

LET'S SUPPORT MAISON DU PÈRE!

David Goudreault is a Quebec columnist, novelist, poet, performer and social worker. Despite his busy schedule, he accepted the challenge given by an employee of Maison du Père.

Here is the rhythmic improvisation he dedicated to us



© photo : Sacha Bourque

» Hello my sisters, hello my brothers from Maison du Père.

David Goudreault here, an alcoholic and an addict, in recovery... who wishes you a nice day, a good 24 hours.

We're gonna try to take it one day at a time, that's already a lot to do...

There is our friend André Leroux, who asked me to make for you a little freestyle, improvise a poem with a few words:

homelessness, hope, family, drugs, temptation, sadness, anger, road to recovery, addiction.

Big words...

Big words that are at the heart of our lives, mine, like yours...

So, I'll try to make do with all of this.

It's with these own words
that I'm going to improvise,
to tell you that the road towards a home
can be beautiful,
that homelessness can even be beautiful,
if we take the opportunity to enter within ourselves,
to make ourselves better in this world,
even if sometimes we lose hope,
we are far from our families, our children,
our girlfriends,

the best may be yet to come,
the best may be what's to come...

We won't find it at the bottom of a small bag,
it's not in drugs that you can thrive.

Despite all the temptations,
everything that takes us away
from who we really are
and from our passions,
it's worth it to tread beyond the sadness,
to rediscover joy, to let go of anger,
and see what we look like
when we get to the end of our road to recovery,
one step at a time.

Overcoming our addictions
even if we must depend on each other,
when you think about it...
we mostly depend on our own selves,
so every day we have to make the right choice.

It's not so easy ... but it can make life better.

Thanks to all the beautiful Maison du Père gang

Thank you André for the opportunity to salute all of those who move forward with you.

This was David Goudreault who offered you these few words and who wishes you a good 24 hours,
one day for each craving, one day at a time, we'll get there.

AS MANY DONORS AS THERE ARE REASONS TO SUPPORT MAISON DU PÈRE'S MISSION !

» *Many years ago, my dad used your services. So, in his memory, I give back to you. Thank you for being there !*

Pierrette Langevin, Terrebonne

» Hello, I am from the family of Mrs. Madeleine Guénette. My mother can no longer write as before. She is blind and 96 years old. We have always lived together with my brother Michel. I know that my mother, in the past, has helped Maison du Père with financial means and prayers. We are a very religious and practicing little family. We grew up in the Catholic religion. You recently helped my brother-in-law's brother with a mass. Thanks again. Thank you very much for your work, helping people in need. A thousand times thank you.

Lucie Guénette, Montreal



» I believe in the mission of Maison du Père. I have been participating for several years. Being the mother of two sons who work with a good salary, I thank "Heaven" in this way. They are lucky not to have needed help in the same way. They had other misfortunes, however, having lost their father at the ages of 6 and 3. Not having the happiness of being a grandmother, I put my energies and my money into other causes. I have a friend ("Sacoche") who worked with you, as well as a brother. I had the joy of visiting Maison du Père a few years ago with Mme Asselin * and it is

** Former volunteer manager*

» ***I have known Maison du Père for the last 10 years. I got to visit on a guided tour on Good Friday. I went to walk a Way of the Cross there on this occasion. Realizing the extraordinary operation of Maison du Père, I signed up as a volunteer. In 201?, I came to give cooking lessons to your people, who were at the stage of having their own studio in your building. The last step before going by themselves, and owning an apartment.***

This human contact has enriched me so much and I have loved so much the people you help out that I regularly send a small cheque to Maison du Père. I know that these few amounts will be used so well.

Human beings are capable of the worst and the best, and the best can be found at Maison du Père.

Thank you to all the leaders, administrators, volunteers and your clientele for making us aware of your work of sharing, so that every street finds an exit.

Josée La Rivière, Beloeil

» ***This "House", that is to say Maison du Père, provides them with comfort and care, so that one day those who want it can have a home, good meals and the freedom to do what they want.***

My contribution is not much but I know it is in good, honest, sincere and faithful hands. Thank you for reading me.

Huguette Morrissette, Joliette



» Hello, I am 76 years old, my son is an alcoholic, a drug addict and a compulsive gambler. After a few therapies, without a job or a home, he came close to homelessness. He stayed at Maison du Père. Today, with the help of Alcoholics Anonymous, he has been sober for 5 and a half years, doing well, free from his addictions. One day at a time, he lives instead of surviving. I prayed and kept hoping that he would one day be out of trouble. I am grateful to Maison du Père for being there for him.

Anonymous

» I support Maison du Père because 28 years ago, my mother-in-law having passed away, I went to Maison du Père to get donation cards for the day of her funeral. My mother-in-law lived in a residence near Maison du Père and once a week she gave 10 dollars. So in her memory, I continued to give.

Claudette Bricault, Brossard

» We support Maison du Père because it is a cause that touches us deeply. It directly affects the male clientele that we serve every day at our barber shop.

*Patricia Rivard, Montreal
L'Authentique gentleman barbier*

» You give shelter to the homeless.

Marxelle Gaudreau, Magog

» I live in an apartment building. During the winter, homeless people sometimes sleep near the entrance. I give them a little money and refer them to Maison du Père...

» I believe that no one is safe, during their lifetime, from facing one or more situations that they are not able to overcome. Whether it's the loss of a loved one, an accident, the loss of a job, severe depression, or medication, alcohol or drug abuse. Losing control of one's life can happen to anyone. **Better to help than to judge.**

Roger Benoit, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu

» Because I simply love them and they need help! Well done to your entire team!

Anonymous

» I support Maison du Père because it can prevent people from drowning in the storm. It is an oasis of hope. I am connected to it by a feeling of gratitude for your essential work of supporting men in precarious situations (and it can happen to anyone). The father of my 2 daughters took shelter there when his life changed after having known prison, the death of his adoptive father, a fire in our house, an AIDS diagnosis and the trap of excessive self-medication with alcohol and drugs.

He was welcomed without judgment, unconditionally. Following the death of a friend on July 23, 1998, the employees also helped me with the formalities and organized the funeral at Maison du Père with his companions of misfortune... a meaningful, warm ceremony...

Louise Lizotte, Montreal



Do you also have a story to tell us? Please do not hesitate to write to us with a letter accompanying your donation, in the return envelope, or by writing to us at communications@maisondupere.org. We look forward to reading you, and sharing your testimony!

ACTIVITIES RETURN

(FINALLY !)

The residents of Maison du Père, like all elderly people living in a seniors' residence in the red zone, have been greatly affected in their daily activities over the past fifteen months: confinement, meals served in trays to their room instead of the service in the cafeteria, suspension of supervised group activities, etc. This situation exacerbated the problems already present for many of them.

Fortunately, rule relaxations were made last June by the *ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux* following the administration of the second dose of the vaccine. Wearing a mask and social distancing are still required, but many social activities have been resumed.

This comeback was accompanied by the rejuvenation of the Residence terrace, which was made possible thanks to the financial support of the Grace Dart Foundation. Residents now benefit from more pleasant spaces that are better suited to the needs of people with reduced mobility.

The mission of the Grace Dart Foundation is to ensure the well-being of seniors in the Greater Montreal area. It was therefore sensitive to the approach of Maison du Père with regard to its practices with the elders of the streets



permanently accommodated in its residence: improving their overall health, breaking their isolation, developing healthier lifestyle habits and encouraging them to have fun while sober.

The Grace Dart Foundation will also help refurbish the bathrooms in the Residence over the coming months so that they are better suited to the reality of our elderly men losing their autonomy.

As you know, development projects, including the creation of a new residence for seniors from the streets, are about to see the light of day.

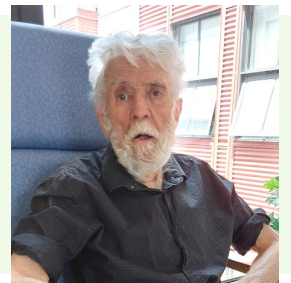
These projects require a significant investment in both capital and operating costs, including those related to response and support personnel. In recent years, we have succeeded in obtaining significant financial support from the various levels of government. However, we could not achieve this without the support of foundations and private donors sensitive to the needs of the men we support.

Thank you to all of you who make it possible that every street finds an exit, in dignity!



» I only knew Maison du Père by reputation. I knew it took care of poor men. That's all. But, it was better than I expected. I thought we didn't really care of the poor. But here, they take care of us, while respecting our dignity. That is very important to me: dignity. We must respect each other.

Visit our website for the full testimonial






SUPPORT MAISON DU PÈRE !

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