

Making it all possible

Did you know that 60 community organizations help more than **33,650 people and families receive help** every year by **offering over 285 programs** to children, families, seniors and those in need?

Montrealers are very fortunate to have so many groups, organizations and agencies working for the conservation and enrichment of its English-speaking community. However, these groups also rely heavily on support, volunteers and help from the community at large.

Birth of a networking program

Many of these groups have voiced the opinion that if they had greater opportunities to network and work more closely together, their activities would be more effective and have a greater impact. In response, the 21st Century Catholic Community Campaign (21CCC) is working to develop a comprehensive networking program to promote better communication and collaboration among all 60 groups.

“This program will provide all the groups with an opportunity to more easily exchange ideas, learn from one another, find ways to share resources and volunteers, and maybe even form partnerships,” stated Andy Malelopszy, 21CCC volunteer. “Moreover, it will create and maintain stronger synergies, and foster a greater spirit of cohesiveness and cooperation.”

How the Networking Program works

The Networking Program will be holding individual strategic planning sessions with all 60 groups. “Once everyone is around the table, we want to get them talking and dreaming about what their organization could look like in the future. Then we help them build solutions to achieve it,” explained Mr. Malelopszy.

Following these meetings, the key findings and ideas they produce will be shared among all 60 groups at a summit. “By communicating the ideas back to all the groups, we will ensure everyone is aligned and headed in the same direction,” added Mr. Malelopszy.

University students to be actively involved

The goal is to work with masters students from Concordia University's Applied Human Sciences Department who will help carry out the group strategic planning sessions. “It's a win-win opportunity,” explains Mr. Malelopszy. “We obtain invaluable help from eager young adults, and they get concrete experience in organizational development and leadership.” McGill University and UQAM will also be approached for help with this community strengthening venture.

Your support is vital!

A portion of the Campaign funds will be used to help make the networking program a success. Your generosity can enable organizations to find more efficient and effective ways to better serve and improve the lives of Montrealers who need it most.



Your support is critical to our success. Please Give Generously!

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Coming Together as One



A legacy of caring

Montreal is a great city, made even greater by the people who live here. But fast-paced modern lifestyles and ongoing financial hardships make it more difficult than ever for our youth, families and seniors to meet everyday challenges.

Since first establishing their roots in Montreal during the 18th century, the members of the city's English-speaking Catholic community have dedicated themselves to offering care and compassion to those in need. Over the years, the community's educational, health and social service institutions have made an invaluable contribution to the lives and well-being of individuals from all religious, cultural and social backgrounds.

Sharing a commitment

To help this legacy thrive and to broaden the scope of our services to reach as many people as possible, three key organizations with a common cause and shared commitment have created the 21st Century Catholic Community Campaign: The **FCCS**, **Pillars Trust Fund** and the **Father Dowd Foundation**.

These three groups are launching a major initiative to cooperate more effectively and revitalize Montreal's English-speaking Catholic Community by meeting the emerging and changing needs of today's youth, families and seniors. Each organization is a stalwart of community care and leadership:

For 75 years, the **Foundation of Catholic Community Services (FCCS)** has been providing the physical framework for the organizations and institutions serving the members of the English-speaking community and other people within the Greater Montreal area.

The **Pillars Trust Fund** provides leadership and financial assistance for pastoral activities vital to the English-speaking community, and is also actively involved in the faith and spiritual needs of youth, adults and the elderly.

The **Father Dowd Foundation** is devoted to supporting organizations that strive to enhance the quality of life and promote the independence and well-being of Montreal's senior citizens.

Campaign goals

The 21st Century Catholic Community Campaign's goal is to provide a solid financial footing that will strengthen our community's heritage, its lifeblood and its future.

While supporting existing programs and developing new ones to meet today's needs, the campaign will also fund the upgrading and improvement of key infrastructures. These dual cornerstones will ensure the long-term sustainability of the community, helping to provide a firm foundation for ongoing education and counsel for youth and young adults; support for families in managing and executing their responsibilities to be successful adults and parents; and more compassionate and appropriate care for the elderly.



Answering the call of Pope Francis to serve the less fortunate

Empowering new generations

Youth and young adults are the future. Our community depends on empowering the younger generations so that when it's their turn to take the reins they will have the skills and confidence to be responsible adults. The 21st Century Catholic Community Campaign aims to allocate resources toward a range of initiatives that will reinforce young people's sense of belonging, inspire a lifelong commitment to community service, reintegrate street kids and at-risk youth, and fill the faith formation void in schools.

A beloved part of life for young people across the country is summer camp. But the sad reality is that traditional camps are far too expensive for underprivileged kids. Camps operated by Catholic Community Services have enriched the lives of children and youths for over half a century. Spending a week or two in the wilderness gives them a break from a tough day-to-day reality and provides some with an opportunity to gain and develop leadership skills that could one day translate into governance positions on the Boards of the community's service agencies.

Bringing smiles to children's faces

At Trail's End Camp as many as 98% of campers' families live below the poverty line. The majority of children live in foster families, are in the juvenile detention system and/or face health and disability challenges. Their time at a community-funded camp is the only holiday they will have throughout the year.

"There's no way that the people we serve could afford summer camp," explains Sarah Cartier, former camp director at Trail's End Camp. "Something magical happens here every day. One camp kid told me, 'I've never seen so many trees,' because they had never been out of the city – this is an 11-year old in Montreal." She explains how it changes their lives: "at a very basic level for 12 days, they're safe, they're fed, they're getting positive reinforcement – they're being kids and having fun!"

Camps such as Kinkora, Orelida Marian and Trail's End in the Laurentians have brought smiles to the faces of thousands of individuals for decades. Eventually they need to be updated and upgraded, which is where the Campaign comes in. The same former camp director knows what a difference this funding can make: "Everything that is given to us gets used. It goes directly to the kids, right to the program."

Whatever their troubles, the youth of today are brimming with energy, enthusiasm, creativity and spirit. The Campaign will help provide resources to unlock and harness their potential and support their progression into adulthood.

68,000 children have been Kinkora Campers
93,300 hot meals are served yearly to children
3,400 children go to camp, receive meals and mentoring each year



Helping families cope

The family unit is the glue that binds our community together. But in today's world the challenges that confront families new and old have never been greater, putting those bonds under immense strain. Younger families are invariably made up of a working couple who have to balance financial uncertainty with the needs of their children, while often having to also take care of their own aging parents.

Many families are having to make do with less, and others with next to nothing. Juggling economic uncertainty, long work hours and tough parenting decisions can quickly create a pressure cooker situation that leads to stress, anxiety and sometimes despair. When outside help is needed, there are far too few resources available for busy parents to turn to. That's why support for families is another major aim of the Catholic Community Campaign.

Providing vital guidance and support

Targeted programs and initiatives supported by the campaign seek to provide resources for families that promote and enable effective parenting, adequate marriage preparation, couples counseling, spiritual guidance, and support groups for families in transition dealing with divorce, remarriage, or the need to care for elderly parents under their roof.

One such program involves a family camp in the countryside northeast of Montreal. Families have been visiting Camp Orelida Marian for over 80 years, and in its idyllic setting they can combine relaxing recreational activities with focused retreats, marriage enrichment seminars, children's programs and ministry. Traditionally, Camp Orelida Marian has operated during the warmer summer months, but plans are underway to transform the camp into an all-season facility to welcome people year-round. Campaign funds will help with this winterization project, as well as contributing to the construction of an extension to the main lodge that will house a new 3,000 square-foot conference centre.

By committing funds to projects such as this, the Catholic Community Campaign will be helping to strengthen our community's backbone: its families.

Did you know?

22,984 food baskets are provided to struggling families every year

33,671 people and families are receiving help

7,149 volunteers make it all possible



Valuing the lives of seniors

Aging gracefully is never easy. Many elderly members of our community find it hard to make ends meet financially. Seniors with restricted mobility can feel isolated, especially those who live alone. Meanwhile, the segment of the population represented by seniors is expected to increase rapidly within a few short years.

These are just some of the reasons why one of the most central aims of the Catholic Community Campaign is to be able to allocate more resources to respond to the escalating needs of the community's seniors and elderly.

Making life easier and more accessible

The fact is that community initiatives make a lasting, positive impact on the lives of seniors. Some programs, such as serving meals to seniors, provide a much-needed service, even for people who may not be housebound, but who simply need to be unburdened for part of the week. One senior recounted that, "I have found this winter very hard because it's hard to get out and walk around with all the snow. Having a meal delivered has made my life easier. They are good meals so I don't worry about not getting enough nutrition."

Other programs, such as computer classes adapted to the needs of seniors, open up a whole new world of social networking possibilities. Learning how to use email and Skype, for instance, makes it easier for them to keep in touch with children and grandchildren. Such services not only contribute to breaking isolation but also provide them with a sense of accomplishment and increased self-esteem.

Breaking isolation through mobility

Help with transportation is another key service for older folk who have trouble getting around. Even walking a couple of blocks to a bus stop can feel like a marathon. That's why seniors transportation services turn night into day for a large number of people. "It brings joy to my heart," expressed an elderly woman in her late seventies who looks forward to the two days she gets transported to and from a seniors centre every week. The opportunity to socialize, participate in exercise programs, and take part in recreational activities like playing bingo gives everyday life a whole new meaning for someone with restricted mobility due to aging.

Programs, services and organized activities such as these that the campaign aims to support will enrich this growing segment of Montreal's English-speaking Catholic community and also benefit the wider community at large.

Did you know?

1,389 seniors lives are made brighter through programs

40,000 meals are delivered to seniors yearly

