



# ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

## There When It Counts



Crédit photo : Daniel Haber.

**CELEBRATING SUN YOUTH'S 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

# **We pay tribute to a legacy built on compassion, resilience, and community spirit.**

This isn't just an anniversary — it's living proof of what's possible when people come together to support one another. Since its earliest days, Sun Youth has touched thousands of lives by offering hope, dignity, and support in times of hardship. The organization has continued to grow and innovate, all while staying true to its purpose: to be there for people, always.

Its impact has revealed itself over time, confirming its essential place in the fabric of Montréal. Seventy years later, Sun Youth is more relevant than ever — a hub of solidarity, strength, and opportunity for all.







The City of Montréal marked Sun Youth's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an Official Declaration by the Municipal Council on June 17, 2024. Our co-founder Mr. Sid Stevens was present to receive the honour and signed the City's Golden Book, accompanied by Montréal Mayor, Valérie Plante.

Despite operating out of temporary facilities for the past eight years, we have continued to strengthen our programs and services thanks to the dedication of our team, the vision of our leadership, and the outstanding support of our donors and the community.

### **We don't just provide services — we build bridges to dignity, inclusion, and a better future.**

From sports to mentorship, from emergency assistance to our bike patrol, we continuously adapt to the evolving needs of the community. Behind the scenes, we keep training our staff and optimizing our systems to ensure a smooth transition into our new home. We are ready for the next 70 years of community impact.

The year 2024–2025 also marked the release of a study on the organization's Social Return on Investment (SROI). This tool helps measure the intangible impact of our services, including improvements in quality of life, access to food, and mental health.

We are especially proud to announce that **for every dollar invested, Sun Youth generates five dollars in social and economic value!** These remarkable results shine a light on the work accomplished over the past 70 years.

**Renzo Fraraccio,**  
*Board President*

**Johanne Saltarelli,**  
*Executive Director*

**Peter Thompson,**  
*Sun Youth Foundation Board President*



## AMANDEEP: A HELPING HAND AT THE RIGHT TIME



**“We felt welcomed, respected, and supported — as if someone finally understood everything we were going through.”**

When my sister arrived in Montréal, she was pregnant. She didn't have a job, was still a student, and lived with very limited means. Her husband was abroad, so she had to manage everything on her own. It was an incredibly difficult time for her.

Thankfully, she learned about Sun Youth.

From the very first weeks, **their support made all the difference.** Not only did she receive a food basket and clothing, but she was also quickly referred to the Centre International de l'Espoir (CIE), where she was given diapers, formula, sheets, baby clothes — even a stroller! **Each small gesture gave her hope.** She told me she felt welcomed, respected, and supported — as if someone finally understood everything she was going through.

**What moved her most was how kind everyone was.** The staff were warm, caring, and always ready to listen. **She no longer felt alone.** Thanks to Sun Youth and the CIE, she was able to prepare her baby's arrival under better conditions — **with a little more serenity, and a lot more hope.**

Sun Youth is a pillar of solidarity in Parc-Extension. Every week, they help those in need with clothing and other services. My sister and I **have never seen another organization so present for its community.** Today, we give back: **for the past two years, I've been volunteering** for Sun Youth, and I'm proud of it. It's our way of saying thank you. She often tells me: **“Sun Youth reached out to me at a critical moment in my life. I'll never forget it.”**



Pregnancy



Birth



First Months



Early Childhood



## SUN YOUTH IN ACTION



### CLOTHING

Thanks to key partnerships established with generous donors, we distributed nearly \$65,000 worth of new clothing to over 1,500 clients this year. No matter the reason — a first winter in Québec, financial hardship, or a life-changing event — we make sure that every person is welcomed with respect and leaves with new clothes that fit and that they like. We also share surplus donations with other charitable organizations such as Mission Old Brewery and Accueil Bonneau.



Amandeep, in the centre wearing purple, accompanied by staff members, fellow volunteers, and our Executive Director during Sun Youth's 2024 International Women's Day celebration.

## A PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT PREGNANT WOMEN

Sun Youth is proud to join forces with the **Centre International de l'Espoir (CIE)**, a key partner serving pregnant women and children aged 0 to 5 living in poverty. This referral partnership strengthens our mutual impact. Our heartfelt thanks go to **Claude Chupenga**, whose commitment helped establish this vital connection to support Montréal's most vulnerable families. Thanks to Mr. Chupenga's expertise and dedication, our clients receive essential support during one of life's most critical moments.

Mother going back to work

## IZABELLE, 9 YEARS OLD: HOCKEY FOR EVERYONE

**“Hockey gave me one of the best moments of my life.”**

**I love hockey!** I used to watch games on TV with my family, and it made me want to play too. That’s how I started playing with Sun Youth. Since then, **hockey has become one of my favourite things in the world.** What I love most is skating. On the ice, I feel free — like I’m flying!

One of my best memories was when I got to **practice with some friends at the Bell Centre** before a big game between Canada and the USA at the Four Nations Cup. It was all thanks to Sun Youth. **I saw Sidney Crosby, and Connor McDavid** even gave us all a Team Canada jersey. **It was amazing!**



Photo Credit: Daniel Haber.

Young hockey player Izabelle, accompanied by her little brother Ivan.

Sun Youth helps lots of kids like me learn to **play hockey, have fun, and dream big.** Even if you’ve never played before, you can sign up. By the end, everyone knows how to skate! That’s why I love this program: it gives everyone a real chance, whether you’re good or it’s your first time. You can enjoy the sport, improve, and maybe even one day play on a big team. **I want to say a big thank you to Sun Youth for all of this!**



Nursery School



First Cycle  
of Primary School



Day Camp



Artistic  
Development

## SUN YOUTH IN ACTION

### SLIDING SCALE FEES

An exciting change in our practices this year is the implementation of a sliding scale fee schedule. Youth activities' registration fees are now based on family income and the number of people living at the same address. The lower a family's income, the lower their registration fees are. For our emergency services clients, the price is now set at 10% of the full fee.

### SUPPORTING STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Our annual Backpack and School Supplies Distribution is as popular than ever. In August, we provided 1,000 backpacks to our Emergency Services clients' children. 300 more backpacks were directly gifted out to schools in low-income neighborhoods, such as Bancroft School.

This spring, our tutoring program for athletes quietly resumed, offering support for end-of-year exam preparation.

### ATHLETICS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Day Camp, which welcomed 75 children aged 5 to 12, offered a rich program including swimming, tennis, dance, and gardening. For as little as \$15, a child can now spend an entire week with us.

**\$101,220**  
IN SCHOOL  
SUPPLIES



**75**  
CHILDREN



Over the past two years, Sun Youth's Sports and Recreation program has experienced remarkable growth, with a 40% increase in registrations, totaling 575 children.



**575**  
CHILDREN



During the Four Nations Cup, Sun Youth's Hockey Program was proudly highlighted as the official beneficiary of the event's 50/50 draw. Thanks to the incredible generosity of Rogers and the fans, \$180,000 was raised to support our program. Beyond the funding, the event gave Sun Youth unprecedented visibility — and brought unforgettable moments to our young athletes, who took part in several media activities, including a feature on the cover of this report.



**\$180,000**



Basketball stood out again for a second consecutive year, setting a new record with 141 recreational registrations and 129 competitive registrations. Alexandra Madzarevic, our girls' basketball coach, was named "Coach of the Year."



**6**  
RECREATIONAL  
TEAMS



**9**  
COMPETITIVE  
TEAMS

The Midget football team was honored as "Organization of the Year."



**ORGANIZATION  
OF THE YEAR**



**COACH OF THE  
YEAR**



Second Cycle  
of Primary School



Sports  
Development



## NOAM, 16: THE JOY OF HELPING... ON TWO WHEELS

8-week  
PROGRAM

# “The Bike Patrol is a job where you have fun, while giving back to the community.”



Being part of **Sun Youth's Bike Patrol** has truly been **one of the best experiences of my life**. I love this job. In the summer, I get to spend my days outdoors — staying active, riding through parks, getting exercise... and I meet so many people along the way. Wearing the yellow uniform, **I represent an organization I admire**, and I get the chance to talk about all the amazing things Sun Youth does for the community.

What I also appreciate is the rigorous training we receive from the SPVM. It makes me feel confident and prepared to step in should I need to respond to a situation. My role is to make sure everything's okay in the parks — **it's a concrete and useful way to help**.

There was one unforgettable experience: a teammate stepped in to help a woman facing homelessness. The next day, she called Sun Youth to thank him — because of his help, she'd found a place to sleep. That kind of thing sticks with you.

On Fridays, I also deliver **food bank** orders by bike — and I love doing it. Plus, it's good for the environment! People really appreciate it when we speak to them kindly. One man once told me: “You really helped me. Thank you.”

I tell all my friends: **the Bike Patrol is a job where you have fun and help the community**.

## SUN YOUTH IN ACTION

### BICYCLE DISTRIBUTION

For 40 years, Avi Morrow, a Montréal philanthropist, provided the financial support for the new bicycles we donate to children in the community. Honouring his memory, his family continues this legacy by helping us reward young people who have shown courage or generosity. On May 25, 100 children received a bike, helmet, and lock to celebrate their inspiring actions, such as helping seniors, overcoming health challenges, or fleeing a conflict zone.



**100**  
CHILDREN



**7**  
PATROLLERS



### BIKE PATROL PROGRAM

As true community guardians, our Bike Patrol ensures safety in parks and along bike paths, helping to prevent crime. The program also supports food security by delivering groceries to our elderly and/or mobility-impaired clients. Far more than just a delivery service, the program fosters valuable intergenerational connections, significantly reducing feelings of isolation among seniors while raising young people's awareness of seniors' needs.

### ART CLUB

Sun Youth has launched a brand-new Art Club designed to boost young people's creativity and self-esteem. Led by Concordia University Fine Arts students, this program introduces children to various forms of artistic expression, including painting, drawing, and sculpture. Beyond developing their talents, participants find a safe space where they can express themselves, build connections, and dream big.



**8-week**  
PROGRAM

Adam during a workshop  
at the art club.



## MENDEL JOSEPH: MORE THAN A SPORT: A FAMILY

**“Thanks to Sun Youth, I learned confidence, teamwork, and how to stand on my own two feet.”**



Mendel Joseph during his time with the Sun Youth Hornets. Now a recipient of the Earl De La Perralle Scholarship, Mendel was recently named University Defensive Player of the Year by the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec (RSEQ).

My mom signed up my brothers and I for Sun Youth's Hornets football team to help channel our energy. **I started playing when I was five or six, alongside my older brothers, and I stayed with the team for 11 years**, all the way through to CEGEP.

My twin sister Lyndelle also played football with me up to the Pee wee level. Today, she plays basketball at Laurentian University.

As a defensive back, **I learned to be strategic, alert, and to be a team player**. One of my best memories is our perfect season in the Midget division — we won the championship, and the Montreal Canadiens players even came over to congratulate us.

Coaches like Nick Perez, Rubens Ernest, Jesse Blizzard, and Dimitri Manolopoulos **supported me both on the field and in school**. It was Dimitri who introduced me to Régis Cibusu from the Alouettes, who's now my mentor.

I'm currently studying Human Relations at Concordia. I want to work in a school setting or become a firefighter — a way **to give back to my community**.

**The Earl De La Perralle Scholarship allows me to focus fully on my studies and football, with the determination and gratitude I learned as a Hornet — values that will always be with me.**

**The Earl De La Perralle Scholarship honours one of our co-founders and former President of the Québec Midget Football League (QMFL). It is awarded to former Hornets players who continue to play their sport at post-secondary levels while successfully committing to their studies.**



## TRISTAN GILBERT-THIBAUT: FOOTBALL BUILDS CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP

**“I am who I am today  
because of football and  
everything it taught me.”**



Scholarship recipient  
Tristan Gilbert-Thibault  
during his time with the  
Sun Youth Hornets.



Today, he plays as a receiver  
for the University of Ottawa  
Gee-Gees.

**\$2,500**  
Scholarship

My football story began early. At four years old, after watching the Super Bowl with my dad, I already had dreams of becoming a player. Two years later, I put on **the Sun Youth Hornets jersey for the first time — a team with deep roots in my neighbourhood.** I stayed with the Hornets until 2017, trying out different positions — kicker, receiver, defender — before finding my place.

Today, I'm a **wide receiver for the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees.** One of the highlights of my journey was the Atom division championship game at the Carabins' stadium. I was nine years old. We lost, but **the experience was magical.** And now, years later, I'll be back on that same field — this time at the university level — facing off against one of my former Hornets teammates, Harold Miessan.

Being a Hornet was about so much more than just playing football. **It was about learning perseverance, leadership, and respect. Our coaches prepared us for life,** not just the game. Nick Perez, in particular, left a deep impression on me with his high standards, inspiring speeches, and contagious passion.

I've already earned a bachelor's degree in social sciences, and I'm now pursuing studies in criminology, with the goal of becoming an addiction counselor or probation officer.

**Football taught me how to get back up, aim higher, and believe in my ability to make an impact — both on the field and in my community.**

## SERGUEI: “GIVING BACK IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO”

**“I had just arrived in a new country, and already someone was me offering a helping hand!”**

I'm **originally from Kyiv, Ukraine**, and I arrived alone in Montreal on July 1, 1995, during post-Soviet transition. **I was 31 years old**, barely spoke French or English, and didn't know anyone. As Christmas approached, I heard about Sun Youth. They took my name and address and **invited me to come pick up a food basket. I was so surprised to find a whole turkey in it!** I stuffed it using my grandmother's recipe — it brought me so much comfort.

At first, I felt a bit embarrassed to be receiving help. I had just arrived in a new country, and already someone was offering me a helping hand. But **I could tell that Sun Youth truly wanted to support me.** Everything was so well organized — quick, efficient, and respectful. Even though I come from a collectivist country, I had never seen people in need treated so well.

Serguei (center) volunteers at Sun Youth's warehouse.



Today, **I'm a Chief Estimator in the construction industry, and I'm proud to be contributing to Sun Youth's new building project.** This year, my boss invited all the staff to help with the Christmas basket distribution! Of course, I said yes, and spent several hours sorting food at the warehouse with my colleagues.

For me, it's a way **to give back to the organization** that once helped me so much. I try to do something meaningful — it feels like the right thing to do, and it gives me a sense of fulfillment. **I'm grateful that life brought me to Sun Youth.**

## SUN YOUTH IN ACTION



### FOOD BASKETS

Our food assistance program relies on monetary contributions, food donations, and also our own garden. Last summer, we harvested 1,400 pounds of fresh, ripe fruits and vegetables, which we added to our food bank.

During the holiday season, 1,000 volunteers work to serve 5,000 families — nearly 15,000 people. These baskets and the toys provided help them celebrate the season with more joy.



Hélène Vogel, Sun Youth  
Garden Coordinator.



### VOLUNTEERS

Their compassion and deep desire to make the world a better place give us wings. It is largely thanks to them that our activities run smoothly.

In 2024-2025, 2,264 volunteers devoted nearly 30,000 hours to Sun Youth. Coaches of our sports teams accounted for more than a quarter of those hours.

Knowing that Sun Youth has approximately 40 employees and that hours represent approximately 17 full-time jobs, these volunteer hours are extremely valuable.

### THE FOOD BANK'S IMPACT — 2024-2025

Number of baskets given .....	<b>27,768</b>
Number of people fed .....	<b>77,560</b>
Number of home deliveries .....	<b>7,600</b>

Total retail value of the donated food .....	<b>\$ 3,836,497</b>
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Photo of the first visit by a group of First Capital employees to our garden, where they weeded and harvested vegetables for our food bank.





## CARLA: LIFELONG CONNECTIONS

**“I received help, yes, but also genuine kindness.”**

My story with Sun Youth began in the 1990s. At that time, I was living in a shelter with my three daughters. When we had to leave, I had nothing — no **clothes**, no **money**, no resources... It was a social worker who told me, “Go to Sun Youth, they’ll be able to help you.” And she was right! **Here, I was welcomed with respect, without judgment.** I received help, yes, but also genuine kindness.

Years passed, my daughters grew up, they even organized soccer tournaments to raise funds for Sun Youth. It was our turn to give back! It really made me happy to do that.

Then about ten years ago, **I was diagnosed with cancer.** My daughters had left home, I was alone, and I had to retire from the healthcare system. I lost 60% of my income and now live on \$800 a month... **I had to choose between my health or money.**



Carla shares her experience and the impact of Sun Youth during the Media Food Drive press conference, alongside the event spokespersons.

So I went back to Sun Youth. Once again, they were there: I was given **food, a dental exam**, and even helped with **my prescription eyeglasses.**

What stays with me, beyond the material help, is the **human connection.** Here, we are greeted with **warmth** and **compassion.** **We are not just numbers.** Today, I give back what I received: I get involved and say thank you. Because Sun Youth is a chain of support, and **I am very proud to be part of it.**

## SUN YOUTH IN ACTION

People who need food assistance often have many other urgent needs. Through in-depth interviews, we identify which needs we can help with. Whether it's covering a month's rent, paying for prescriptions, or negotiating payment plans — even debt forgiveness — with Hydro-Québec, Sun Youth answers the call.

Our interventions have tangible social and economic impacts, even if those outcomes aren't always visible at first glance. Here are a few examples.



### DENTAL CLINIC

We welcomed McGill University's Faculty of Dentistry for a dental screening offered to 25 of our clients. Thanks to the students and the supervising health professionals, those requiring further care were referred to the university clinic for full treatment. Because dental problems can lead to more serious health complications, this service can be truly life-saving, and at the same time provide future dentists with much valued clinical experience.



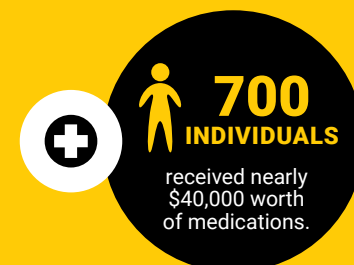
### EYE CARE ASSISTANCE

We cover up to \$100 in towards prescription lenses for our clients through Bonhomme à lunettes. Good vision means better learning, better work, a better chance at success.



### PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

For some of our clients, being discharged from the hospital without the ability to afford essential medications is an unfortunate reality. To help bridge this gap, we partner with a network of pharmacists to cover up to \$100 of non-covered prescriptions — offering a real chance at recovery.



### EMERGENCY RESPONSE

This year, with support from the City of Montréal and in collaboration with the Red Cross, our teams assisted nearly 300 families affected by disasters, be it a fire, a flood, etc. We met them on-site, and took them to settle into temporary accommodations. We then provided clothing, food, public transit passes, and gift cards — essentials they required while waiting for insurance support.



### RENTAL ASSISTANCE

We helped 71 households avoid eviction with financial aid averaging \$1,200 per month. This one-time support is offered after a case review and is often the last safety net for clients waiting for a paycheck or government benefit to arrive — and helps prevent them from falling into homelessness.



## A HUB IN THE MAKING

The construction of our new home — that will bear the names of Mirella and Lino Saputo — is progressing rapidly. This project marks a major turning point for Sun Youth and for the people we support every day.

This new building isn't just bigger — it's designed to better reflect our reality. It will allow us to deliver our services more efficiently, with dignity and humanity at the core. Every detail has been thoughtfully considered to meet real needs: a modern community kitchen to feed more people, flexible spaces to better welcome families in crisis, a rooftop garden to support our food program — and of course, a basketball court, training room, and locker rooms for our athletes.

With this new space, we'll be able to do more — and, above all, do better. We'll respond more quickly, offer more diverse services, and welcome everyone with warmth and respect, no matter their situation.

## Our thanks

to the 1,061 donors who gave between \$5 and \$3M during our Capital Campaign.

This \$30 million project is made possible thanks to the support of many partners, including the federal government. Our goal is clear: to build a space worthy of the community we serve.

**Thank you to everyone helping make this dream a reality. Because of you, our new home will be a place of support, dignity, and hope.**

**Renzo Fraraccio,**  
Board President

**Johanne Saltarelli,**  
Executive Director

**Peter Thompson,**  
Sun Youth Foundation Board President



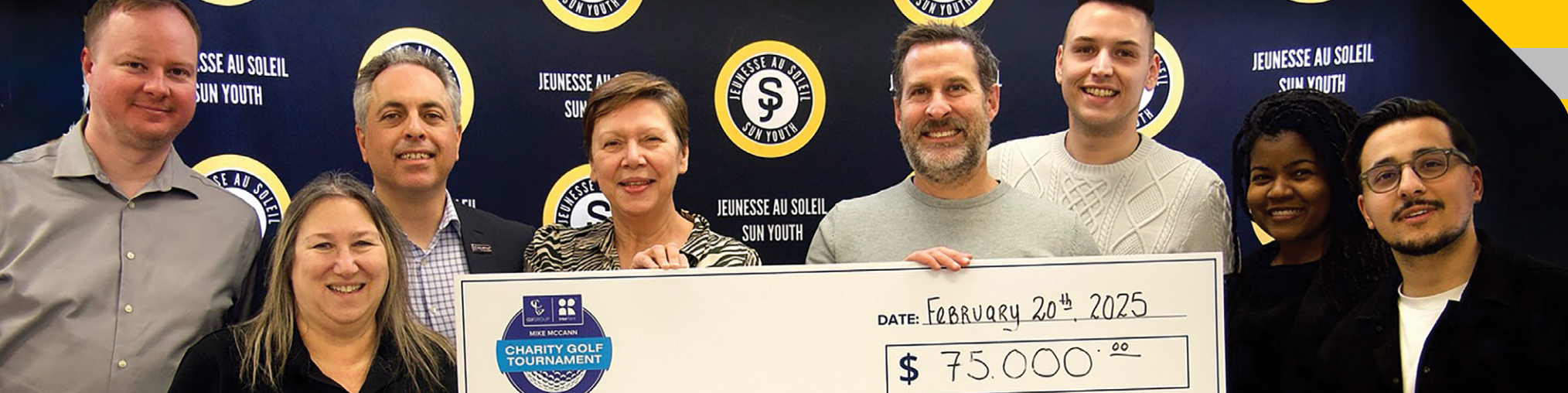


## OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Years ended March 31st)

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Contributions		
Government grants	927 220	870 486
Donations	5 502 000	5 215 735
Emergency services	3 368 814	6 005 347
Fundraising events	379 118	355 421
Community services	171 963	159 413
Interest income	449 113	443 376
Miscellaneous income	281 697	319 802
	<b>11 079 926</b>	<b>13 369 580</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Emergency services	7 494 160	9 658 990
Camp operations	105 860	118 334
Community services	784 781	768 299
Commercial activities	187 879	287 423
Administration	814 239	716 728
Fundraising events	126 878	93 255
Interest expense	342 015	409 762
	<b>9 855 813</b>	<b>12 052 791</b>
Excess of revenues over expenses before other expenses (revenues)	<b>1 224 115</b>	<b>1 316 789</b>
Other expenses (revenues)		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	1 292 529	1 311 473
Gain on assets held for resale	( 510 912 )	—
	<b>781 617</b>	<b>1 311 473</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>442 498</b>	<b>5 316</b>





Pictured above: Johanne Saltarelli, Executive Director of Sun Youth, and Volunteer Coordinator Elsa Beker, with representatives from InterRent, including Chris Willoughby, Vice President of Marketing, during a visit recognizing their generous contribution and continued support.

## LIST OF DONORS 24-25

Donors who contributed \$10,000 or more between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025, and who authorized the publication of their name.

Aust & Hachmann (Canada) Ltd.  
 Birri  
 BPA  
 CAE inc.  
 Caldwell Foundation  
 Charlotte & Leo Karassik Foundation  
 CN  
 David Laidley & Ellen Wallace  
 Desjardins  
 Doggone Foundation  
 Énergir  
 Estate of John (Jon) Dlusy  
 Excavation Patrice Couture Inc.  
 Famille Chrétien Desmarais  
 Fondation de la famille Zeller  
 Fondation Famille Mongeau  
 Fondation Hewitt  
 Fondation J.A. DeSève  
 Fonds de la Famille Claude et Stanley D.K. Ma  
 Francyne Goyer  
 Hyundai Auto Canada Corp.  
 InterRent  
 Jane Skoryna Foundation  
 La Fondation Azrieli

La Fondation D'Amours  
 La Fondation Mirella et Lino Saputo  
 Laura's Shoppe (P.V.) Inc.  
 Leadsonline  
 Leslie Silver et Laurent Ferreira  
 Margrit Salzmänn & Miriam Salzmänn  
 Medavie Foundation  
 Merle Wertheimer and Sam Hornstein  
 Michael Novak and Kathleen Weil  
 Murray & Karen Dalfen  
 Papermoon  
 Power Corporation Du Canada  
 Protech Foundation  
 R. Howard Webster Foundation  
 Rio Tinto  
 Simply Voting Inc.  
 The Birks Family Foundation  
 The Hylcan Foundation  
 The Rossy Foundation  
 The Trottier Family Foundation  
 TMX Group  
 Transcontinental Inc.  
 Velan Foundation



## TOGETHER, WE THANK YOU

As our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year draws to a close, we are filled with profound gratitude.

To our exceptional staff, tireless volunteers, and generous donors: thank you. Your dedication, compassion, and belief in Sun Youth's mission make everything we do possible.

We also thank our community partners, leadership team, and members of our boards of directors. Your commitment and collaboration are vital as we prepare to move into our new home. From architects and project managers to contractors and engineers — you have all helped build our future.

To the community we serve, thank you for your trust. You are our daily inspiration.

And to all who support us with generosity and vision, your unwavering support continues to drive us forward.

Looking ahead, our hope is simple: to grow together — with heart, dedication, and compassion. May our new home be a place where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued — not just for what they need, but for who they are.

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**Renzo Fraraccio,**  
*Board President*

**Johanne Saltarelli,**  
*Executive Director*

**Peter Thompson,**  
*Sun Youth Foundation Board President*

# With heartfelt thanks.







# SUN YOUTH

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