



Spring 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF FUND DEVELOPMENT

We are delighted to share this update with you. Thank you for your unwavering support of Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre over the years and especially during this pandemic. The last few months have proven to be a baptism by fire, as we both stepped into our new roles at Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre in January 2020.

Despite all the uncertainty, we are honoured to lead this incredible organization. You, our residents, donors, and community partners play a significant and integral part of the Tyndale Family. Your goodwill and generosity have enabled Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre to continue to provide services that have been empowering our Little Burgundy residents since 1927. We cannot thank you enough.

Due to the guidelines deployed by the government to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we temporarily closed on March 13th. Slowly the Quebec Government is releasing new safety guidelines and protocols for various organizations and sectors. The updates provided by public health are changing rapidly, and as a result we continue to plan for various scenarios. Despite this uncertainty, we have surveyed the families we serve and have initiated several virtual outreach programs. We will announce our summer plans as soon as we are able. At the moment it looks like we will be offering a hybrid of virtual and onsite summer programming.

Shauna Joyce
Executive Director

Trish Gardham
Director, Fund Development

CANCELLED EVENTS

The **Cars & Cocktails for Tyndale** event to be hosted by Lamborghini Montreal on June 4, 2020 has been cancelled because of the pandemic. Your health and safety are at the forefront of our concerns and cancelling the event is in the best interest of our community. We remain hopeful that we will be able to come together in celebration soon.



Also due to the pandemic, **The Scotiabank Charity Challenge** originally scheduled in April, has been postponed until September. September is a very busy time at Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre, and this year in particular, as many of our participants will be returning for the first time since March. Consequently, Tyndale will not be participating in the Scotiabank Charity Challenge this September. Thank you to all the runners and donors for your support for the 2020 run, we hope we can count on your engagement in 2021.

PREVENTING ISOLATION DURING THE SHUTDOWN

Online Children's Library

The Tyndale St-Georges Children's Library launched an online audio library with downloadable audio books adapted for children between the ages of 2 to 7. These audio books are recordings of books read aloud by our librarians, volunteers, and youth. Audio books help children develop listening skills and encourage quiet concentration, they expand vocabulary and language skills, they can keep children entertained all while stimulating imagination.

The Online Children's Library is available at: <https://www.tyndalestgeorges.com/audio-library.html>

Early Childhood Family Support

The Early Childhood Department team continues to support families by email, group chat, phone, as well as through a livestream virtual play-group held three times a week. The Team is taking special care to connect with families often to prevent isolation and reinforce parent-child bonding during these times when family dynamics are strained, and emotions are running high. Regular outreach is crucial to the well-being of our vulnerable families, particularly as many have no social network outside of the Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre. The virtual play-groups are a resounding success with 17 families participating in each playgroup.



Youth and Teens

The Children Youth and Families Department compiled a comprehensive list of community resources for our Tyndale members and residents, after considerable consultation with the families of the children enrolled in the After School and High School Perseverance Program. This Community Resource List is updated weekly and emailed to the Tyndale families. To receive a copy of this resource list, email darnelljones@tyndalestgeorges.com

Adult Department

The Adult Department team initiated a telephone outreach program for all participants in the employment program to provide individualized work plans in support of their preparation to find employment. The Department also increased the number and frequency of outreach calls for seniors, to provide emotional and social support as well as information regarding community resources. Furthermore, the Adult Department's Walk-in members were added to the phone check-In roster and Tyndale has started taking referrals by friends and family for vulnerable seniors in the neighbourhood. To refer a vulnerable senior to the phone outreach program, email Natalie Miron at nataliemiron@tyndalestgeorges.com

FOOD SECURITY IN LITTLE BURGUNDY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Food security is critical in Little Burgundy. Year after year, your support enables Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre to **prepare and serve over 17,000 home-made hot meals to children and teens.**

Shortly after the shutdown, Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre in collaboration with the Little Burgundy Coalition launched an **Emergency Food Security** project for our families.

We are deeply grateful to CENTRAIDE for providing seed funding and to the Peacock Family Foundation and the Louise & Alan Edwards Foundation for their contributions. We would also like to thank our staff and volunteers who helped with outreach, shopping, and delivery.

Through the **Emergency Food Security** project, over 150 families in Little Burgundy were referred. Every week for the last month, 50 different families received grocery store gift cards valued at between \$50 - \$100, and 9 seniors received much needed food and medication, delivered to their homes. After the first few weeks, the number of families in need doubled and the value of the grocery cards increased by 50%. This project will continue for a few more weeks until the economy reopens.

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