



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



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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**

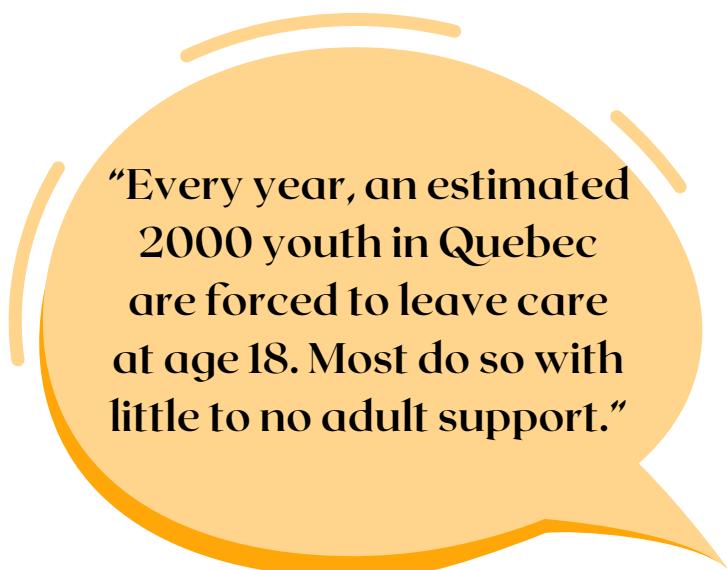
To improve the quality of life in care by providing a safe environment for members to connect and form supportive relationships as well as providing advocacy, education and empowerment opportunities. CARE Jeunesse connects youth to resources, examines policies related to youth in care and offers training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

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**Varda Mann-Feder, Board President**

**Dear CARE Jeunesse members and supporters,  
sponsors, allies and friends,**



We are thrilled to share that CARE Jeunesse has experienced an inspiring year of transformation and growth at all levels of our organization. We are excited to welcome our new dynamic board member, Bianca Fabrizio, who brings valuable expertise aligned with our mission. In addition to this, we look forward to electing additional board members at this year's Annual General Meeting, further strengthening our leadership team.

Our organization is making significant strides as we transition from a fully volunteer-led grassroots initiative to a **recognized charitable organization**. This evolution is evident in our refreshed board membership and staff structure. We are committed to embracing the diversity of lived experiences and perspectives among our future board members and staff. This alignment with our membership will enable us to better understand and address the needs and concerns of those we serve. By fostering inclusivity, we aim to engage a broader range of supporters, donors, and volunteers who share our values. Having board members and staff with lived experiences within the youth protection system is integral to our **"For Us, By Us"** approach at CARE Jeunesse.

In terms of advocacy, CARE Jeunesse is actively participating in significant initiatives at both the national and provincial levels. We are proud to partner with Concordia University, which has generously provided a free downtown space to support the resumption of our in-person activities.

The future is bright for CARE Jeunesse! We achieved charitable status in July 2024, secured new funding for our member services, and are actively pursuing additional fundraising efforts to enhance our capacity and support for our members. Recent appointments to our team will further align our representation with our diverse membership base.

The remarkable developments of the past year signal not only our ongoing success but also a period of unprecedented growth for CARE Jeunesse.

As we move forward, we remain deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our volunteers, donors, and community members. Your contributions are instrumental in shaping the future of individuals from care across Quebec. Thank you for your dedication and support. Together, we are making a transformative impact.

MERCI!

*Varda Mann-Feder*  
Board President  
CARE Jeunesse

# ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

## Membership Growth:

We have approximately 420 care-experienced members and 217 allies. This represents a **39% increase from 2022**, respectively with care-experienced members representing nearly 65% of members. We continue to build partnerships province-wide with the Aires Ouvertes and Programme Qualification des Jeunes,. This government program serves the most at-risk youth as they prepare to leave youth protection.



## Partnerships/collaborations:

We continue to build partnerships with community organizations that support care experienced members such as Renatre de la Rue and Y4Y and Bread and Beyond. We also are committed to an ongoing partnership with Batshaw Youth and Family Services. We look forward to a collaboration with John Abbott cegep and their Pathways project that seeks to support students at a post secondary level to continue their studies.



# ONGOING ACTIVITY

## Scholarships:

Thanks to the **Paré Family Foundation**, we continue to support two university students as they pursue their degrees. This scholarship allows these care-experienced students to complete their degrees in full.

In addition to this, a generous donation from **Wendy Clarke** has provided CARE Jeunesse with the opportunity to develop new scholarships for more CARE Jeunesse members in Montreal and around the province.

## Academic Advising:

In order to improve academic outcomes for alumni of care, CARE Jeunesse provides a dedicated academic advising program for alumni of care. Current and prospective post-secondary students can now be connected at no-cost to a higher education professional who can advise them on the application process or other academic issues they may be facing.

## Luggage Program:

CARE Jeunesse is committed to supporting the dignity of youth and young adults from all child protection placements. Youth are regularly shuffled between placements and often are forced to transport their personal belongings in garbage bags.

It is for this reason, CARE Jeunesse offers free luggages to our members across Quebec. We have experienced an increase in luggage distribution and outreach sending out more than 156 pieces of luggage since 2022.



## Income Tax Clinic:

Figuring out how to file your income tax can be stressful.

Luckily, CARE Jeunesse members can get assistance in filing their returns through our free tax clinic service. We now provide the tax clinic and tax filing service year round!

From 2023-2024, we have provided this free service to over 34 of our members in need.



## Advocacy Activities Update:

This was again a busy year for advocacy at CARE Jeunesse. With the contributions of many staff, board members and volunteers, we were able to maintain our involvement in various initiatives to ensure the rights of its members who experience the intervention of the Direction de la protection de la jeunesse (DPJ) in their life.

CARE Jeunesse was active in the groups Partenaires pour le bien-être des jeunes placés et ex-placés as well as at la Table de concertation jeunesse de la Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse (CDPDJ) (thank you Anick and Varda). Both are actively involved in ensuring that the recommendations of the Commission Laurent report are implemented. There is a great focus on autonomy and transition into adulthood, after placement.



We also have a representative in the **National Council of Youth in Care Advocates** (thank you Kayla !) This is a network of youth in care and youth alumni from care which aims to increase and coordinate their advocacy efforts, by taking part in peer coaching and training sessions, and communicating their joint messages to decision makers and the Canadian public.



Child Welfare League of Canada  
Ligue pour le bien-être de l'enfance du Canada

## Advocacy Activities Update Continuing...

Throughout the year, we have maintained our outreach efforts, such as participating in events at various **CIUSS** and group homes to inform youth currently in care about CARE Jeunesse services, which can help them as they transition into adulthood (thank you Bianca!)

CARE Jeunesse also participated in a presentation to the policy advisor for the **Quebec Minister of Employment** on behalf of the Partenaires (thank you Varda and Anick). The purpose was to advocate for a more holistic approach to employment support for youth from care. As well, CARE Jeunesse was represented at a training session for Youth Protection Workers, advocating for the needs of youth in transition from care (Thank you Mikah!)

In late April, CARE Jeunesse attended the **Forum sur la prévention de l'itinérance jeunesse**, in Quebec city. The aim of this 2nd edition was to gather and think about how we can promote the prevention of youth homelessness, and what courses of action we can take to achieve this. Considering that many young people leaving a placement with the DPJ will sadly experience at least one episode of homelessness before the age of 21, it is important that CARE Jeunesse participates in the prevention and solutions to reduce the risks for its members.



CARE Jeunesse will continue its to engage in activities that raise awareness to policy makers and the public to the challenges facing youth from care. Our members depends on it!

# Finance Updates

**It was a pivotal year for CARE Jeunesse finance management.** Great efforts were put in optimizing some processes and building a strong financial foundation for supporting CARE Jeunesse growth.

We automated payroll processing by subscribing to a payroll provider. This not only ensured the accuracy and timely payments for our staff, but it also reduced the risk of errors. Another important benefit was to minimize compliance issues by meeting provincial and federal compliance requirements, thus avoiding costly penalties.

In terms of accounting, CARE Jeunesse hired a new bookkeeper who now provides timely and valuable insights into its financial health. This improved CARE Jeunesse ability to follow its budget. It also improved CARE Jeunesse ability to make financial decisions and strategic planning. This is another important step in contributing to the sound management of funds that are entrusted into CARE Jeunesse.

By utilizing a payroll provider and hiring a new bookkeeper, CARE Jeunesse staff and board members can allocate more time and energy to its members' services and activities.

These were also important changes needed to help CARE Jeunesse meet its new charitable status obligations in the coming fiscal year. CARE Jeunesse obtained its charitable status in July 2024.



# Finance Updates Cont.

Here's a glance at our last year!

## Revenue (2022-2023)

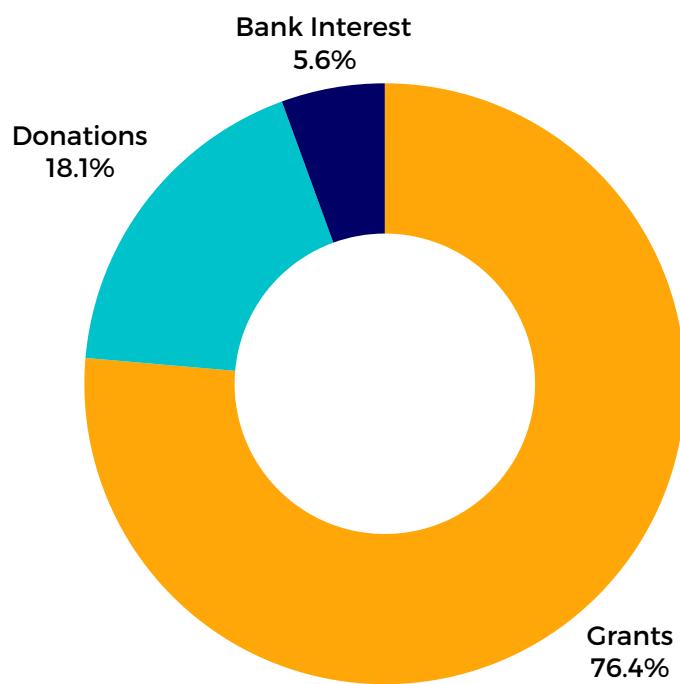
**\$93,048** - Grants

**\$22,005** - Donation

**\$6,784** - Bank Interest

**TOTAL: \$121,846**

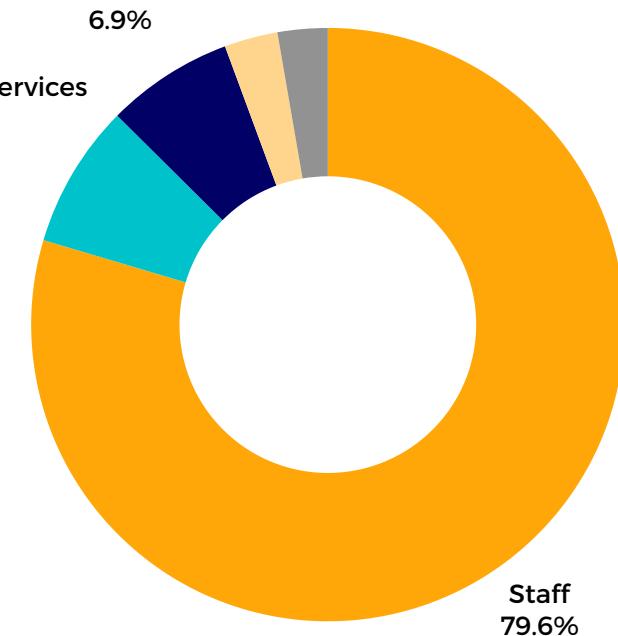
## Revenue Sources



## Expenses

Member Services  
6.9%

Professional Services  
7.8%



## Expenses (2022-2023)

**\$75,493** - Staff

**\$7,437** - Professional Services

**\$6,570** - Member Services

**\$2,760** - Advocacy

**\$2,584** - Operations

**TOTAL: \$94,844**

# 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 community partners below:

- Batshaw Alumni Association
- Batshaw Foundation
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Child Welfare League of Canada
- CIUSSS ODIM
- Concordia University
- Fondation des jeunes de la DPJ
- Montreal Lakeshore University Womens Club
- Pathy Family Foundation
- Paré Foundation
- Quebec Association of Educators
- Revenu Québec
- Seamont Foundation
- Syndicat des employés de la Commission des droits de la personne et droits de la jeunesse.
- Weredale Foundation
- Greg Kelly - MNA - Jacques Cartier
- Jennifer Maccarone - MNA - Westmount St-Louis
- Pierre Fitzgibbon - Minister for Montréal
- Alexander von Humboldt school students and parents
- Wendy Clarke

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

- Varda Mann-Feder - President
- Anick Charland - Treasurer
- Bianca Fabrizio - Director

# GET INVOLVED

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**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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