



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022





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WHO WE ARE...

C.A.R.E. 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

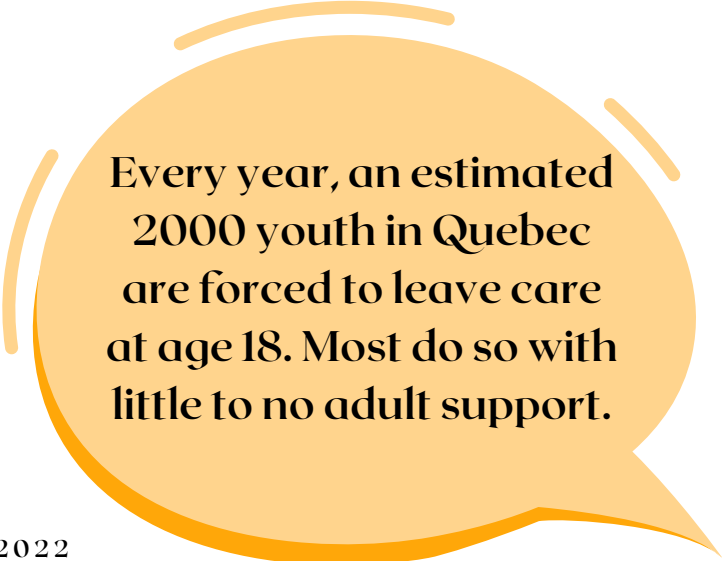
to improve the quality of life in care by providing a safe environment for members to connect and form supportive relationships as well as providing advocacy, education and empowerment opportunities. CARE Jeunesse connects youth to resources, examines policies related to youth in care and offers training 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

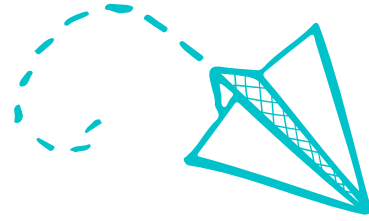
Our Values

- 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 LEADERS



Jennifer Dupuis, President

Dear CARE Jeunesse members and supporters,

It has been an honour to serve the organization as President for yet another year! We celebrated our 9th year of inception and 7th year as an officially registered non-profit organization this year and I couldn't be prouder!



Our youth and alumni members remain at the forefront of our work, guiding our mission by expressing what they want and need to help them as they transition from the youth protection system into adulthood. This year has seen a major jump in membership, as we have expanded our offer our support to youth in all of the regions throughout the province of Quebec.

This year we were fortunate to have our ever-growing staff team, who have worked tirelessly to connect with our members and to ensure that the organization continues to run smoothly and I would like to express my deepest gratitude to them all. Talina Henseleit, our Executive Director has overseen the operations of our organization and her leadership, dedication and positivity continues to be an amazing addition to the team! Valerie Dass, an alumna of care, also joined the team, leading the way to make sure that youth leaving care in every region of Quebec has the support that they need. Valerie's initiative and creativity allows her to connect with youth and the adults who support them to ensure that no young person from care is left behind! We were also fortunate enough to hire a peer support coordinator, Kayla Dorvéus, also an alumna of care. Kayla continues to reach out to our youth and alumni members to offer them various forms of support, mentorship and she leads our fun social activities! Kayla's down to earth style and friendly approach makes her a great person to talk to and a fun person to hang out with at our social activities. Kayla makes sure every person feels included!

Our dedicated volunteer board members Varda Mann-Feder, Luise Massari, Jessica Dupuis, Heidy Wager, Daniel Johnson, Michaela Flemming and Anick Charland continue to dedicate countless hours and their expertise to lead the organization. Our many other volunteers ensure that the organization operates as smoothly as possible and I am forever grateful to all of these wonderful people who dedicate their time and energy to help us achieve our important mission. I would also like to thank our departing board members Nathalie Dubé and Anthony Taylor for their unwavering commitment during their board term and contributions that made CARE Jeunesse even stronger!

Of course, we would be nowhere without our dedicated supporters and donors!

This year also ends with my departure, as I take some time to pursue other projects that are near and dear to my heart. After being here from the very beginning in 2013 when some alumni got together and decided to start the organization, I started off as Vice President of our initial adhoc committee, developing the organization from determining the type of organization that it would be and selecting choices of various names and logos to present to our members to vote for their favourite. I became Vice President of the Board of Directors after we officially registered in 2015 and we continued to develop the organization, hiring part time staff, supporting interns, developing partnerships and learning about the non-profit world. Since 2018 I had the honour of leading the organization as the President of the Board, where we continued to grow exponentially as an organization, hiring our first Executive Director and 2 part time staff, continuing to strengthen our partnerships and relationships with youth in and from care and expanding our support throughout the province, with the number of members growing every week! CARE Jeunesse will always hold a special place in my heart and I will always be a member and friend to the organization! I look forward to watching the organization continue to grow and to make sure that all youth leaving care in Quebec have a place to turn where they can find, as the name CARE suggests; friendship, resources and support, as well as a lifelong community where they will always have a place!

Warmly,
Jennifer



CARE Jeunesse founding board, 2015

Talina Henseleit, Executive Director



What a year this has been! Helping transition our organization from one that, only just this time last year, was run by a small group of dedicated board members, volunteers and one part time staff at a time to one that is managed by a fully operational staff team has been one of the most challenging, fun, rich experiences I have ever had. While change is destabilizing for most individuals, our board, employees, volunteers, members and partners showed exceptional flexibility and courage as we navigated new and exciting territory together solidifying the gains that the organization has been making over the past 7 years.

And we were successful! Despite the many changes, we were still able to see an increase in our impact this year. Our direct support programs each grew between 15 and 68%; our membership numbers increased drastically with the hiring of a new community outreach coordinator and our member engagement deepened with the hiring of our new peer support coordinator. Advocacy-wise, we contributed to growing awareness in the province for the challenges currently faced by youth 'aging out' of care at 18 years old and even saw our government amend the Youth Protection Act to extend support to youth leaving care until the age of 26! While we are cautiously optimistic regarding the roll-out, timing, quality and form this extended support will take, what is certain is that we will continue to push to be heard as Quebec's network of youth in care and alumni of care: first-voice advocates and lived experts on our provincial youth protection system.

I am excited to see what next year has to offer us in terms of strategy, clarity, leadership development, capacity and visibility. We have come a long way in 2021-22, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds.

If you are reading this it is because you are interested in our mission; thus, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support you offered us last year. Whether you are a youth or alumni member, a donor, an ally, a volunteer, or one of our team, know this: a director's job of directing is easy when there is so much energy, enthusiasm, generosity and inertia already coming from someone like you. I hope you will continue to remain involved and invite you to email me with your ideas, offerings, interest or questions any time at direction@carejeunesse.org.

*With gratitude,
Talina*



Activity Report

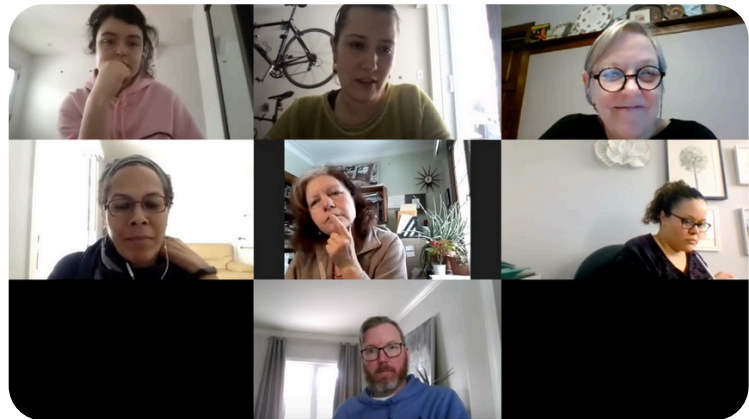
A few highlights...

A growing team

This year we welcomed 3 interns and added 4 new board members, 2 new staff and 6 new volunteers to our team. We are so happy to see so many individuals dedicated to our mission!

A growing membership

Thanks to our new community outreach coordinator, Valerie, we were able to grow our membership of youth in care, alumni of care and allies by over 25% in just 6 months. Go Val!



A growing provincial presence

Thanks to a grant offered by the Green Shield Canada Community Impact Fund at the Foundation of Greater Montréal, we now have members in 14/16 Quebec health regions. This project, called “Building a Provincial Wellness Network” is on track to extend our service offering into all 16 regions by the end of 2022!

A new scholarship

Thanks to a generous donation from the Paré Foundation, we were able to add two new scholarships to our program this year. These are multi-year scholarships for two alumni members until the end of their current post-secondary program. A big thank you to the Foundation, to our existing scholarship partner, MNA David Birnbaum, and to our 2022 scholarship winners, Elijah, Shanice and Shanika. Congratulations!

We CARE: Centre d'Amitié, Ressources et Entraide

Amitié

Peer Support

With the help of our human relations intern, Kimberly, earlier in the year, and the hiring of our new peer support coordinator, Kayla, this spring, we were able to increase the number of social events and workshops offered to our youth in care and alumni members from 3 to 9. A few popular events included a book talk by alumna author, Jane Frances Powell, a 2022 planning night where members shared their ideas for upcoming events, our annual holiday party, and a virtual cooking night! To benefit from our alumni support community or to get involved as an alumni peer mentor, please write to **Kayla, at entraide@carejeunesse.org**.

Local Peer Networks

As part of our Green Shield - Fondation du Grand Montréal grant, our community outreach coordinator, Valerie, was also able to cultivate relationships with alumni and allies in multiple Quebec administrative regions in order to begin building and strengthening local alumni networks in cities outside Montreal. Our dream is to see alumni across the province benefitting from in-person peer support in their area. To explore forming a local alumni network in your city, please contact **Valerie, at communaute@carejeunesse.org**.



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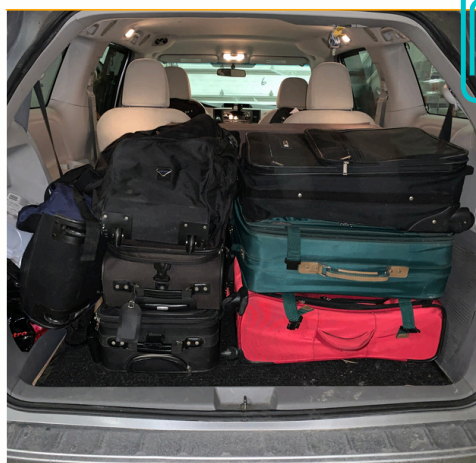
Ressources

Direct Member Services

With the help of interns, Maggie & Kimberly, and our new services coordinators, Micheala & Bianca, we were able to increase member access to services across all our programs. Our tax clinic grew by 15%, our holiday gift distribution by 50%, interest in our scholarship program by 57%, our luggage program by 68% and our emergency gift card program by 18%. When the needs of our members were beyond the scope of what we could offer internally, our team also provided countless individual referrals to pertinent community organizations within our network. To learn more about our direct support and referral services, please contact **Bianca** at services@carejeunesse.org.

Empowerment Opportunities

Not only did we provide direct individual support to our members last year, but we also increased member access to information about empowerment opportunities through our social media and quarterly newsletter. One highlight was our 2022 Scholarship Manual, put together by our communications coordinator, Michelle, which provided members with information about scholarships available to them in Quebec and Canada. If you have an opportunity to share with our membership which you believe could benefit Quebec's youth from care, please feel free to share it with us on social media or contact **Kayla**, at entraide@carejeunesse.org.



We CARE: Centre d'Amitié, Ressources et Entraide

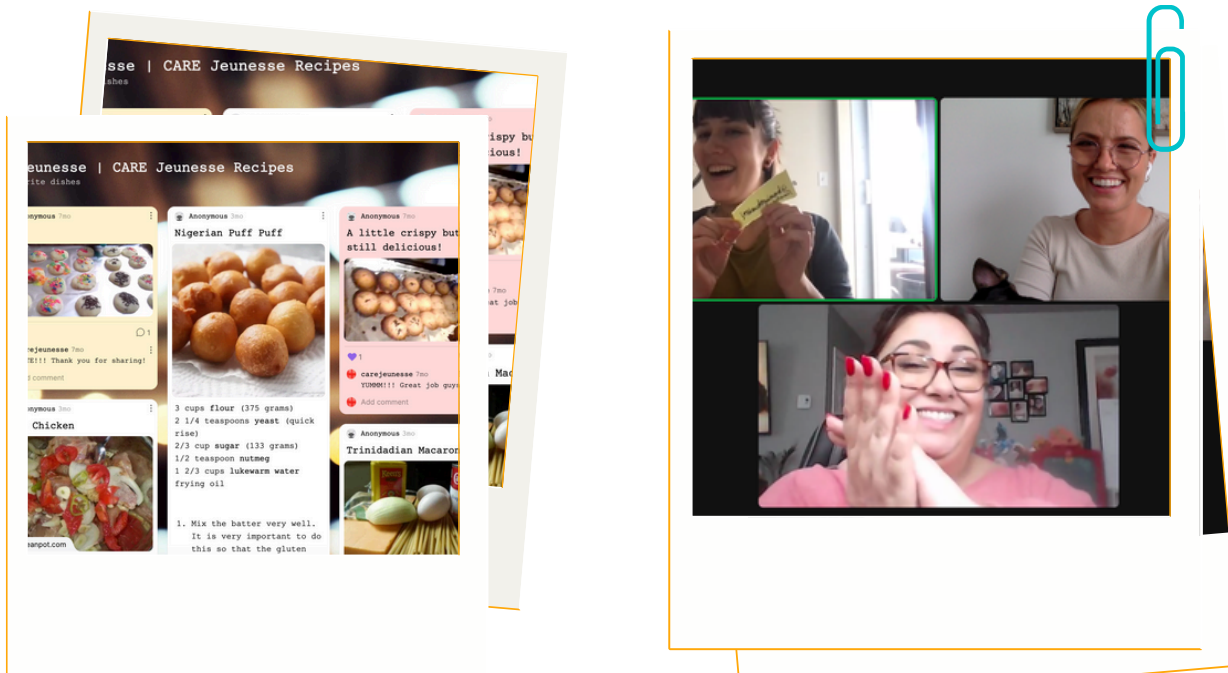
Entraide

Knowledge Sharing

CARE Jeunesse was founded in 2015 FOR alumni of care BY alumni of care. It is a place where people who have experienced the youth protection system can come together in order to share knowledge, resources and experiences. One way this happened this year was through our alumni-only Facebook group: a safe space where care-experienced members can share opportunities, life hacks and survival tips with one another. Our group grew by 31% this year and our cover photo (a recipe collection made for and by our alumni members during our holiday party) can be seen below. If you are an alumni member of CARE Jeunesse interested in joining our online community, please message **our Facebook page @carejeunesse**.

Advocacy

Perhaps the most powerful way in which we embodied the spirit of Entraide this year was through our advocacy work. With the help of our experienced advocacy coordinator, Varda, our organizational and alumni representatives were able to push for a more equitable transition for youth 'ageing out' of care across the province. In partnership with the National Council of Youth in Care Advocates at the Child Welfare League of Canada, La Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse, the Institute for Research and Education on Race Relations, our political contacts, fellow alumni advocates, and a variety of media agencies, we continue to advocate for a readiness-based and not an age-based-cutoff model of transition to adulthood for those leaving care. To consult with our organizational and/or youth and alumni advocates, please contact porte-paroles@carejeunesse.org



Finance Report

As we grow, we are being entrusted with more resources to manage. Here's a glimpse of how things went last year!

Revenue

65,643 - Grants

26,442 - Donation

2000 - Holiday Raffle Ticket Sales

77 - Bank Interest

TOTAL: 94,162

Expenses

58,674 - Salaries

12,324 - Activities

11,152 - Operations

TOTAL: 82,480

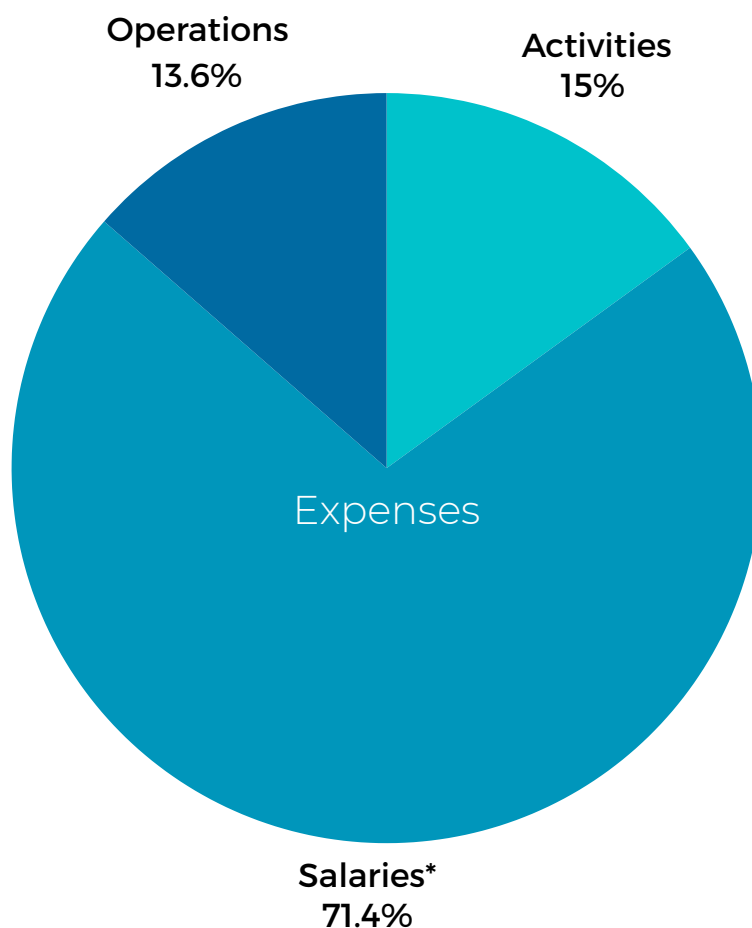
In-Kind Donations

\$3085 - Emergency gift cards from The Montreal Lakeshore University Women's Club (MLUWC) and La Fondation des jeunes de la DPJ

\$4700 - Holiday gift cards from Carolyn's Toy Drive

4 - Refurbished laptops from the Electronic Recycling Association

40 - Pieces of new and lightly used luggage from our friends at MLUWC



Thank you...

To our volunteers

CARE Jeunesse has grown a lot this past year and this could not have been done without the help of our dedicated volunteers. Their altruistic, ongoing dedication to our mission is truly inspiring and essential to the work we do. From sharing recipes, to governing our organization, each piece is valuable and appreciated. We owe deep gratitude to:

- Anick Charland-- Board Member
- Annie, Janis & Jessica -- Peer Support
- Anthony Taylor-- Board Member
- Bhavini Patel-- Translation
- Bianca Hebert-- Administration
- Claude Renaud- Translation
- Daniel Johnston-- Board Member
- George Thomas Lake-- Research
- Heidy Wager-- Board Member
- Huguette Dubé-- Tax Clinic
- Jane Powell-- Peer Support
- Jennifer Dupuis- President
- Jessica Dupuis-- Treasurer
- Judy Martin-- Consultation & Fundraising
- Julia Pare-- Consultation & Holiday Party
- Liz Pustai-- Holiday Party
- Luise Massari-- Acting Secretary
- Marian Pinsky-- Consultation & Fundraising
- Marie Mallet-- Translation
- Micheala Fleming-- Board Member
- Michelle Raposo-- Communications
- Natalie Winger-- Administration
- Natalie Dubé-- Board Member
- Nathan Duhamel-- Website
- Oceane Corbin-- Translation
- Sam Barile-- Luggage Delivery
- Terry Peters-- Holiday Party
- Varda Mann-Feder- Vice President
- Yassin Chowdury-- Research



To our donors and partners

Not only did we meet our holiday fundraising goal this year, but we welcomed many new donors, partners and allies into our community. We are deeply touched by their interest in our mission and the care they showed our members this year. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to:

- Aire Ouverte, Les Centres Jeunesse & La Programme Qualification des Jeunes-- Partners
- Annie Hickey-- Raffle Prize Donor
- Anonymous individual & institutional donors
- Bar à Plantes MTL-- Raffle Prize Donor
- Barbara & Denzil Coull-- Raffle Prize Donors
- Bread and Beyond-- Partner
- Carolyn's Toy Drive-- Donor
- Centre d'action bénévole Ouest-de-l'Île-- Partner
- Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse-- Partner
- Concordia University-- Partner
- David Birnbaum, MNA-- Donor
- Electronic Recycling Organization-- Donor
- Green Shield Canada & La Fondation du Grand Montreal-- Donor
- Head and Hands-- Partner
- Institute for Research and Educations on Race Relations-- Partner
- Jane Powell-- Partner
- John Gray Moving & Storage-- Partner
- Kameni Financial Services-- Raffle Prize Donor
- La Fondation des Jeunes de la DPJ-- Donor & Partner
- Laura Diaz-- Raffle Prize Donor
- Lynn Hudon-- Raffle Prize Donor
- Maeven Bakery-- Raffle Prize Donor
- Montreal Lakeshore University Women's Association-- Donor
- National Council of Youth in Care Advocates-- Partner
- Novalex-- Partner
- Paré Foundation-- Donor
- Pathy Family Foundation-- Donor
- Resto Mauvais Garçons-- Raffle Prize Donor
- Ron Thiessen-- Raffle Prize Donor
- Savoury Eats Catering-- Raffle Prize Donor
- Serge Rivard-- Raffle Prize Donor
- Tawnie Bush-- Raffle Prize Donor
- Terrie & Gregg Vernon-- Raffle Prize Donor
- The Batshaw Foundation-- Donor
- The Child Welfare League of Canada-- Partner
- The Hylcan Foundation-- Donor
- The Weredale Foundation-- Partner
- Youth in Care Canada-- Partner



GET INVOLVED

Inspired? Donate to our mission today!



Want to stay informed? Sign up as a member on our website or follow us on social media 👍

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