enjoys spending time in nature and with family and friends.

Kerry-Ann Carthy - Board Member

Proud to be an Educator for over 25 years, Kerry-Ann has spent the last 17 years working with young people transitioning out of care and with those who have transitioned out of care. Kerry-Ann Enjoys painting, travelling and spending time with family and friends and has a special love for musicals and comedy shows.

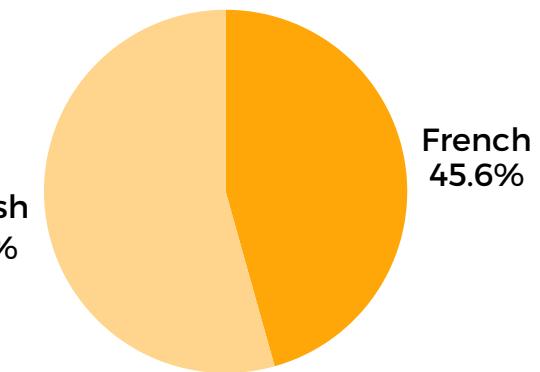


ACHIEVEMENTS

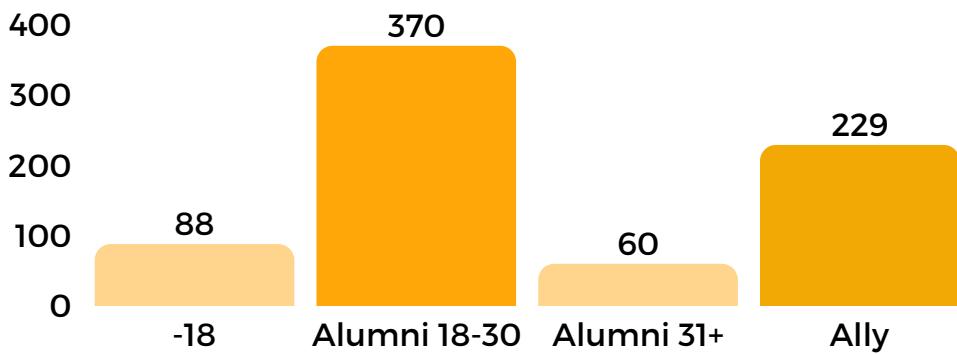
Membership Overview:

This past fiscal year, CARE Jeunesse welcomed a total of **157 new members** across all membership levels. Of these, **139 were young people currently in care or alumni of care**, reflecting our continued commitment to building a strong and supportive community of lived experience. Building on the 93 new members welcomed in 2023-2024, **this year's total reflects a 68.8% increase in registrations!**

Among our **747 total members**, approximately **341 are French-speaking** and **406 are English-speaking**, demonstrating our reach across both linguistic communities in Quebec. This bilingual diversity continues to shape our programming and ensures that youth can access our services in the language they're most comfortable with.



Most of our members are youth and alumni with lived experience in care, supported by allies, professionals, and community members who share our vision. The chart below shows a breakdown of our members' backgrounds.



Our overall growth stems from key efforts, including expanded staffing, increased social media engagement, greater community presence, and events that connect directly with youth and alumni from care. These initiatives have strengthened relationships, raised awareness, and expanded our network.

ACHIEVEMENTS CONT.

Partnerships & Collaborations:

Our growth is rooted in collaboration. This year, CARE Jeunesse strengthened partnerships with organizations and community leaders united by a shared commitment to youth from care.

One highlight was the renewal of our partnership with **Bread & Beyond**, allowing us to once again directly refer our members in need to their **Essential Box Initiative**. This collaboration ensures that youth moving out on their own for the first time are set on the right foot, with each room in their new home equipped with the basic essentials they need to start building their independence with confidence.



We also strengthened our partnership with **Project 10 (P10)**, a leading organization supporting LGBTQ2S+ youth. Through this collaboration, our members have access to specialized programs, mentorship, and resources that foster inclusion, well-being, and a sense of community for youth navigating identity and self-expression.

Additionally, our partnership with **UpHouse**, a Montreal-based community center supporting adults living with mental illness, has enabled us to provide youth and alumni from care with opportunities for social inclusion, skill development, and purposeful engagement in a welcoming environment. This collaboration helps members build confidence and connections as they transition into adulthood.



Beyond these initiatives, we deepened ties with other community-based organizations and community leaders through our Advocacy Program. We are committed to growing these relationships and forming new partnerships throughout this year to further support our members.

ONGOING ACTIVITY

Scholarships:

Thanks to the **Paré Family Foundation**, we are proud to continue supporting two university students as they pursue their degrees. This scholarship helps ensure that care-experienced students have the resources they need to complete their studies.

In addition, a generous donation from **Wendy Clarke** has enabled CARE Jeunesse to create new scholarship opportunities for more of our members in Montreal and across the province. **This year, we were thrilled to award nine new scholarships!** We offered three scholarships in each category of study: three for high school/adult education, three for CEGEP, and three for university or higher studies.

Here's what some of our scholarship recipients had to say:

"I am so profoundly grateful to receive the Mitchell Alexander 2024 Scholarship. I can't explain how much this alleviates stress for my academic year." - Vanessa

"Firstly, I would like to thank you so much for considering and accepting my application! This scholarship will help me to continue my education with more financial stability and for this I am extremely grateful!" - Diadem

"Wow! Thank you so much for selecting me as one of the nine recipients. You are correct that this will help significantly with my educational journey". - Michael

DPJ Emergency Fund:

This year, we were fortunate to launch a brand-new pilot project with the generous support of the **Fondation des Jeunes de la DPJ**. Through this initiative, CARE Jeunesse was able to provide direct assistance to our members facing urgent financial need.



ONGOING ACTIVITY CONT.

DPJ Emergency Fund Cont.:

In total, we supported **34 individual members, responding to more than 45 requests** throughout the year. These funds have helped cover a wide range of needs, including school costs, monthly expenses, medical expenses, groceries, and other basic necessities.

This fund has already made a meaningful difference, offering timely relief and support when it was needed most, and we are excited to be able to offer this program once again in the new fiscal year!

Emergency Gift Cards:

Our Emergency Gift Card Program continues to be our most popular and highly requested service. Through this program, CARE Jeunesse provides members with gift cards that can be used for groceries, household necessities, pharmacies, and much more.

This flexible support helps meet members' immediate needs while giving them the dignity and autonomy to choose what is most important for them in the moment. This year, we also began offering some of these gift cards virtually, allowing us to respond even more quickly to urgent situations and ensure prompt delivery to our members.

In total, we processed **over 100 requests** through this program, including cards that were offered as gifts, draws, and giveaways to further support and engage our community. **This represents an approximate 31% program increase** from the previous fiscal year.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the **Montreal Lakeshore University Women's Club (MLUWC)** for generously donating a variety of physical gift cards to support our youth in need. This program would not be possible without your kindness!



ONGOING ACTIVITY CONT.

Income Tax Clinic:

Once again this year, CARE Jeunesse continued to offer a **Income Tax Clinic**, providing free tax-filing support to youth in and from care. This service helps members complete their taxes accurately and on time, ensuring they receive any refunds or benefits they are entitled to.

Our clinic not only helps reduce the stress of tax season but also empowers members with the knowledge and confidence to manage their finances independently. With the support of our long-time tax volunteer, **Huguette Dubé**, we were able to process a total of **34 returns this year, matching last year's total!**

Advocacy Update:

Through our **Advocacy Program**, we work hard to ensure that youth in and from care are heard at both the provincial and federal levels, participating in a variety of committees, consultations, and decision-making tables.

By representing our members' perspectives, we help shape policies and programs that better meet their needs, while also empowering youth to take an active role in advocacy and civic engagement.

Some of the engagements we participated in over the past year include the following:

Youth Consultation with Quebec's Youth Protection Director:



Alongside **Lesley Hill**, we invited our members to take part in a consultation event focused on youth centers across the province.

ONGOING ACTIVITY CONT.

Advocacy Update Cont.:

This provided a valuable opportunity for our members to share their experiences and provide input on programs and services that directly impact them and more to come.

Batshaw's Youth Advisory Council Celebration:

We were honored to be invited to celebrate the second year of **Batshaw's Youth Advisory Committee**, recognizing the contributions of youth in shaping policies and initiatives that affect their lives. We are excited to move forward with our partnership in the new fiscal year!

Info-Session with Oracle Productions:

Our youth participated in an info-session with **Oracle Productions**, where they explored the opportunity to potentially feature in a documentary film about aging out of care, a project set to commence in Fall 2025. This engagement allowed our members to consider sharing their stories on a broader platform and raise awareness about the challenges and successes of transitioning out of care.

Oracle Productions is a non-profit organization that gives youth a creative outlet to express themselves in both English and French. They are best known for producing **Resilience**, a docu-fiction film that tells the real-life stories of 15 young people who have experienced challenges in the Youth Protection System.

FINANCE UPDATES

The year 2024-2025 represents a significant turning point in the new era of CARE Jeunesse. Thanks to the considerable efforts and dedication of the Board of Directors in restructuring the organization, which enabled us to hire an accountant and secure charitable status in the previous financial year, CARE Jeunesse has expanded its team with **four new staff members**. We are pleased to have welcomed two managers and two coordinators, who will lead the mission's development to its full potential.

Our new Finance & Administration Manager will collaborate closely with our accountant and Program Manager to ensure the effective management of donations and grants, as well as the planning and delivery of the various activities, programs, and projects overseen by the Program Manager. This strengthened Finance team will also enhance our capacity to secure funding, not only through our generous donors and partners, but also through government grants, fundraising initiatives, and other philanthropic projects.

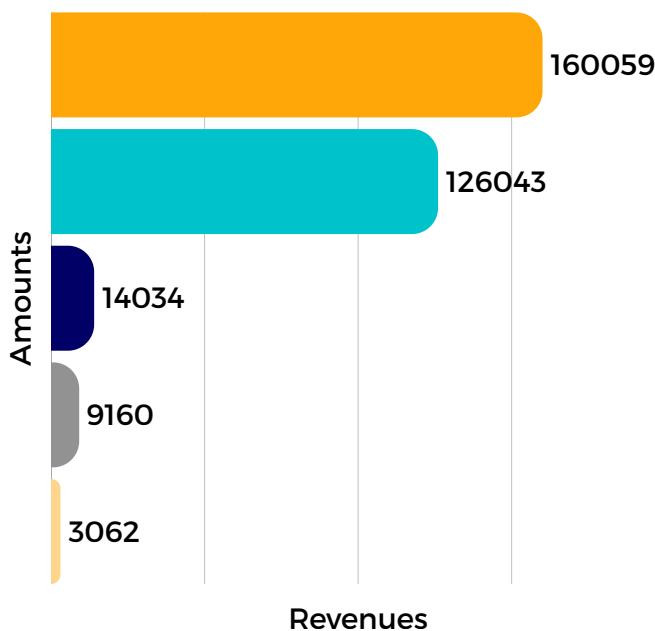
In line with this vision, we have also transitioned our donation platform to CanadaHelps, a charitable organization that supports Canadian non-profits. This integrated platform enables us to create and manage a variety of fundraising activities, provides donors with multiple payment options, and automates the issuing of tax receipts. It is only one of the many tools we are implementing to optimize our operations.

The year 2024-2025 truly marks the beginning of a new era for CARE Jeunesse, at every level of the organization. We are beginning to see the results of a dream carried with passion and conviction by academics, former youth in care, and volunteers for over a decade. **And this is only the beginning.**



FINANCE UPDATES CONT.

Here's a glance at our last year!



Revenue (2024-2025)

\$160,059 - Donations

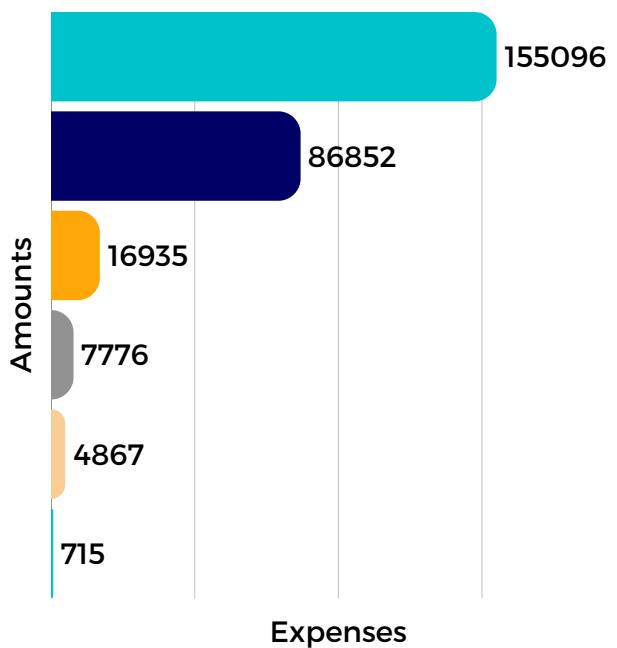
\$126,043 - Grants

\$14,034 - Bank Interest

\$9,160 - Gains on Investments

\$3,062 - Other

TOTAL: \$312,358



Expenses (2024-2025)

\$155,096 - Staff

\$86,852 - Professional Services, Supplies & Equipment

\$16,935 - Member Services

\$7,776 - Operations

\$4,867 - Advocacy

\$715 - Board Expenses

TOTAL: \$272,241

WHAT'S TO COME...

The future is looking brighter than ever for CARE Jeunesse!

In July 2025, we proudly celebrated the 10-year anniversary of our official founding, a major milestone for our community. Keep an eye out for special events and initiatives that will honor this incredible journey and the people who made it possible.

At the time of writing, CARE Jeunesse is on the verge of securing a **brand-new permanent home**, a dedicated space just for our members! This welcoming hub will be a place to connect with peers, pick up essential supplies, and be informed of valuable resources from our partner organizations. This exciting development is thanks to the generous support of our funders and partners, and the unwavering efforts of our team to find a space that truly feels like home.

In the coming year, we'll also be launching the CARE Jeunesse Youth Council, an important step in strengthening our "**For Us, By Us**" model. The council will include youth alumni voices at the Board level, ensuring that our members have a real say in shaping CARE Jeunesse programs, policies, and advocacy work, especially around the critical issue of transitioning out of care.

Looking ahead, we're also preparing to launch a new strategic plan as part of our 3 year **CARE for Success** initiative. This roadmap will guide our efforts and investments to better support young people leaving care and help them thrive as they build independent lives.

With the support of the Board, and the dedication of our staff and volunteers, our leadership team is ready to take CARE Jeunesse to the next level.

As always, we are profoundly grateful for the ongoing support of our volunteers, donors, partners, and community allies. Your commitment is helping us build a future where all youth from care have the support, voice, and opportunities they deserve.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are creating lasting change.

Warmly,
The CARE Jeunesse Team

Acknowledgments

Thank you to our members, donors, volunteers, partners and sponsors for your commitment to youth and alumni from care.

We would like to acknowledge the support of the following community partners, volunteers and organizations below:

- Batshaw Alumni Association
- Batshaw Foundation
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Child Welfare League of Canada
- CIUSSS ODIM
- Concordia University
- Concordia University Student Parents Center
- Fondation des jeunes de la DPJ
- Montreal Lakeshore University Womens Club (MLUWC)
- Pathy Family Foundation
- Paré Foundation
- Revenu Québec
- Syndicat des employés de la Commission des droits de la personne et droits de la jeunesse.
- Wendy Clarke
- Huguette Dubé
- Bread & Beyond
- Carolyn Bouchard MacNeil
- ROCAJQ
- Julia Pare
- Terry Peters
- Marian Pinsky
- Liz Pustai
- Luise Massari

GET INVOLVED

Inspired? Donate to our mission today!



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