



2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

 **bgc** Dawson

AN OPENING MESSAGE



Alicia Mancini
President



Chad Polito
Executive Director

As we gather together to reflect on this past year three key words come to mind: service, adaptability and inclusivity. For over 60 years, BGC Dawson has strived to make everyone who walks through our doors feel welcomed and at home while participating in our programs and services.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought on a unique set of challenges for our entire community. This past year was tough as we experienced increased demand for social, recreational and educational programs for children, youth and seniors as well as a significant spike in requests for emergency food relief.

We are incredibly grateful for the generous support of our donors and community partners who responded to calls for support by providing the necessary funds to deliver essential programs throughout the pandemic. Our staff and volunteers turned on a dime to deliver emergency food relief as well as mental health programming and support. We quickly launched new virtual programs for all ages including a brand new music program!

In April 2020, we welcomed Marie Rousseau as our new Director of Finance and Administration. We are grateful for the experience and energy that Marie brings to the team. In October, Darley Polony celebrated 20 years of service! Darley has been instrumental in developing the youth programs into a vibrant inclusive space where everyone has a voice.

We are happy to announce that this year Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada has rebranded to BGC Canada. We stand enthusiastically behind this change as it reflects our values of inclusivity and diversity. Moving forward we will be known as BGC Dawson, a name that is inclusive of all our members and program offerings.

We wouldn't be able to offer all that we do without the help and support of our donors, community partners, staff, volunteers and student interns. Everything we achieve is because of our combined efforts and desire to make a positive impact in our community. As we look to the future and think of life post COVID-19, we are committed to providing long-term community care through quality programs for all ages.

Here's to an exciting new year!

Alicia Mancini *Chad Polito*



With deep roots in the English-speaking community in Verdun since 1959, BGC Dawson is a safe and supportive community centre that offers a wide range of educational, recreational, and social programs.

MISSION

To provide a safe and supportive place where children, youth, adults, and seniors can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships, and develop confidence and skills for life.



VISION

All members of the community discover and achieve their dreams to be healthy, successful, and active participants in society.

VALUES

BELONGING



RESPECT



ENCOURAGEMENT



WORKING TOGETHER



SPEAKING OUT

YEAR IN REVIEW

COVID-19 hit our community hard, but through special grants from the Government of Canada, Centraide, BGC Canada, Second Harvest, and the borough of Verdun, we were able to provide emergency food assistance to over 800 individuals in a one month period.

In June we officially launched our virtual programming! We offered fun and stimulating content as well as mental health check-ins to keep our members engaged during this period of social isolation.




APRIL




JUNE



MAY



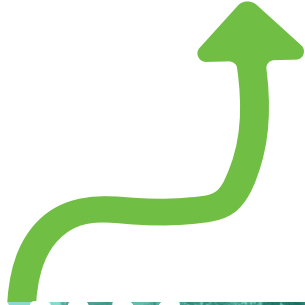
Within 72 hours of posting our need of fridges, local business owner Danny Deans donated 3 fridges to our emergency food efforts! A big thank you to Diana Clarke for helping make it happen!



Woodland Toyota, Gravel Auto, Communauto, and Goeasy generously supplied us with vehicles to provide emergency food assistance! Thanks to volunteers we are able to deliver food to families in isolation.

Thank you to Lenovo Canada, Best Buy Canada, and BGC Canada for providing Chromebooks to us! These Chromebooks power our virtual programming and help us provide the Dawson experience online.

We opened our doors back to members of all ages in September! From toddlers to seniors we were excited to welcome members back to Dawson after being limited to primarily connecting virtually over the spring and summer.



JULY

SEPTEMBER

AUGUST



The centre underwent a considerable physical transformation during the summer. We updated the colours of our first floor to create a fresher, welcoming atmosphere!

In August we received around 250 boxes containing over 5,000 articles of clothing from Banana Republic! With these donations we were able to provide clothing to our members, the community, and partner organizations.

Dawson offered This Way ONward; a job preparation program for youth 16-24 years old in collaboration with Old Navy Canada.

Dawson celebrated the holiday season with the 12 Days of Dawson! Every weekday we shared different ways we made the season special for our members during an unprecedented year. We provided cheer with calendars, fresh-baked cookies, caroling, and so much more!



OCTOBER



DECEMBER



NOVEMBER

Dawson strives to provide an environment where people of all ages are able to learn to live a healthy, active life. With support from funders like Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities and BGC Canada we were able to provide countless hours of fun, recreational activities for our members to support healthy habits during the pandemic.

With support from RECLAIM Literacy and Literacy Quebec we were able to distribute dozens of books to our youngest members to share the love of reading.

In partnership with Arrondissement de Verdun, we launched the Brigade Neige program! This initiative by our youth and Beurling Academy students helps those with limited mobility by shoveling snow off their walkways.



In March we received a 2021 Hyundai Santa Fe from Hyundai Canada for one year! This will make it easier for us to provide life-changing programs and community-based services for the next twelve months.



JANUARY

MARCH



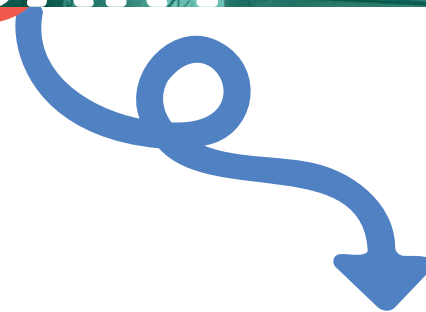
Photo by Jean Beaudin

FEBRUARY

Dawson hosted a free Webinar on how to start an RESP! We included information on how to access free money for a child's education and awarded several RESP bursaries from BGC Dawson.



This year, we launched virtual music lessons for youth ages 12-18. Through the 8-week course, participants learned the fundamentals of guitar playing and more!



PARENTS AND TOTS

The Parents and Tots Program is a safe space where families who have children under the age of 5 can find support, resources and activities that will help their little ones build on their development.

Throughout the summer, we offered support at local parks by providing play equipment for parents to use. We also provided parents with possible activities and games to play with their children to help stimulate their development.

This past year, we hosted our annual Grinchmas celebration. This yearly event has our parents and tots team retell the holiday classic with puppets and more. We launched online programming for the first time, including our Karibou program, which is a motor skills development course for children.

20
FAMILIES
SERVED



We offered more respite blocks from September 2020 to December 2021. We were required to limit the number of families during the parent-child activities in order to adhere to government-mandated safety guidelines. We also continued our parent-child activities but reduced the time and number of families during the time-slot. This created an additional program block and permitted us to accommodate families who wanted to join during the pandemic.

WHILE TAKING PART IN THE PARENTS AND TOTS PROGRAM, I APPRECIATED THE SPACE AND THE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE

- PARENT PARTICIPANT

4-12



The 4-12 program has 4 distinct program areas; after school, day camps, weekend, and virtual programs. All of our programs include educational, recreational and artistic components to enrich the development of children in our care. Our main objective is to offer a safe and inclusive space where members can develop new skills and learn positive habits to live healthy, active lives.

To keep members engaged throughout the pandemic, we launched a variety of virtual programs. From the summer of 2020 to the spring of 2021, we continuously offered activities that supported all aspects of positive mental health.

With the addition of our virtual programs, we were able to offer our activities to children regardless of their proximity to Verdun.

When we reopened doors to members in the fall for the after school program, we had to continually adapt to ever changing safety measures. Although we had to modify our usual programming structure, we were still able to offer the same BGC Dawson experience in collaboration with other programs.



OUR JAYS CARE VIRTUAL SUMMER CAMP HAD

117 PARTICIPANTS

REGISTERED THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

IN SPRING 2021, WE HAD

49 PARTICIPANTS

IN OUR VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

YOUTH

The Youth Programs provide social, recreational, and educational activities for preteens, teens and young adults. We offer brave spaces for youth to become decision makers on issues that directly impact them. We encourage the model: For Youth By Youth. We don't shy away from difficult conversations because truth telling and testimonials are instrumental for healing. We foster strength-based, participatory and trauma-informed approaches in all group discussions. We welcome preteens, teens, and young adults from all over Montreal. The Youth Programs population is a melting pot of peoples, cultures and individuals that come together to create an environment that celebrates differences.



Dawson's Youth programming responded to the accessibility restrictions created by the COVID-19 pandemic by offering online/virtual curriculum for our regular programs. Youth were also presented a hybrid option in which they could participate in the programming, 2 days virtual and 3 days in person. This helped provide safety, consistency and stability for our participants. The youth who participated in virtual programming benefited by having communication with animators and other teens as opposed to solely members of their household.

IN TOTAL OUR YOUTH CONTRIBUTED

550 HOURS

TO OUR BRIGADE NEIGE INITIATIVE

42 YOUTH

GAINED EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS
WITH THE LEAD UP AND THIS WAY
ONWARD PROGRAMS

SENIORS

The BGC Dawson Seniors Program provides social, educational and recreational programs and services to members of our community over the age of 50. Our desire is for every senior participating in our programs to feel welcomed and valued.

The COVID-19 pandemic left many of our seniors isolated and cut off from programs and services that had become part of their lives. In April 2020, we launched health and wellness check-ins for 80 of our members and happily provided food assistance and other relief efforts as needed.

In the spring of 2020, we were able to provide our annual Tax Clinic service in an adapted format that respected COVID-19 protocols. We are grateful for our faithful volunteer, Mr. Quoc-Duong, for completing 74 tax returns for community members this year!



56 HOURS OF VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING



*Photo by
Stephanie Colvey*

During the winter months, we offered seasonal flu-shots to our members in collaboration with the CLSC. We were happy to participate in a community initiative to deliver catered meals to isolated individuals. During the holiday season, we distributed baskets containing assorted cookies, a calendar and a homemade card from children in our programs.

We are pleased to share that several of our classes made the transition to a digital format for the fall, winter, and spring seasons. Gabrielle Roddy provided weekly fitness classes that included social interaction at the end of each class. Many of our seniors are now zoom experts!

FOOD AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Food and Sustainability department at Dawson consist of four distinct programs: Dawson Kitchen, Dawson Gardens, Mobile Markets and the Food Bank. Dawson's Food and Sustainability department is dedicated to ensuring the community has access to healthy food and is committed to reducing waste and building ecologically friendly food systems.

KITCHEN



Dawson Kitchen cooked 5000+ healthy and delicious meals and snacks for members in our programs as well as the community through our weekly market.

RECUPERATION



Our partnership in the food recuperation network saved 8500 kg of food from becoming waste and helped us feed citizens living with food insecurity.

GARDEN



This program taught how to grow food through workshops and participation in our collective gardens. Food harvested through one of our gardens supports our food security initiatives.

MOBILE MARKET



The mobile market initiative brought fresh fruits and vegetables into local HLMs helping residents with low mobility access fresh produce at low cost.

FOOD BANK



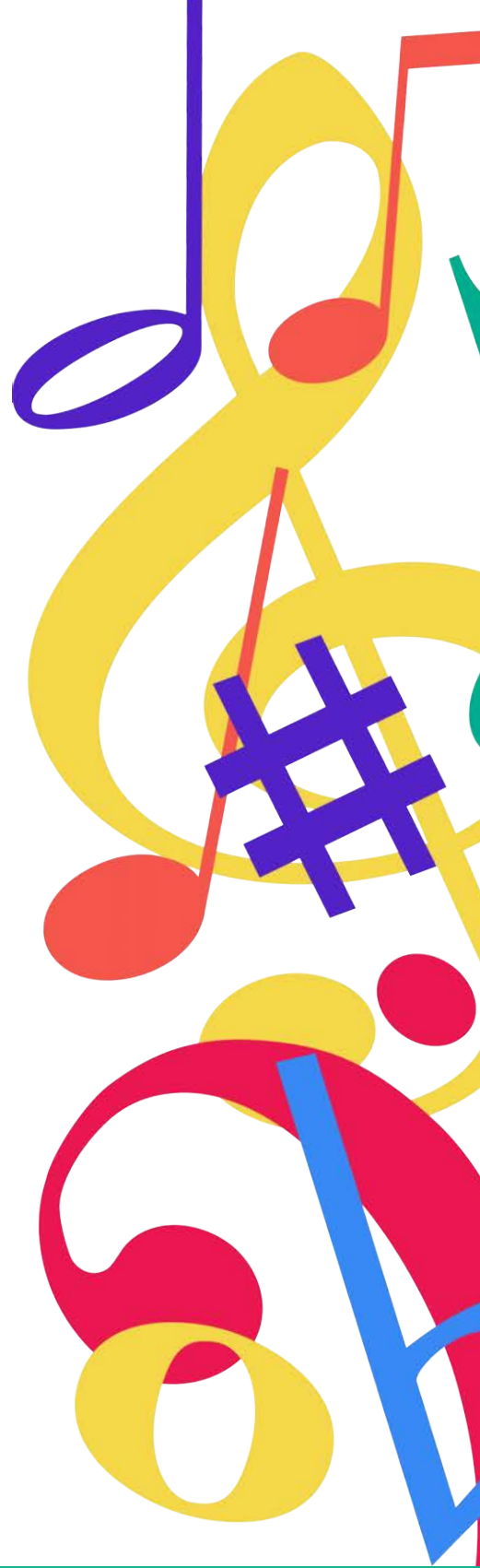
Our food bank distributed over 2800 food baskets to our most vulnerable neighbours and fed over 4800 individuals. Moisson Montreal provided 25,000 kg of food this year.

MUSIC

The main objective of Dawson's music program is to provide an opportunity for children and youth to discover or nurture a passion for music and acquire the necessary skills to continue their musical growth throughout the rest of their lives, whether it be on a professional or hobbyist level.

All students are encouraged to experiment with multiple facets of music to see what aspects of the art inspires them creatively and intellectually.

The music program migrated to virtual programming in 2021. This development required the use of additional instruments and the creation of a system to lend them out to all interested in participating virtually. These sessions were comprised of groups of up to 8 students who were all provided with instruments and lesson material with a new musical topic each week. Providing access to musical instruments has been hugely beneficial in terms of ensuring that no child is left out due to lack of resources.



WE OFFERED

68 HOURS OVER 15 WEEKS

OF INDIVIDUAL MUSIC LESSONS TO OUR 4-12 AGE GROUP

MEMBER SERVICES

Here at BGC Dawson, we are committed to providing an outstanding experience for all those who walk through our doors. We are endlessly grateful to our wonderful members and program participants who make it possible for us to deliver the programming and do the work that we love so much. We are privileged to be part of such a vibrant, dynamic community and to share in experiences and services that make tangible differences in people's lives!

1250+

FACEBOOK
LIKES TO DATE

INCREASE OF
115%
IN INSTAGRAM
POST REACH

472

LIKES ON OUR
MOST POPULAR
POST

STATISTICS



18

WEEKS OF OUR
THOMAS MORE
SENIORS
READING GROUP

OUR VOLUNTEERS
CONTRIBUTED

3039
HOURS

TOWARDS OUR
PROGRAMMING



452
HOURS

OF VIRTUAL
PROGRAMMING



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

“ The past 20 years went by in a flash. Being of service to the youth and their families, working with this beautiful team have led me to my purpose. It took a lot for me to get here. I’m immensely grateful to Dawson and the community for their continuous support. In the words of Maya Angelou; *‘I come as one, I stand as ten thousand.’*

– Darley Polony

BGC Dawson is proud to celebrate the contributions of our Youth Programs Coordinator, Darley Polony. Over the past 20 years, Darley has led a team of animators that have guided our youth participants through workshops and life changing programs.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank Darley for her passion, enthusiasm, and dedication that has made BGC Dawson an inspiring place to be!



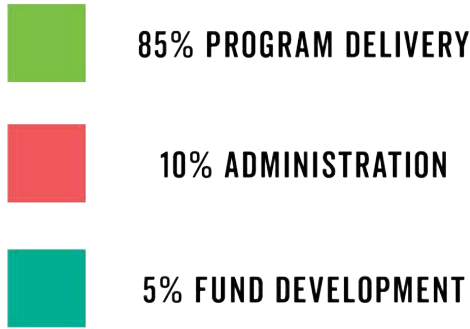
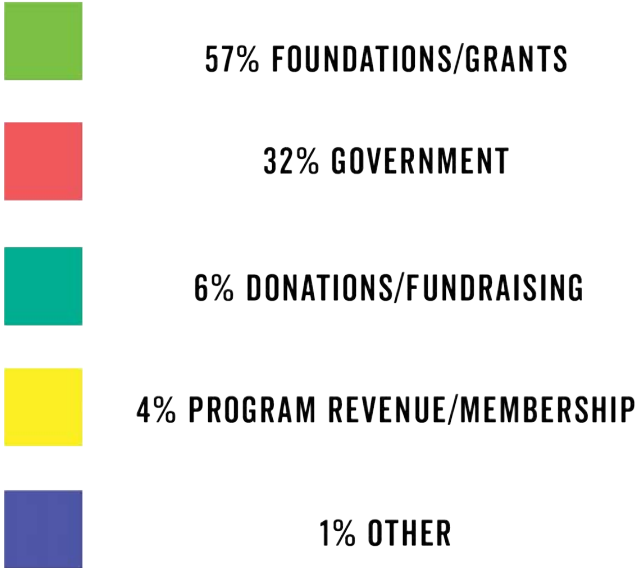
VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is a vital component of BGC Dawson. Throughout the year, volunteers of all ages and abilities help deliver vital programs and services in the community.

This year we would like to recognize the invaluable contributions of our food bank volunteers Laurence Von Saenger and Henry Von Saenger. Laurence and her son, Henry, have been assisting in food deliveries to those who are unable to leave their home because of health and/or mobility concerns. Thank you Laurence and Henry for your incredible and inspiring work!

FINANCIALS

Dawson Community Centre (BGC Dawson)
April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021



Full Audited financial statements are available upon request.

SUPPORT



Canada 

Québec 

SUPPORTERS

Banana Republic

Best Buy

BGC Canada

Breakfast Clubs of Canada

Calgary Foundation

Canadian Red Cross

Canadian Tire Jumpstart
Charities

Catholic Womens League of
Canada

Centre des Femmes de Verdun

Cineplex

Club Lions de Verdun

Club Optimiste Verdun

CN Pensioners Association

Coca Cola Canada

Communauto

The Honourable David Lametti

De Lage Landen

Endelman Public Relations

Erin Sports Association

Fédération québécoise des centres
communautaires de loisirs
(FQCCL)

Fidelity Investments

Fondation Beausoleil

Fondation du Grand Montréal

Fondation Richlieu

GAP

Gary White Virtual Pub Night

Gewurz Family Foundation

Gravel Ile Des Soeurs Chevrolet
Buick GMC

Goeasy

Hyundai Canada

Indigo Love of Reading

Isabelle Melançon, MNA

Jays Care Foundation

KPMG Foundation

La Rue Inspire

Literacy Quebec

M&M Food Market

Michaels Canada

Moisson Montréal

Montreal Canadiens Children's
Foundation

Old Navy

Physiotherapie Solution

Prime Time

President's Choice Children's
Charity

Public Health Agency of Canada

RBC Future Launch

RECAIM Literacy

Safe-T Med Supply

Second Harvest Food Rescue

St Andrew's Society of
Montreal

St Matthias' Anglican Church

Staples Canada

Tapis Champeau

Ted Rogers Scholarship Fund

The VoxBox

Tomas Tatar

UPS

Woodland Toyota

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

- ABC Life Literacy Canada • Ancre des jeunes • Anglo Family Council • Beurling Academy • Casa C.A.F.I • CAUS
- Children's World Academy • CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal • Concertation en développement social de Verdun (CDSV) • Concordia University • CPE Riverview • CCS • Dawson College • La maison de l'environnement • La Maison des Familles de Verdun • Lester B. Person School Board • Les Fruits Défendus
- McGill University • Naos Jeunesse • Riverview Elementary School • Suspicious Fish • Table de concertation des ressources pour aînés de Verdun (TCRAV) • Table de concertation Famille de Verdun (TCFV) • Table de Concertation Jeunesse Verdun (TCJV) • Thomas More Institute • Toujours Ensemble • Trajet
- Verdun Elementary School • YMCA

**Every effort has been made to ensure all names are complete and accurate. If we have omitted or listed your name incorrectly, please contact administration@dawsonbgc.ca*



Dawson

MODEL FOR SUCCESS

Our Model for Success describes the common features and core programming areas offered by BGC Dawson, and the positive outcomes for children and youth that are achieved through them.

Every element is based on the values and activities of BGC Canada and is grounded in the latest research in child and youth development.

COMMON FEATURES

Respectful, inclusive and engaging environments

Relationship-building and mentoring

Community and family engagement

CORE PROGRAMMING

Physical activity, health and safety

Leadership, growth and empowerment

Learning and career development

Families and communities

SHORT TERM OUTCOMES

- ✓ Children and youth are emotionally and physically safe
- ✓ Children and youth feel welcomed, accepted, valued and respected
- ✓ Children and youth enjoy exploring new opportunities
- ✓ Programs build relevant skills for children and youth
- ✓ Community, parents, children and youth are engaged in Clubs and feel ownership of programs

MID TERM OUTCOMES

- ✓ Children and youth are healthy, active and safe
- ✓ Children and youth are connected to peers, parents, school and community
- ✓ Children and youth have key academic, vocational and recreational skills
- ✓ Children and youth have confidence in their aspirations

ADULT OUTCOMES

- ✓ Health and well-being
- ✓ Positive and caring relationships
- ✓ Educational attainment and ability to achieve dreams
- ✓ Self-sufficiency and independence
- ✓ Meaningful participation in community and civil society

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alicia Mancini, President

Marjorie Clarke, Vice President

Emani Hamouda, Treasurer

Diana Glennie, Secretary

Siméon Bégin, Administrator

Jacqueline Hall, Administrator

Jean-Michel Marcotte, Administrator

Marie-Joëlle Proulx, Administrator

Denise Brown, Administrator

Olivier Moreau-Notebaert, Administrator

LEADERSHIP

Chad Polito, Executive Director

Marie Rousseau, Director of Finance & Administration

Joanne Eberlin, Administrative Secretary

Sophia Kopyna, Member Services

Cindy Cohen, 0-12 Program Coordinator

John Francom, Music Coordinator

Darley Polony, Youth Program Coordinator

Marc Paradis, Seniors 50+ Coordinator

Roxanne Tisdall, Food & Sustainability Coordinator

Alvin Romero, Maintenance Manager

STAFF

Titus Banerjee

Ali Byers*

Emmet Carriere

Julia Castrogiovanni

Kasha Chang

Juliette Charpentier*

Rebecca Cornelow *

Sherwin Cumberbatch

Jessica Dewling

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Franc Di Mauro

Kyle Dixon

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Peter Gradys

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Megan MacCambridge*

Michelle MacGregor*

Marc McKeown

Jessica Prior

Kristina Pouliezos

Brenden Renzelli

Jose Silva Abarca*

Ben Schuringa

Nathaniel Waplington

Abigail Yaeger*

*Departures

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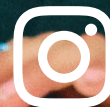
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