

HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS

*Putting an end
to exclusion*



**mission
inclusion**
A NEW NAME FOR
THE LÉGER FOUNDATION

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS: POST-HOUSING SUPPORT MAISON TANGENTE, MONTREAL

An open door for at-risk youth aged 18 to 25, Maison Tangente, a member of the Auberges du Cœur network, has been operating within the Hochelaga-Maisonneuve district for the past 37 years. It has 15 housing spaces and welcomes these young adults for stays of up to one year.

A place to stay, a place to eat... these are essential premises on the path that will lead these young people from destitution to taking back control of their own lives. With the help of a compassionate team, they progress on their journey towards autonomy in order to achieve social reintegration.

At Maison Tangente, post-housing support is an essential component in achieving this ultimate goal. Without this support, many of these young adults would be vulnerable to reverting to homelessness.

Mission inclusion is part of this dynamic of social reintegration adapted to each individual. Its support to the organization namely helps maintain existing structures.

Young people need confidence to anchor themselves in adult life. Those who knock on the door of Maison Tangente have often been deprived of it. Let us give them back the means to believe in themselves, in others, and in the future.

“ The way out of homelessness is not a straight line. Offering housing is a good measure, but it also takes a myriad of interventions, approaches and solutions. We have to support youth at every level. ”

Jonathan
counsellor
Maison Tangente



Photo credit : Mario Faubert

REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS

AUBERGE SOUS MON TOIT, GRANBY

Regional homelessness: a very real yet relatively unrecognized social fact. So much so that many citizens say they don't really see homeless people in their town or city...

Nevertheless, Marie-Ève Thérberge, Executive Director of the Auberge sous mon toit in Granby, sees no fewer than 130 residents each year passing through the doors of the organization founded in 1971, which helps men experiencing homelessness, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The needs are glaring for these young and not so young people in a situation of homelessness, for whom life may have been less than kind.

The primary mission of the warm team of counsellors is to give them the means to reintegrate into society by offering them assistance and support services that can last up to a year. The goal is to provide these residents with the tools and guidance they need to reach their full potential.

When asked to share one of the Auberge's greatest success stories, Ms. Thérberge tells the story of a former resident who, at a Christmas dinner, came to present his latest and greatest source of pride to the team of counsellors: his firstborn child.

Hope is reborn when the fight against homelessness is led by people working together. In these times of instability and growing insecurity, your contribution is a guarantee of a brighter tomorrow.

Thanks to the support of Mission inclusion, the Auberge sous mon toit provides post-housing support to each resident to ensure that they have access to safe, affordable, and healthy lodging. With this support, each resident learns how to build a support network and function in society. This support fosters success on the road to autonomy, the key to successful reintegration.



YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

DANS LA RUE, MONTREAL

Youth make up more than 25% of the homeless population, although they are not always visible on the streets. And, since the beginning of the pandemic, more and more of them have been living in a situation of residential instability.

The causes and realities of youth homelessness are different from other forms of adult homelessness. What characterizes them? They are in transition, have little life experience, are just emerging from an often-dysfunctional family environment or youth center, have severed social ties, and are sometimes struggling with emerging mental health problems.

To get out of this predicament, they can count on the team of seasoned professionals at Dans la rue, an organization that opened its doors in Montreal more than 30 years ago. **Emergency shelters, day centers, food distribution trailers, apartments, services for young families: all solutions in which Mission inclusion actively participates, to respond to the emergency in terms of shelter and food, among other things.**

The counsellors also make sure that these young people, aged 12 to 25, take responsibility throughout their stay. "We have to help them go back to school, find housing and a job, and take charge of their physical and mental health...There are many steps to accomplish with them," says Cécile Arbaud, Executive Director. With hope, she adds: "If we focus on reducing youth homelessness, we will reduce chronic adult homelessness."

This conviction, which motivates the staff, is also a call to all, since the future of our young people is a collective responsibility. Working for them means building a more peaceful future for all of us.

Youth need to be respected, even if they live on the street. They are young people undergoing hardships, suffering, for lack of all that is fundamental.

Caroline Dufour
Director of Strategy and Social Impact
Dans la rue



YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

THE VALUE OF STREET WORKERS

SQUAT BASSE-VILLE, QUEBEC

Located in the heart of the Saint-Roch district and founded in 1999, SQUAT Basse-ville is the only facility in the capital region to take in minors aged 12 to 17 who are runaways or homeless.

While the organization has developed a strong expertise in helping runaway youth, it is also active in identifying at-risk youth. Thus, street workers on the lookout criss-cross the city's neighbourhoods, and a network of youth center and CLSC workers refer any teenager in difficult situations to SQUAT.

In order for the assistance provided to have a longer-term impact, the support provided by counsellors extends beyond minority. Thus, young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 can take advantage of the post-housing component by moving into a studio offered at an affordable rate. They are supported in developing their autonomy until they are able to take charge of their lives.

Thanks to SQUAT, life trajectories light up, like Simon's. A chronic runaway, with no family and addicted to drugs, he has had many short stays in the organization since the age of 15. When he came of age, he had access to subsidized housing with SQUAT. However, he faced new personal challenges and unfortunately had to be evicted.

However, at SQUAT we always keep the door open. When Simon contacted the organization again to ask for help, it was not refused.

Today, he acts as a counsellor and, although he does not hold a formal diploma, he has a multitude of real-life experiences that are very useful to the young people he works with. "He has become a partner and we are so proud of him!" exclaims Sarah, Housing Coordinator.

"We will never leave a youth on the street, regardless of their situation."

Sarah
Housing Coordinator
SQUAT Basse-ville

"Through its support of SQUAT Basse-ville, Mission inclusion enables Simon and other homeless youth to get out of the predicament in which they may be trapped. Together, let's help weave a brighter future for them."

*Name changed to protect privacy.

