

PARTAGEONS  
l'espoirSHARE  
the warmth

Semer l'espoir et le rêve

Awakening hopes and dreams

## LEARNING and GROWING

All of us are shaped by our experiences in our families, schools and social settings. In warm and safe environments, children learn how to interact with adults and other children in positive ways, and how to contribute to their community and build their future success.

One of Share the Warmth's priorities is to foster this learning and growth with programs that not only awaken young people's hopes and dreams, but that offer support to their families and others in the community. For instance, the food bank provides emergency food for 1,300 people each month.



### Holiday Food Drive

Please support the largest food drive of the year this November and help feed the 1,300 people who come to the Food Bank each month. Give food; take a box for your business; encourage others to contribute; volunteer; and get your families involved! For more information, or to order a box, call Mona at (514) 933-5599 (ext. 225).

You may also sign up to volunteer on our Doodle link on the website welcome page or through this link.  
<http://doodle.com/poll/3x6ene8w4gt7fure>

### Two Concerts

The 140 children and teens involved in Share the Warmth's music program will perform two concerts on December 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, on December 11<sup>th</sup> those involved in weekly instrumental lessons will perform a concert at Share the Warmth, and on December 16<sup>th</sup>, children in the intensive El Sistema program perform at the Charles Lemoyne Elementary School Auditorium.

Both concerts begin at 6 pm and will offer light refreshments. Come, listen, encourage, and enjoy!

**MAKE**  
A DONATION

## 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ADVENTURE



Jeffrey Rosenberg, a long-time friend of Share the Warmth, along with colleagues and friends, organised a series of fundraising events this year to celebrate Share the Warmth's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. His goal was to raise \$25,000 over the course of the year, culminating with his dream of cycling 100 peaks in the beautiful Alps in the fall, and raising money for Youth Programs at Share the Warmth.

An art auction, a bike-o-thon last spring, numerous in-house fundraisers at DentsuBos, where Jeffrey works, and his great adventure of cycling 101 peaks in 34 days from September 6<sup>th</sup> to October 9<sup>th</sup> this fall led to spectacular results. These were announced during the "Share the Spirit" Annual Dinner and Silent Auction event that took place on November 5<sup>th</sup> at Share the Warmth. Jeffrey and his friends raised \$38,000 for Share the Warmth's programs in the community. THANK YOU!



### HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can **GIVE TIME AND VOLUNTEER** for one of our many programs. Would you like to join a fundraising committee? Right now, we are looking for dedicated volunteers for two events: the Scotiabank Run and the Annual Concert. Can you give time to sort food during the extensive December Food Drive? Are you interested in cooking for the School Food Program or helping out in the Food Bank? Would you consider sorting clothes for the Boutique, our second-hand shop? What about tutoring or helping in the music program? Are you interested in helping us prepare meals for the Café? Share the Warmth is always looking for volunteers. Please speak to Geneviève at 514-933-5599 (ext. 223) if you are available to help!

You can **MAKE A DONATION** towards a specific program or support the overall work of Share the Warmth. Can you give \$50 to feed a family of four or \$100 to teach cooking to children? You might also consider giving monthly to help cover operational costs. Every donation helps us help the community!

You can **NETWORK FOR US** and talk about us with your contacts, share our newsletters, host a fundraising event, and tell others about what we do, and about our events. Can you think of other ways to increase Share the Warmth's visibility? Let us know! You can donate shares or make a planned gift to Share the Warmth. Without YOU, none of this work would be possible, so thank you!



MAKE  
A DONATION



## EATING



The Food Bank continues to support an increasing number of families. Last year, 1,300 people turned to Share the Warmth every month, up from 1,200 the previous year and we note that a growing proportion of these people are children and youth. Last year, 29% or 400 of the people who came to the food bank each month were under the age of 18.

In this context, the Community Café launched in 2014 and youth programs that support children and youth with their studies, become even more important. After its first year of operation, the Café feeds an average of 40 people on food bank days. These meals cost members \$2, providing a healthy and affordable alternative to the junk food available in the area. Snacks are an integral part of all youth programs to ensure that children get the necessary nutrition while having fun. The School Food program continues to distribute cold, healthy food including sandwiches, fruit and vegetables to 21 Montreal schools.

In this way, Share the Warmth tries to stop hunger from getting in the way of children's ability to live happy and productive lives!



## WORKING

If adults in a community cannot work, children have a harder time learning the joy and satisfaction of contributing their talents to the workforce. At Share the Warmth, the social economy model helps by offering low-cost meals, clothing, and school supplies, all while offering work training to adults who want to enter or re-enter the workforce.

Monies raised through these initiatives help cover necessary administrative costs such as heating and electricity for the organisation, and fund work training positions for members of the community.

**MAKE**  
A DONATION

## GROWING UP



Julie when she was 16

Recently, at a music program fundraiser event, an eighteen year-old proudly donned a Share the Warmth t-shirt and volunteered her time to help support the Music program where she has been volunteering for nearly three years. With tutoring help and bursaries throughout her high school years, Julie is looking forward to getting her diploma in two years, and thinking about where she will go to CEGEP. Her interest in music led her to volunteer in Share the Warmth's intensive El Sistema music program. She loved it so much that she decided to stay. Today, she earns a few extra dollars after school on weekdays as a coach in the program. She is thinking that she might like to become a teacher or find another job that would allow her to continue working with children.

Share the Warmth's secondary and post-secondary tutoring and bursary programs have supported 84 young people like Julie so far.

They are growing up, graduating, and becoming involved in their communities. In fact, so far, 31 of 34 scholarship recipients have graduated from high school. That is a success rate of 91%. We could not be prouder of these young adults as we look forward to following them on their journeys as they continue their studies and give back to their community through volunteering.

## THE NEW TUTORING AND BURSARY PROGRAM



Children from the area with grades below 74% in grade 4 have been found to be at higher risk of dropping out of high school later on. Given that the drop-out rate in the South-West borough was 48% in 2012 and 27% in Montreal overall, making sure that such children get support early is essential.

That is why Share the Warmth has decided to pilot a new Tutoring and Bursary project in the three local Point St. Charles elementary schools for children in grades 5 and 6. In its first year, the project is reaching 15 grade 6 children and six grade 5 children. They participate in tutoring twice a week throughout the year, and at the end of the year receive a bursary commensurate with their level of participation throughout the year.



## MUSIC & YOUTH GROUP



These two programs support another 160 youth from the area and focus on giving children opportunities they would not otherwise have.

The Youth Group offers cooking and art workshops weekly and continues to host a family meal once a month. This fall, two students from Concordia, in the department of Community Art Education, are animating art workshop for 20 youth. Some of the cooking workshops' treasured recipes this fall include raspberry muffins, tofu smoothies, and bean salsa! This fall, Share the Warmth invited local partner organisation "*Ateliers cinq épices*", specialising in cooking and nutrition education in schools across Quebec, to offer a series of cooking workshops to youth group children. An unplanned benefit of this partnership has been the added French instruction for English-speaking children in a fun environment.

The Music program widens children's horizons and develops hidden talents. One eight-year-old boy who participated in the intensive El-Sistema program last year was challenged to audition for the *Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal*. He is thrilled to have been accepted and to be experiencing new adventures in music at his young age.

At a recent benefit concert, a few of the program's participants played in ensembles to open the concert held at the Conservatoire. Their progress in music since the beginning of the program was evident, however what was less visible, though equally present, was their increased in self-esteem and concentration, discipline and collaboration. They seemed at home as they produced beautiful music in the beautiful concert hall normally reserved for professional musicians.

**Spotlight on Nidhal:** This 10-year-old joined the Sistema music program last year. At the beginning of the year, he struggled with math and hated multiplication. Thanks to the tutoring sessions that were added to the music program, Nidhal has learned to concentrate, and even to enjoy doing his homework. By the end of the year, he not only had found his own way of learning multiplication, he was the one asking tutors to help him with math because he wanted to learn even more. Way to go Nidhal!

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## BETTY SCOTT – a force to be reckoned with

On Thanksgiving Sunday, long-time supporter, board member and tireless volunteer Betty Scott passed away.

Betty was a great friend to Share the Warmth throughout the years, especially after her much-loved husband Peter passed away. Betty spoke about Share the Warmth to everyone and got her friends and family to collect food, toys and gifts to be distributed to Share the Warmth's members. She volunteered at the food bank twice a week for years. How many food bank recipients will recall her generosity? Too many to count! We are grateful for her special commitment to them. Betty's welcome smile and generous spirit will be missed by all.

In honour of Betty's love and commitment to Share the Warmth, The Betty Scott Award for Service has been created:

*For generosity of spirit and commitment to the wellbeing of others, recipients of the Betty Scott Award for Service will have given of themselves in an extraordinary way during the year, and be recognised by Share the Warmth as having made an exceptional contribution to the mission and aims of the organisation. Candidates can be proposed during the year to members of the Annual Dinner Committee, and given final approval by the Board of Directors.*

The first Betty Scott Award was given to a worthy recipient who shares Betty's heart of generosity and humility, Jeffrey Rosenberg. Jeffrey is featured on page 2 for his exceptional support over the last year. Not only did Jeffrey undertake an incredible fundraising and cycling adventure, Jeffrey has been volunteering at Share the Warmth for over five years, always inviting others to join him.