



2022 IN REVIEW

DRAWING NEAR IN 2022



CHRISTIAN DIRECTION

The Lord is
close to the
brokenhearted
and saves those
who are crushed
in spirit.

PSALM 34:18

PROXIMITY, DRAWING NEAR IN 2022

In 2022, we chose “proximity” as our theme for the year at Christian Direction. Throughout the year we explored aspects of: proximity with God, proximity with others, and proximity with ourselves. We wrapped up this theme at our fall retreat with a day of fun and fellowship on a beautiful farm in the Eastern Townships.

During our retreat, we read the story of Moses and the burning bush. We noted how Moses had to draw near, and pay attention to the fiery bush in order to hear the Lord speaking. We reflected on the ‘burning bushes of 2022,’ and what they have taught us.

Simone Weil wrote, “Attention is the rarest and most pure form of generosity.” This attention to God, to one another, and to the needs of our neighbour is at the heart of Christian Direction. I invite you to pay attention as you read the following pages, to all the wonderful ways God is working through Christian Direction!



TIM KEENER
Executive Director





PUTTING FAITH INTO ACTION

WHO WE ARE

We are a community of urban practitioners with over 50 years experience partnering with local congregations and social service agencies for the social and spiritual transformation of youth, families and their communities in Quebec.

WHAT WE DO

We work to see God transform urban communities by the concerted actions of committed Christians. We help Christians put their faith into action!



HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

ENGAGING LEADERS

We engage leaders from local churches and community organisations who share a common commitment to the wellbeing of our city and its communities.

BUILDING CAPACITIES

We strengthen the capacities of urban practitioners who desire to integrate their spiritual life into a lived theology that puts their faith into practice.

DEVELOPING INITIATIVES

We foster the development of creative initiatives that will result in sustainable change for the wellbeing of neighbourhoods and their residents.

DRAWING NEAR TO OUR VOCATION

Jesus told his disciples that whenever they served the hungry, the stranger, the poor, or the imprisoned, they were serving him (Matthew 25:40). We believe our work is to invite, equip, and mobilise Christians to draw near to the needs of others in the care and compassion of Christ.

Here are some ways we drew near to our vocation in 2022.

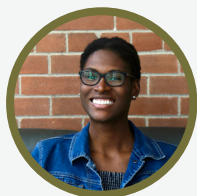
1. We hired 18 summer workers in various roles through our summer employment program.
2. 11 new participants completed our Urban Lab formation.
3. Innovation Assistance served over 600 households and redistributed over 6,500kg of food.
4. We hosted community leaders and workshops in our new ministry office in Côte-des-Neiges.
5. Our domestic violence research project, Rapha, launched in four languages.
6. We completed a 60-page community assessment with local Christians from three congregations in Montréal-Nord.
7. We helped 12 youth in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve explore the diverse ethnic backgrounds of their neighbourhoods.
8. We welcomed a new full-time coordinator for the Connections program.
9. Our Children's Library hosted over 400 participants in 25 workshops offered to children and their families from multiple backgrounds.
10. We updated our strategic plan for the West Island Network of churches.



MICAH ANGELL



JONATHAN DECLET



JESSICA JEAN-DENIS



HOPE JESMER



TIM KEENER



LUC LAMBERT



ARRALDA MAGLOIRE



DANIEL POENARU



EMILY SIMUNIC



CHRISTA SMITH



JENNA SMITH



CAROLE TAPIN



JACYNTHÉ VAILLANCOURT



ERIN WEN

“CHRISTIANITY IS, ABOVE ALL, A WAY OF SEEING”

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

Jesus taught his disciples to pray for God’s kingdom to come and God’s will be done on earth *as it is in heaven*. This causes us to ask: *How can we live and work here on earth, as we would in heaven?* We can easily see the brokenness of the world around us. But can we also imagine the way the world could be, according to a just and loving God?

Summer Innovation Youth Interns



IMAGINING THE KINGDOM

We work to imagine and to contribute to such a world under God's care. Under God's care, older members of our community would not fear having enough food. Under God's care, immigrant children and families would be welcome and included. Under God's care, uniquely abled youth would receive individualised support to reach their goals.

Jesus encouraged his disciples to watch, wait, and to work until his return. He often told stories of a master who goes away, and leaves servants in charge. "It will be good for the servant whose master finds him at work when he returns," he concluded in one parable (Matthew 24:46).

We are pleased to share our work with you, and are so grateful for your prayers and support!

Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst."

- Luke 17:20-21

FROM THE PORT TO THE NORTH

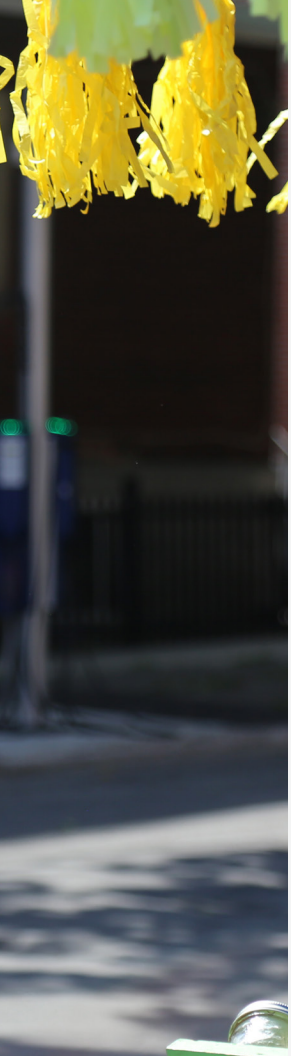
Hochelaga-Maisonneuve to Montréal-Nord

ENTR'ADOS

Located in the neighbourhood of Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Entr'Ados has worked with youth and families since 2009. In partnership with the Carrefour Parenfant, a local community centre, Entr'Ados offers teens, ages 12-17, after-school homework help, cooking workshops, financial capabilities mentoring, and urban gardening experience. This creative partnership also provides local Christians and churches a wonderful opportunity to volunteer and serve their community.

In the 2021-2022 school year, 25 youth enrolled in our various programs. This was a full year with summer gardening, biking excursions to promote health and loads of one-on-one tutoring and mentorship. 12 youth took part in our *Saveurs d'ici et d'ailleurs* (Flavors from here and abroad), an exciting photo project that allowed youth to discover diverse foods at local markets and document their neighbours' culinary cultures. Nine youth also grew their leadership skills in Choco-Hochma. They learned to manage their own finances, promote their products, and chose how to save and spend their earnings.





**Come, all you
who are thirsty,
come to the
waters; and you
who have no
money, come,
buy and eat!
Come, buy wine
and milk with-
out money and
without cost.**

Isaiah 55:1

Youth Photo Program at Entr'Ados

PRACTISING PEACE

In 2022 we launched Practising Peace with several local youth pastors in Montréal-Nord. This began with a 60-page community assessment to help churches better understand their communities and opportunities to serve them. We hired a summer intern from one of the local churches to assist in the writing of the assessment including interviews with seven community stakeholders. We also co-hosted a conversation with 17 teenagers from one local church on the topic of gun-related violence in their neighbourhoods. We provided counsel for another group who launched a Cyber-Café out of their church as an outreach to their neighbours. We look forward to continuing to help Christians in Montréal-Nord put their faith into action!

INNOVATION YOUTH

Innovation Youth is a youth and family centre in the downtown neighbourhood of Peter-McGill. The Innovation team offers a program for youth with individualised learning needs (*Connections*), a children's library, an urban agriculture program and a food security program. Innovation Youth has been a vital learning lab for Christian Direction where urban practitioners develop and test new ideas in church social outreach, community development and poverty alleviation.



CONNECTIONS

In 2022, we hosted 13 youth in our Connections program. Students participated in more than 30 workshops given by diverse volunteers focusing on personal growth, academic success, and vocational training. We celebrated the graduation of two students, and their transition into fully independent adult life, including our longest participating student, who launched her own online business and entered a business certificate program.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Our Children's Library offered 25 workshops for children and their families including music, cooking, gardening, and games. Over 60 individuals participated in spring break workshops, and we launched our 'hopscotch to kindergarten' for children 4-5 years old to help them prepare for primary school in French. The majority of participants are from immigrant families and we were able to build relationships with 12 families new to Canada.

URBAN AGRICULTURE

Our Urban Agriculture team, 'from the root to the city' cultivated seven productive and educational urban gardens throughout downtown, trained five summer staff and interns, and harvested over 30 kg of fresh flowers, herbs, and vegetables for Innovation Assistance. Gardeners gave workshops on seedlings, composting, soil health, and the relationships between food systems and climate change.

INNOVATION ASSISTANCE

Innovation Assistance transitioned to a 'solidarity market' approach in 2022, providing subsidised groceries to nearly 200 individuals at each market. Shoppers enjoy choosing from healthy and fresh options, and paying an affordable price. Innovation Assistance also sets up a mobile market at two seniors' homes in the neighbourhood, bringing quality and affordable food to around 70 seniors. This work is powered by a dedicated team of 50+ volunteers and we have seen an amazing show of generosity from donors in response to our #500forChristmas campaign, providing 500 food baskets for seniors and families in the neighbourhood.



URBAN MINISTRY

RAPHA

The Rapha Study was launched in 2022 to examine the experiences of domestic abuse survivors in the church in Quebec. “Rapha” means healing in Hebrew, and our hope is that this study will lead to actionable ways to change the narrative for survivors of domestic violence and inspire churches to develop new ministry responses. As of December 2022, close to 300 respondents filled out the survey. Already we have spoken with multiple survivors and concerned church leaders in diverse traditions of the Church.

WEST ISLAND NETWORK

The West Island Network (WIN) is a concerted group of churches and Christian organisations located in the West Island that is coordinated and supported by Christian Direction. This network provides representation on the local community council, and is on the board of the Table de Quartier du Nord de l’Ouest de l’Île. In 2022, WIN hosted the Big Give in June in collaboration with six churches. We employed summer staff to cultivate three urban agriculture projects. We also created our new strategic plan and launched a series of Community Forge nights, in which members of local churches can learn about pressing social issues in their area.

YOUTH CHURCH

Youth Church is a collaborative movement of churches that work together for youth ministry in downtown Montreal. Their vision is to disciple teenagers and help them learn to love their city in the method and manner of Jesus. In 2022, youth from eight churches met monthly, alternating between a worship night and a service night. They made hundreds of pounds of chilli and walked on the Coldest Night of the Year for local homeless shelters. In the summer, over 50 youth participated in the Youth Church Summer Internship, learning what it means to pray for and serve their neighbours intentionally.

URBAN LAB

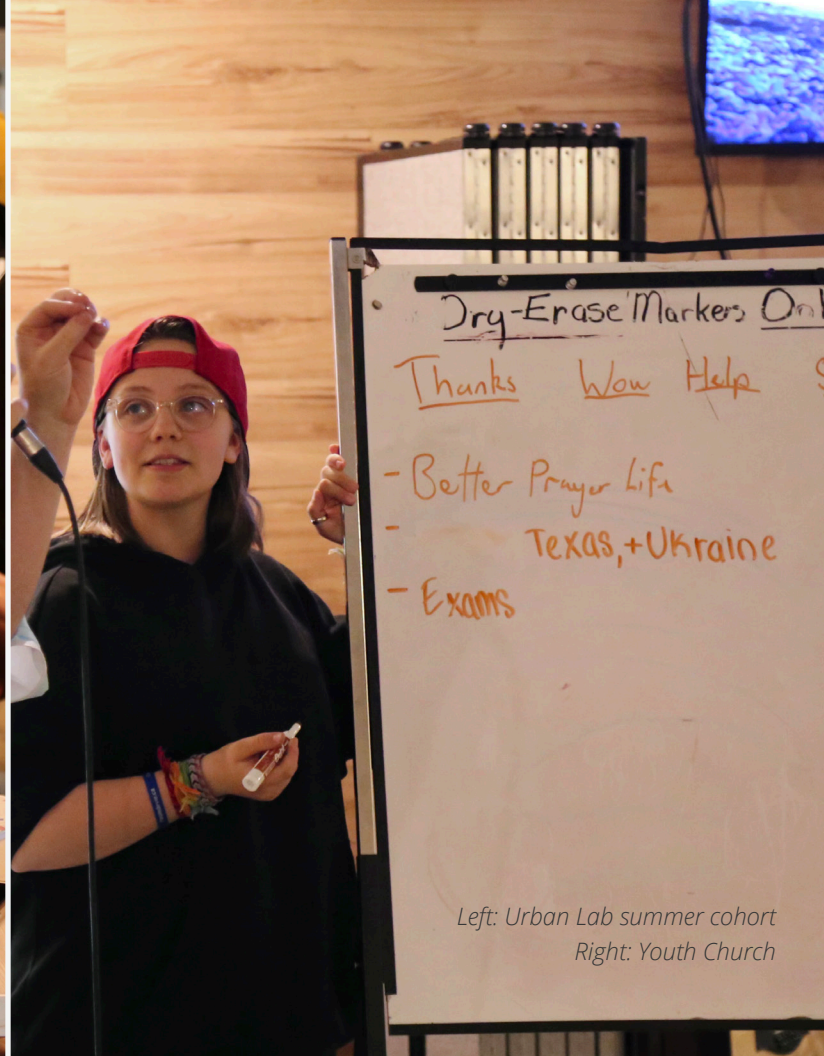
The Urban Lab is a formative experience that helps shape and engage young adults employed or doing internships with Christian Direction. For six weeks participants read Scripture together and examine the message, methods, and manner of Jesus. Our purpose is to prepare young leaders for practical urban ministry with attention to their spiritual formation.

In 2022, we welcomed 11 summer staff for our fourth cohort of the Urban Lab. Two of them became part-time employees, working in our Urban Agriculture program, and at Entr'Ados in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve. Each year we are impressed with their curiosity and we are reminded that they teach us as much as we teach them!



"Joining the team at Christian Direction had a profound impact on my life. I was offered space to process my experiences and think critically about them in the context of missional work. Each week in the Urban Lab, we were encouraged to challenge our preconceptions of what it meant to be a healthy urban practitioner. My favourite topic was about moving from rivalry to peace-making. I have no doubt this experience will continue to inform my work and my faith for years to come."

- Victoria, summer communications intern.



Dry-Erase Markers On!
Thanks Wow Help S
- Better Prayer Life
- Texas, + Ukraine
- Exams

Left: Urban Lab summer cohort
Right: Youth Church

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

GOING FURTHER IN MINISTRY

Following two years of surplus created from government aid during the COVID-19 pandemic, we anticipated a strategic deficit in 2022. We moved our offices from downtown to the Côte-des-Neiges neighbourhood to reduce our operational overhead. Like other organisations, inflation has caused our operating costs to rise. We continue to invest in our team and in new initiatives like our domestic violence research project and neighbourhood research and networking in Montréal-Nord.

Although revenue from public grants for community development projects has increased, our donations have remained relatively the same.

We have very faithful donors who continue to give year after year. Nonetheless, as the cost of doing ministry has continually risen, we have a critical need for:

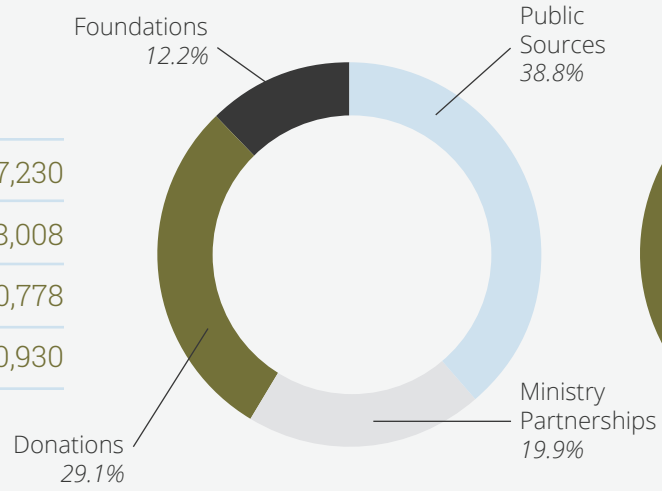
1. new donors,
2. increased donation frequency, and
3. greater donation amounts.

Pray with us for new partners and more opportunities to go even further in ministry!

SEPTEMBER 2021 - AUGUST 2022

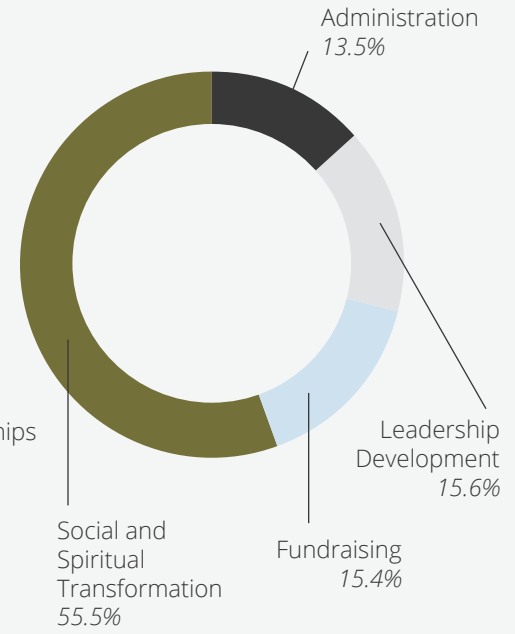
REVENUE	\$1,047,230
EXPENSES	\$1,098,008
NET LOSS	-\$50,778
TOTAL CAPITAL	\$240,930

REVENUE



DONORS	436
CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS	35
FOUNDATIONS	8
GRANTS AND PUBLIC SOURCES	19

EXPENSES



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Street Psalms

Our entire Christian Direction team wishes to thank our valued board and corporation members and our many financial partners. Thank you for making our work possible!

