



United we stand! Maison du Père has understood this for years. This is why its team is made up of employees, volunteers and also partners from the public and private sectors who have agreed to offer their expertise and financial support to fight homelessness.

Thank you to the service providers and support staff, volunteers, some of whom sit on the Board of Directors, Trinitarians, donors, doctors, police officers, lawyers, business leaders and organizations related to social housing.

2020 - A Pivotal Year

As part of its 50th anniversary, Maison du Père team was preparing to set up new projects related to the creation of permanent accommodation with support.

However, COVID-19 has curbed our momentum. We had put our energies in protecting the health of the men, employees and volunteers for whom we had a commitment, during the implementation of emergency measures by the government.

The challenges were great, but we were able to meet them. Our services were maintained, despite the constraints imposed.

The year 2020 will be a pivotal year for Maison du Père. Nothing will be the same again. This newsletter is a portrait of the actions that have been taken and that will continue over the next year to promote access to better living conditions for homeless people.

We also give a voice to these men who, thanks to you, partners of Maison du Père, can testify to the work accomplished.

Because every street should have an exit...

More than ever, we need your support!

Shelter reinvent itself during pandemic

On March 18, the pandemic forced us to suspend new admissions to all services, in order to limit access to Maison du Père to the same group of people. Thus, the 194 men present at the Refuge that evening had the privilege of keeping their beds until the emergency measures were lifted, if they respected the rules of living, hygiene and social distancing.

Over the weeks, beds have become available. For the first time, the Refuge response team was working with a fixed and smaller group. This situation allowed them to deepen their intervention and find solutions with users so that they can benefit from better living conditions. In 3 months, 28 people found accommodation or were taken in by a member of their family.

For years, Maison du Père has focused its energies on the development of projects related to residential stabilization with support for people experiencing homelessness. The pandemic has only strengthened our resolve to maintain this trend. This is why the traditional Refuge was transformed last July into a reception and accommodation center for referencing (Centre d'accueil et d'hébergement en référencement, or CAHR). We will keep emergency services after the pandemic, but the number of beds will be reduced, to encourage adherence to a reintegration program and to respect social distancing in the dormitories.

All men will have to commit to a stabilization process, at the CAHR of Maison du Père, and will have a worker to support them in their efforts. They will also receive accommodation for a period of 4 months. At the end of this period, they should have chosen their stabilization plan: join a social reintegration program from Maison du Père or another organization; integrate a retirement home or a long-term care center; integrate housing with or without supervision, etc. Each of them will need to improve their living conditions by getting off the streets.

During this transitional accommodation period, participants will also have to get involved in a technical activity: food service, housekeeping, laundry, etc., which is one way to keep them away from social disaffiliation. Men say it themselves: they need to be in action and contribute to a community.

The CAHR will also include a prevention component through a telephone line dedicated to professionals struggling with eviction situations leading to homelessness. The cases are likely to be numerous in the coming months due to the serious socio-economic consequences that the pandemic will have on the most disadvantaged populations.

So now is the time to act.

Because every street should have an exit...

Maison du Père: a parenthesis, not an end point

Marc had resorted to using the services of Maison du Père some twenty years ago. A parenthesis that



allowed him to get his life back into his own hands. Unfortunately, a hard blow plunged him back into a serious depression: his wife died. To ease his pain, he resumed drinking, working 80 hours a week. This lifestyle almost cost him his life, as he ended up in the hospital after a cardiac arrest. During his stay, he admitted his addiction problem and agreed to undergo drug treatment. He then remembered the help Maison du Père had given him. He therefore applied to enter the RESO service following his therapy. As soon as he entered social reintegration, Marc expressed his deep desire to return to the job market. It was clear to him that his alcohol addiction was now a thing of the past. Very

motivated, he went through several interviews for various companies. But quickly, the momentum was stopped. He hit a wall because of the physical limitations caused by his stroke. His demons then returned to haunt him. Because of lack of space in a closed-door detoxification center, he chose to return to the streets fearing the violent symptoms of withdrawal. However, he agreed to maintain contact with Maison du Père team, who continued to search for a suitable center. For several weeks, service providers from each of the departments took turns to maintain the bond of trust while ensuring his well-being and safety. The team's perseverance has been rewarded: thanks to the support of social workers and nurses from the health network, Marc was able to integrate a detoxification program at Notre-Dame Hospital. After his stay, he returned to the RESO of Maison du Père and, on the advice of his

service provider, he enrolled in AIM-CROIT, an organization for rehabilitation, guidance and work integration. Thanks to their support, he was able to find a job in his field that was suited to his physical condition. He loves his job, his team, and will move into housing soon.

Because every street should have an exit...

Un survivant de la COVID-19



Serge lives permanently at the Résidence J.A. DeSève of Maison du Père. He started to have symptoms at the beginning of April.

"I had a fever, and I was extremely tired. Since the staff at the residence was very vigilant,

they immediately sent me to the hospital.

I was admitted to intensive care, to the special COVID-19 unit at the CHUM. I was hooked up to an oxygen machine, to help me breathe. I was monitored closely: my vital signs were taken often to check if my condition was improving. I stayed there three weeks. I was very afraid. I thought I would die...

Finally, as the symptoms subsided, I was allowed to return to the Résidence J.A. DeSève. Although I was happy to be able to have my room back, the situation was not so

easy... Each of us was confined to their room, with the only permission to leave: to use the bathroom!

Fortunately, Maison du Père adapted well, and despite the stress, everyone kept their good spirits. Jessica, coordinator of health services, and Marie, auxiliary nurse, came to see me from time to time to be sure that my state of health remained stable.

Social activities have been canceled, to avoid contact as much as possible and to protect us. As we could not go out, meals were delivered to our rooms by staff and volunteers. No one was allowed to enter the rooms. When they showed up, they wore a mask, visor and gown right down to the shoes!

Now we can go downstairs to eat at the cafeteria. You can enjoy the common areas a little more, such as the exterior balconies and the terrace. But we continue to be vigilant: we keep our distances, and when we enter and leave the building, there is a reception clerk who invites us to wash our hands well.

I am lucky to be staying in a Residence that has done everything possible to protect the lives of its residents. Containment has been long and difficult, but today I'm glad that I survived COVID and can now go out...

New challenge for the PLM team

In 2015, thanks to a grant related to the federal government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), Maison du Père became trustee of *Projet Logement Montréal*, which brings together the 4 largest organizations related to homelessness in Quebec: Maison du Père, Mission Bon Accueil, Old Brewery Mission and Accueil Bonneau. In 27 months, the Team has helped stabilize 250 chronically homeless people in housing and offered them weekly psychosocial follow-up to prevent them from returning to the streets.

In 2018, the provincial government called on their services by entrusting them with the mandate to house 166 new people, thanks to a partnership with the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM) and several organizations from the network of health and social services as well as the community organizing sector. This second project made it possible to develop the residential stability with support approach (*Stabilité résidentielle avec accompagnement*, or SRA) within community organizations that offer social housing and to reach a larger number of women and indigenous people. It also made it possible to integrate new practices, to promote interdisciplinary work and above all to offer a new roaming service offer.

The results obtained by the *Projet Logement Montréal* Team are conclusive: 87% of participants are still in housing. Their approach is to enable people living in a situation of chronic homelessness to have quick access to safe, affordable and permanent housing without having to embark on a very rigid social reintegration program. However, participants must agree to be accompanied by a counselor on a regular basis, in order to promote their social and community integration. The follow-up is carried out while respecting the choices and the pace of everyone.

Last June, as part of the provincial government's action plan for housing assistance, 200 new units, reserved for people experiencing homelessness, were confirmed for



the city of Montreal. Recognizing the expertise of *Projet Logement Montréal* in the field of SRA for people experiencing chronic or episodic homelessness, the Regional Service of the CIUSSS du Center-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal invited Maison du Père, project trustee, to accept this new challenge.

It is with pride that the *Projet Logement Montréal* Team accepted it. Thus, thanks to the financial support of the OMHM and the expertise of several other public and community organizations, 200 homeless men and women will be able to benefit from affordable housing and support over several years to facilitate their social reintegration.

This new investment is part of the *Plan de transition en itinérance*, in the context of the easing of the lockdown, which aims to put in place more sustainable solutions to meet the accommodation needs of people currently housed by the temporary overflow centers developed in the specific context of COVID-19.

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Legacy gift constitutes a significant source of income for la Maison du Père's Foundation. More and more donors are choosing to leave it a fixed amount, a percentage or the residue of their property. By this gesture of solidarity, they immortalize their support for the homeless, without affecting their personal financial situation.