



LES MAISONS
DE L'ANCRE



2023
ANNUAL REPORT



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2023 at a glance

112

Number of women, transgender and non-binary (TNB) people who used the service this year

59

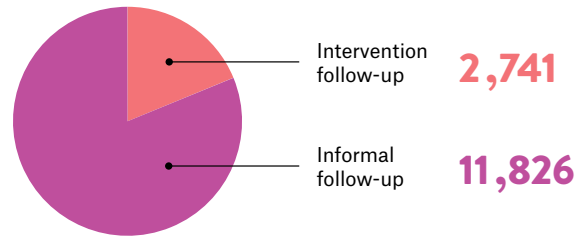
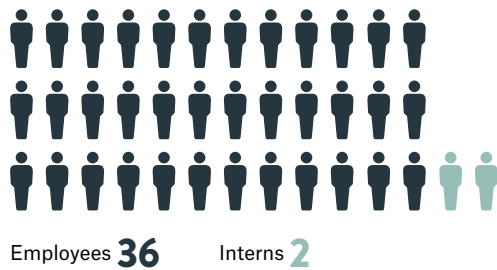
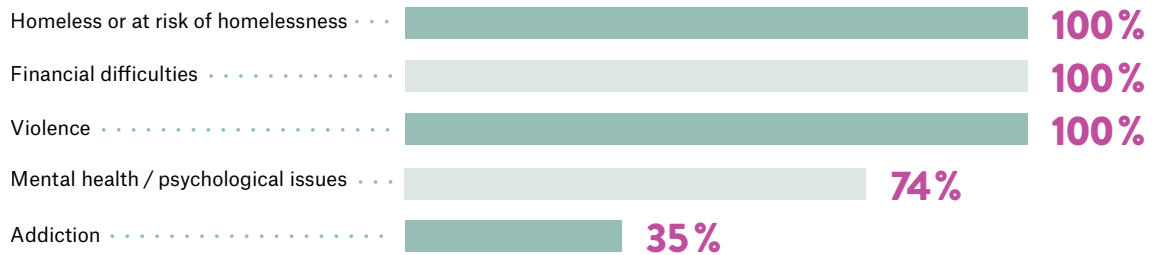
Number of people housed each night

1,446
Number turned away

51–60 years
Average age

67%
increase from last year

Reasons



20

courses taken

168 hrs

of intervention team training

96

special activities done with residents

About us

We run three housing facilities and offer external and post-housing follow-up services, mainly in Montreal's east and north districts.

Le foyer de l'Ancre



Supervised
24/7

Stays up to
2 years

2 spots in a transitional apartment for an additional year

11 rooms

Les Habitations de l'Ancre



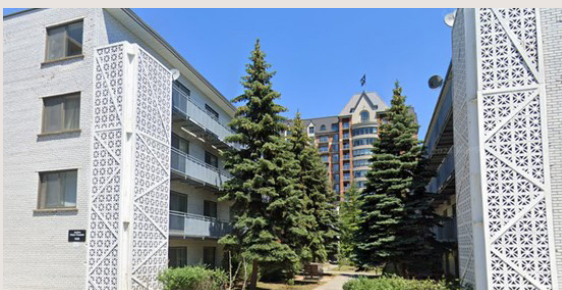
Apartment with community support

Subsidized housing
(25% of income)

22 apartments

Women, trans and non-binary persons in difficulty
aged 40 or older

Habitation Pelletier



Apartment with community support

Subsidized housing
(25% of income)

26 subsidized units belonging to the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM)

Women, trans and non-binary persons in difficulty
aged 30 or older



Habitation Jardin Claire-Fontaine temporary units

The Habitation Pelletier building is currently undergoing major renovations and will not be accessible for some time. The team of intervention workers and several tenants have temporarily been moved to Habitations Jardin Claire-Fontaine. Because of this, new admissions will not be accepted during the renovations.

External and post-housing follow-up

Two intervention workers provide community support to women and gender-diverse persons with or without children living in autonomous apartments.

Masson

Part of the administrative team and the peer-support and research project workers have been located in the Montreal Paroisse St-Esprit de Rosemont parish offices since the summer of 2023.

MISSION

Les Maisons de l'Ancre offers a welcoming and safe space for women, trans and non-binary people who find themselves in great difficulty, abused, at risk of homelessness or becoming homeless, with the aim of helping them regain control over their lives.

OUR OBJECTIVE

Our organization advocates for the rights of women, trans and non-binary people using a feminist intersectional approach in which people aged 18 and over are placed at the heart of their life project, by valuing their full potential and allowing them to develop their autonomy.

VALUES



Solidarity



Recognition of each person's abilities



Social justice



Openness



Respect

Since 1982

Based on the 1980s findings by the Committee on Homelessness, it became clear that the city's existing resources did not meet the needs of women in difficulty. Through their commitment to provide women who were homeless or at risk of homelessness with a continuum of services, the committee noted that women had access to short-term (3 months) emergency resources, but there was clearly a lack of medium-term (0 to 2 years) resource centres with 24/7 psychosocial support, 365 days/year. This led to the establishment of Les Maisons de l'Ancre on rue Charland in Montréal in 1982. Over the last few years, we identified a lack of services for trans and non-binary people, and we have now added them to our mission, further aligning our services with our mission to serve all people who are victims of misogyny.



MDA's three primary guiding principles

A FEMINIST AND INTERSECTIONAL APPROACH

We promote an intersectional approach that involves acknowledging the different systems of oppression faced by women and trans and non-binary people. These systems of oppression are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. This approach attests to our belief that homelessness is caused primarily by structural and systemic issues.

HARM REDUCTION

We subscribe to the harm reduction approach and commit to adopting practices based on human rights, social justice and public health principles. We provide support that is devoid of judgment and discrimination and imbued with respect, dignity, compassion and attention. The idea is to support rather than punish people who use drugs, with the objective of reducing the harm to their health, their daily life and their life goals.

AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY ACTION (ACA)

We recognize and adhere to ACA principles, an approach based on social transformation that promotes citizen participation. Autonomous community action is characterized by its practices and offerings of alternative services that differ from those offered by public services. In this sense, we feel that the autonomy of organizations is fundamental to responding to the diversity of people's needs.



Governance

The Maisons de l'Ancre board is made up of 7 volunteer members committed to the fight to improve the living conditions of women, trans and non-binary people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The members met 8 times in 2023, including for the annual general meeting.

Board members

Carole Boulebsol
President

Isabelle Anne Lavoie
Secretary

Vacant position

Catherine Marchand
Vice President

Francine Blouin
Administrator

Julie Chevalier
General director

Coline Camier
Treasurer

Nathalie Carrénard
Administrator

Thank you!

In 2023, Hanane Khaled and Andréane Boyer stepped down from the Maisons de l'Ancre board. We would like to thank them for their involvement over the past few years.

Comittees

Community life
(5 people)

Strategic direction
(8 people)

Renovation management
(4 people)

Awareness-raising committee
(4 people)

Services to reduce homelessness among women and gender-diverse persons

Le foyer de l'Ancre

The foyer's daily work consists of follow-up meetings with the residents, in addition to providing help and support.

The environment promotes training programs for women, trans and non-binary people, along with helping them develop a variety of life skills and values such as teamwork, solidarity, respecting the routines of others, and accepting the difficulties of those with whom they share their day-to-day.

We started the year with a visit from a group of traditional Quebec musicians who entertained the residents. Over the course of the year, a spirit of collaboration and participation developed among the residents, who participated in activities organized by the intervention workers. We organize both outdoor activities and creative activities outside of the home (movies, museums, apple-picking, visits to the Biodome, etc.), and we encourage outings so people can fully benefit from external resources.



LE FOYER DE L'ANCRE IN NUMBERS...

101%

Occupancy rate

22

People housed over the year

1,318

Turned away

43 years

Average age

151

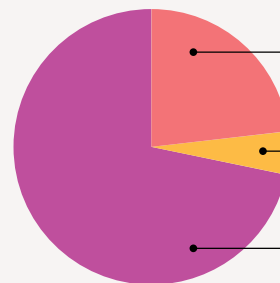
Group meetings

112

Accompaniments

307

Average stay



2,241

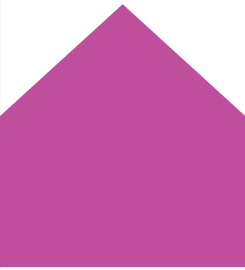
Telephone interventions

490

Follow-up interventions

6,940

Interventions



Habitations de l’Ancre

Habitations de l’Ancre has 22 subsidized housing units, five of which are reserved for people with limited mobility.

Two intervention workers provide full-time community support. Property and financial management is carried out by Fédération des OSBL d’Habitation de Montréal (FOHM).

In 2023, women and TNB people at Habitations de l’Ancre continued to participate in the organization’s workshops. Their well-being is due in part to their housing stability and the community support intervention workers. Although residents’ daily lives require that they adapt to the restricted space of the common room, their daily participation and collaboration allow us to create a space conducive to their personal growth.

This year, we updated the code of conduct and the building regulations.

LES HABITATIONS DE L’ANCRE IN NUMBERS...



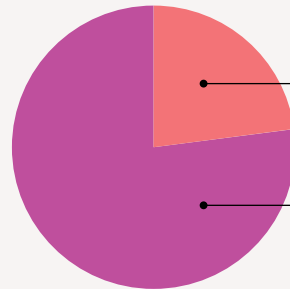
Special activities
with residents
232 people reached



Moisson Montréal
baskets



Turned away due to lack
of space



936
one-on-one meetings

3,145
informal meetings



Accompaniments

Habitation Pelletier

Located in the Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie neighbourhood, Habitation Pelletier offers 26 subsidized units to women and trans and non-binary persons in difficulty aged 30 or older. We would like to commend all the tenants for the resilience and strength they have shown this year in having to move because of the renovations. We are aware of the extent of the impact that moving under these circumstances can have, even more so and especially when it involves a new, unfamiliar place. Thank you for trusting us and for working with the Maisons de l'Ancre team and the relocation agents from the Office municipal d'Habitation Montréal (OMHM). Thank you also to the entire Habitation Pelletier team for their external follow-up and the coordination work they did to support, ease and improve this situation

External and post-housing follow-up

One-on-one weekly or bi-weekly external and post-housing follow-up meetings are held with women, trans and non-binary people who live in housing in the community based on where they are in their journey and their degree of autonomy.

Meetings usually take place in the office, in the person's home, in a public space or in the offices of another organization when they are multi-disciplinary meetings.

We are constantly looking for solutions to ensure that the people we support stay housed. The rent increase has a considerable impact on the support we provide, as very few benefit from housing subsidies. With the sharp rise in living costs, people's purchasing power has been greatly reduced and we have had to help them develop survival strategies.

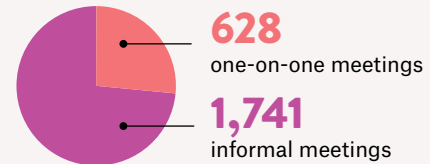
We notice the impact of multiple crises on the people we support on a daily basis: housing, increased living costs, contaminated narcotic substances, poverty, access to psychological support in the health networks, healthcare access, etc. As a result, we have noticed a rise in physical and mental health issues and a drop in basic responses and services.

IN NUMBERS...

13 Accompaniments
(medical information and housing search)

68 Turned away due to lack of space

3 Meetings with tenants



IN NUMBERS...

329 Meetings
in person

729 Calls and
telephone
interventions

145 Home visits or in a
public space

In 2023, we were able to meet people in cafés or other public places, helping them feel less isolated.

21 Multi-professional
meetings

61 Telephone contact
with other professionals

Special projects

Peer support

47 sessions

As part of a peer support project, participants continue to share their knowledge and skills with others by running a variety of workshops.

The goal of the project is to combat isolation and develop each person's skills and experiences. This approach aims to help people regain control over their life and their experiences. To do so, the first step of the project focuses on knowledge sharing through "by and for" workshops based on a variety of topics and methods (art, writing, discussion groups, but also practical knowledge, like budgeting). The users of all the services participate in the project.

Several other activities have now been set up with the support of the project manager. We have noticed a sense of belonging emerge among the peer helpers. A committee was also created to develop the project and directly respond to the participants' needs and the peer helpers' projects. The next steps will be discussed with the committee members.

There are plans to include projects such as podcasts, discussion groups on specific realities, and more.

The strength of the program lies in everyone's participation and involvement. With the support of the project manager, participants organize and mobilize the workshops. The scope of the project is only matched by the valuable creativity and commitment of each peer!



“Lieux-refuges” video clips in collaboration with Exeko

We completed the production of 5 video clips in collaboration with Exeko. This Montreal organization conducted a co-creation workshop with participants, after which it filmed the video clips. To ensure maximum distribution, we also created trailer and audio format versions that can be used in a podcast project. We plan to launch the “Lieux-refuges” (French only) clips in the spring of 2024.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the participants for their commitment and testimonials, and to the volunteers who conducted the interviews.

A special thank you to Emily Laliberté and Maya Laoufi, who rose to the challenge of the project.



RESEARCH

Towards a better understanding of women who are homeless

The experience of homelessness by women and other people who are victims of gender-based violence is different from that of cis men.

It continues to be less visible and understood and the needs of those affected are different. This is why we obtained funding from the Ville de Montréal to develop training and awareness-raising tools for people who interact with these people in various environments.

This 30-month project is currently in the consultation phase.

Reprise de Pouv'art

This year, we completed the Reprise de Pouv'art project. It spanned three years and was made possible thanks to financial support from the Québec government through the Soutien aux projets structurants pour les personnes vivant en logement social program. The project had two components: art therapy workshops and cultural outings.

An art therapist ran the weekly group sessions with people who use our resources, including the group home, les Habitations de l'Ancre, l'Habitation Pelletier, and external services. These people were introduced to different artistic media and techniques to help them broach issues of trauma, anxiety and personal growth, and find closure. These activities helped develop skills, self-awareness and self-esteem. In addition, the group workshops allowed participants to open up to others.

Through cultural outings, participants visited a variety of establishments such as museums, art galleries, exhibits, poetry evenings, etc., in different Montreal neighbourhoods.



Partnerships

Affiliated with the organization

Fédération des maisons d'hébergement pour femmes (FMHF)

RIOCM

RAFSSS

Réseau d'aide aux personnes seules et itinérantes de Montréal (RAPSIM)

Fédération des OSBL d'habitation Montréal (FOHM)

Moisson Montréal

Association canadienne pour la santé mentale

Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes

Association des intervenants en dépendance du Québec (AIDQ)

Relais-femmes

Hébergement Femmes Canada (Women Shelters Canada)

Table des groupes de femmes de Montréal (TGFM)

Office municipal d'Habitation Montréal (OMHM)

Financial partners

Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux (MSSS) – Programme de soutien aux organismes communautaires (PSOC)

Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ)

Gouvernement fédéral – CIUSSS – Reaching Home program

Service Canada – Canada Summer Jobs

Ville de Montréal – Peer support projects and Towards a better understanding of women who are homeless

Gouvernement du Québec – CIUSSS – Soutien aux projets structurants pour les personnes vivant en logement social.

Fondation du Grand-Montréal as part of the Fonds de relance des services communautaires

Donors

In 2023, we were once again able to count on the generosity of our community of donors to cover the remaining unsubsidized funding so we could continue offering our services.

The support of our generous donors, partners and allies is invaluable in helping us and the people we house

Moisson Montréal (food)

Boîte à chaussures Canada (Christmas gifts)

Fondation Fémina (various products)

Église St. Marcel (various products)

The Gazette (checks)

Luu-Thuy Nguyen (architect)

Renaud Fortmann (Moisson volunteer)

2023 donations (over \$500)

Léopold Delsanne

Communautés religieuses

Louise Rousseau

Jean-Claude Lavoie

Œuvres Régis-Vernet

Richard Bourbonnais

Rate my Agent

Fondation Pharmaprix pour la santé des Femmes

Régulvar

Daniel Domey

Félicia De Abreu

J.G. Faucher

2024 Perspectives

- ✓ Launch awareness-raising video clips on women who are homeless
- ✓ Continue with ongoing projects
- ✓ Continue with the development of a new first-stage emergency housing facility in Montreal
- ✓ Consolidate funding for human resources in the future housing facility as well as for purchasing the property and constructing the building
- ✓ Finalize the internal and external communications plan
- ✓ Set up and implement the statistics and the case tracking software
- ✓ Continue to defend the fundamental rights of women and gender-diverse people and fight for their access to services and the recognition of their dignity

You can support Maisons de l'Ancre by making a donation...



ONLINE

lesmaisonsdelancre.org



BY MAIL

P.O. Box 265
Montreal, Quebec

By supporting us, you help us...

- ✓ Pursue our various activities and interventions to support women and people from the LGBTQIA+ community who live in our housing resources or benefit from our services
- ✓ Innovate to meet the needs and problems of women and gender diverse people, taking into consideration their complex nature
- ✓ Provide the support necessary to women and gender-diverse people living in autonomous apartments with respect to housing support or donating food
- ✓ Represent and advocate for women, trans and non-binary people in difficulty with politicians, public, semi-public and private authorities, by giving them a voice and defending their rights.
- ✓ Continue the fight against all forms of violence against women and people from the LGBTQIA+ community





Contact us



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Habitations de l'Ancre
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Habitation Pelletier
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Suivi externe et post-hébergement
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