

Centraide Outaouais announces its social investments

Centraide Outaouais will reinvest \$3,098,004 in the community to pursue ongoing activities, develop new initiatives, and support the thousands of people served by local agencies. A total of 88 agencies, three programs and six partnerships are supported by Centraide Outaouais locally to provide a social safety net and work towards an inclusive, poverty-free community.

Social investments have been allocated according to the needs identified in the four fields of action that guide the organization's decisions:

- **Supporting Youth Success:** Donations will help agencies carry on their work in the field. In underprivileged areas, they provide a safe place where young people can envision a better future through workshops on staying in school, cooking, or drug prevention.

Thanks to the generosity of the Fondation Lucie et André Chagnon, Centraide Outaouais will once again this year boost investments in this area. The objective of the fund is to support initiatives aimed at maintaining kids' motivation and keeping them in school and developing their self-esteem.

- **Providing the basics:** Investments will enable agencies to offer permanent housing or temporary shelter for people in crisis, support the homeless, whose numbers have jumped since the pandemic, and meet the food security needs of families and individuals living in poverty.
- **Ending social isolation:** Crisis situations have become even more acute, and isolated people, especially seniors and youth, suffer greater social hardship. Agencies are also addressing the isolation of people with disabilities, immigrants and refugees, and First Nations people. With the allocated funds, organizations will keep offering telephone helplines, frontline action, and workgroups.
- **Building supportive environments:** The money raised will support various programs aimed at promoting social solidarity, volunteering, and mutual aid in underprivileged areas, for example, by supporting neighbourhood or family centres.

Centraide Outaouais also continues to invest in three local programs—Back to school, the Snowsuit Fund, and a support and training program for community agencies.

To further its core mission, Centraide Outaouais cooperates with six major social development partners: the Observatoire du développement de l'Outaouais (ODO), the Concertation pour le développement social de l'Outaouais (CDSO), the Table de concertation sur la faim et le développement social de l'Outaouais, 211, the FTQ social delegate network and the School Readiness Kit program.

A new addition to the Centraide Outaouais family in Gatineau is **Dimension sportive et culturelle**, an after-school initiative in underprivileged areas to help build kids' self-esteem and inspire them to stay in school.

In conclusion, Cédric Tessier, Executive Director of Centraide Outaouais, explains: *"Against a backdrop of housing shortages, rising homelessness, higher inflation, and increased grocery costs, Centraide Outaouais is proud to announce the good news that these investments will help meet the growing needs of Outaouais agencies and the people they serve. We salute the exceptional work of the volunteers on the Social Investment and Agency Relations Committee, who have devoted hundreds of hours to meeting with local organizations, supporting staff in the funding allocation process and helping the Board of Directors make the right decisions. Centraide Outaouais takes pride in its commitment to an inclusive, poverty-free community."*

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