

#JamaisIndifférents
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Project Be

In 2019 the Youth Cabinet of the Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) focused its fundraising and awareness efforts on refugees through Project Be. It raised \$271,290 in the National Capital Region to invest in three areas: 1) refugee settlement, 2) homelessness, and 3) youth mental health and addiction. These funds were distributed in communities on both sides of the Ottawa River through the action of HealthPartners, United Way Ottawa and Centraide Outaouais, with the latter receiving a generous share of \$111,497.

You will find here a list of investments in our community along with an overview of the programs supported by Project Be through Centraide Outaouais funds. We also provide examples of the benefits these efforts have brought to the community.

Youth Mental Health and Addiction

The GCWCC Youth Cabinet Project Be provided \$52,595.82 to Ottawa youth centres to take action on mental health and addiction. These places offer auxiliary living environments outside of school and homes for teenagers. They employ qualified personnel who play the role of significant adults in whom teens can easily confide.

With a total investment of \$210,500, Centraide Outaouais supports 11 youth centres that manage 29 service points throughout the region, reaching nearly 4,300 young people through various activities:

- Intervention and active listening
- Addiction awareness workshops
- Culture, sports, and arts
- Special events and outings
- Community meals
- Homework help
- Emergency accommodations
- Promotion of volunteering
- And much more!

Fighting Homelessness

The GCWCC Youth Cabinet Project Be contributed \$32,748 to the fight against homelessness in the Outaouais through the Gîte Ami, an emergency shelter located in the heart of the Hull district of Gatineau.

In addition to providing emergency accommodations for homeless people, the Gîte Ami offers residency plans to users to accompany them on their journey to permanent housing.

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Last year, the Gîte Ami helped a total of 599 people—477 men and 122 women—by ensuring they had a safe place to sleep. In addition to 20,467 nightly stays, the organization served 48,720 meals over the period.

Refugee Settlement

The GCWCC Youth Cabinet Project Be invested \$26,161 with two agencies whose mission pertains to immigrant integration.

Accueil-Parrainage Outaouais (APO)

For 40 years, APO has been working “to empower and support immigrants and promote their socio-economic integration, while promoting community togetherness in the Outaouais.”

In 2019-20, APO welcomed 1,043 people from 73 countries, including 157 state-supported refugees and 121 asylum seekers.

APO provides a wide range of services to help newcomers settle comfortably in the region:

- Initial support upon arrival
- Housing
- Pairing and collective sponsorship
- Interpretation and translation through a vast network of volunteers
- Intercultural mediation
- Intercultural school community intervention
- Social integration activities

Accompagnement des femmes immigrantes de l’Outaouais (AFIO)

Each year, AFIO addresses the diverse and essential needs of Gatineau’s immigrant women, regardless of their status in Canada. The organization offers them a range of services to promote their settlement:

- Helpline, information sharing and referral services, as needed
- Technical help
- Discussion groups
- Thematic workshops
- Tax clinics
- Family services such as bicycle donations and subsidized childcare placement
- Cultural outings
- French lessons

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Our sincere thanks to the generous donors of the GCWCC Youth Cabinet. Your donations provided nonstop aid to youth, homeless people and refugees through community organizations in the Outaouais.