

AIDE & ACCOMPAGNEMENT
POUR VICTIMES D'EXPLOITATION SEXUELLE
HELP & SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



ACTIVITY REPORT 2018-2019

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#LaSortie



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A Word from our President



A philanthropist and pastor for 30 years in the West Island community, Gerry Plunkett and his wife Marcia had compassion for the many sexually exploited young people. This concern grew to the point that a team joined him in the spring of 2012 to form a committee to found a charity. Through this work, they want to give victims their dignity back.

On behalf of my wife Marcia and me, and of the Board of Directors, I wish to applaud you and thank you for your vision to support La Sortie.

We have seen significant developments at La Sortie over this past year: the official opening last September of a residential home where we have now welcomed women who seek help, who seek a “way out”; the hiring of extraordinary people who have given themselves to the cause; the publication of the research report for Justice Canada on the housing needs for victims of sexual exploitation; and, of course the grand Gala 2018.

The first months of operation of our home confirm to us the urgent need of this type of resource in the Greater Montreal area. What we see and witness has strengthened our resolve to do even more in the fight against human trafficking, this type of modern-day slavery.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our Board of Directors for their commitment to this cause and personally I so appreciate the wealth of their individual and collective wisdom as they contribute to the governance of La Sortie.

And we are so proud of our staff – Maylissa, Lyne, Marie-Ann, Esther, Dominique, Pascal, Dustin – brilliantly lead by our executive director Ronald Lepage. “Well done team! You are awesome!”

As we once again salute your interest in bringing tangible support to victims of sex trafficking and your desire to fight against injustice, we say to you with all our hearts: Thank you!

Gerry Plunkett

A Word from our Director



With a college education in management, Mr. Ronald Lepage holds a certificate in philanthropic management and a certificate in drug addiction treatment at Université de Montréal. For many years, he successfully and passionately led a community organization in the region of Abitibi-Témiscamingue. At La Sortie, he is tasked with all the operations of the organization and with setting up assistance and support services for the victims.

On September 1st 2018, The Way Out finally opened the gates to the survivor's residence. The residence works in unison with the "Alternative to the Sex Industry" program, which primarily focuses on providing access to 24-hour services and instant access to a way out from the sex industry. One call or text message is enough to be able to reach and help a victim within a matter of hours. The Way Out wants to thank Lyne, our residence attendant who took on the challenge of staying at the house with the women 24/7, and to Maylissa, intervener and survivor, who has been helping the victims to reintegrate into society.

As for our research department, Project Horizon is now concluded. The objectives of this research project were to develop effective housing intervention models for victims of sexual exploitation. Mission accomplished, for with a sample of 548 respondents, this research provides important insight on their needs. Thanks to Maria Mourani for conducting the research with excellence. We also want to thank Pascal for editing and uploading the report, Esther for French correction, as well as Matthew for translation.

There was a great level of interest and commitment at the 2018 edition of the Gala La Sortie, thanks to the participation of Laurence Latreille and Marlyne Barrett. We also had the honor of greeting among us Valérie Tender, a survivor of sexual exploitation. I want to thank Esther and the whole team involved in organising, as the event greatly contributed to our efforts towards educating the public and raising awareness.

Furthermore, The Way Out underwent massive growth through our team's efforts in awakening the public to the reality of victims of sexual exploitation. Among others, informational videos on sexual exploitation were produced by Dustin and awareness-raising posts on both social media and in the news multiplied.

Finally, all these achievements would not have been made possible without the governance of our President, Gerry Plunkett, as well as the Board of Directors.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald Lepage". The script is fluid and cursive.

Ronald Lepage

Alternative to the Sex Industry Program

- *Provide services of help and support for the social reintegration of victims of sexual exploitation.*
-

More precisely, we are proposing a support system for women in the Montreal region making the decision to leave the sex industry until they regain complete independence. The program enables these women to earn a stable life. They are directed towards services appropriate to their needs and receive help acquiring the skills necessary for their full development.

I. OBJECTIVES

- Provide an alternative to the sex industry
- Orientate them towards social service networks
- Stabilise medical, financial and socio-judicial situations
- Find good housing, support groups and rewarding work
- Develop social and professional skills

2. WAYS TO ACCESS THE SERVICE

- Primary workers such as police officers, street workers, CLSC or other
- Local activities offering resources to encourage connections to women
- Website and web optimisation
- Word of mouth from women in the sex industry

3. SERVICES

Reception, Evaluation, Orientation (REO). 24/7 reception allows easy access, and evaluation determines the service needs of the participant in order to respond with precision to her needs, and finally, orientation guides them towards the most appropriate services. To do this, La Sortie employs standardised tools such as RESO, DÉBA, WEISS.

Sexual exploitation	45	Suicide risk	5
Substance abuse	16	Mental/physical health	9
Homelessness	9	Defiance of justice	12

Individual support is defined by regular follow-ups and weekly meetings with survivors wishing to leave the sex industry. They are assigned to build plan of action, which includes objectives they have set for themselves, and are guided towards the means and resources that may be used to achieve these goals, following individually achievable deadlines.

Adult female victims of sexual exploitation we support	45	Persons close to the encountered victims	24
- Phone conversations	258	- Phone conversations	32
- Text messages	2459	- Text messages	421
- Individual meeting	181	- Individual meeting	17
- Crisis intervention	22	- Crisis intervention	1
- Protection scenario	5	- Protection scenario	1
- Housing support	11	- Outside support	3
- Health and welfare support	18		
- Justice support	41		
- Other support	42		

Group workshops cover a variety of topics through partnered discussion aimed at personal growth, such as self-esteem and communication.

THEMATIC WORKSHOPS	31	Covered subjects: re-appropriation of their sexuality and boundaries, conflict management, self-esteem, community life organisation.
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Social integration activities are defined by participants exercising their roles on personal, social, academic and professional levels. Participants are given the necessary skills to live among society. For example, a participant wishing to come out of isolation and eager to increase communication skills is encouraged to join a support group.

SOCIAL SKILLS	802
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acquire skills to problem-solve - Acquire skills to transfer one's learning to their home environment - Acquire communication skills to interact socially - Acquire personal and social skills to interact socially - Acquire skills to organize one's daily life - Acquire skills to keep one's home and clothing in good condition - Acquire skills that encourage family relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acquire skills related to manual work activities - Acquire skills to assume responsibility of one's sexuality - Acquire skills necessary to take charge of one's health, hygiene and diet - Acquire skills to use the resources in one's environment - Acquire skills to apply basic mathematics - Acquire basic motor skills

Temporary Housing Program

- *Provide a temporary housing service and accommodation to victims of sexual exploitation*
-

This service is comprised of the house in the Vaudreuil-Soulange region, including all the amenities of a regular residence, with meals, for up to a year or more. Since September 1st, 2018, this initiative unprecedented in Quebec can permanently host five women victims of sexual exploitation. Only a woman with severe and persistent mental health issues is redirected to other services. In any event, this 24/7 service quickly presented itself as a necessity, since just two weeks after its grand opening, all the available spots were filled. As of now, we are the only resource in the province of Quebec offering housing specifically adapted to these young women. In addition to bedrooms, the house also features two kitchens, two living rooms and two bathrooms, all located on private land away from urban activity. Resident survivors are not micro-managed and are therefore independent and free to choose their own activities. It is their home. However, they are asked to follow guidelines for their own well-being and the well-being of other residents.

1. OBJECTIVES

- Provide a way out of the sex industry
- Provide temporary and secure housing
- Provide a calm and healthy environment
- Provide access to medical care

2. WAYS TO ACCESS THE SERVICE

- Primary workers such as police officers, street workers, CLSC or other
- Local activities offering various useful articles to women in order to create connections
- Website and web optimisation
- Word of mouth from women in the sex industry

3. ACTIVITIES AND RESIDENCE INFRASTRUCTURE

SECURITY	SUPPLIES AND COMMODITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security protocol • 24-hour presence of an employee at the residence • Surveillance camera • Access control of doors and windows • Perimeter wall • Light and motion detector • Emergency telephone line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moisson Sud-Ouest (\$5,103) • La Sortie (\$1,235) • Donations (\$500)
HEALTH CARE	RESIDENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical evaluation by a volunteer nurse • Installation of defibrillator unit • Collection of bio-infectious waste • First aid kit, glucometer, blood pressure monitor • Naloxone drug in case of opioid overdose • Health care policy and procedures • Starter kit including clothing, food, bedding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual exploitation (11) • Number of protection scenarios (2) • Crisis (2) • Substance abuse (11) • Mental health (9) • Homelessness (2) • Suicide risk (3) • Defiance of justice (5)



Thanks to Cynthia Audal, clinical nurse, for her volunteer work. Each resident now receives medical care.

Prevention

- *Provide prevention activities for persons at risk of sexual exploitation*
-

EARLY INTERVENTION

Early intervention aims at reducing health and social problems through action around factors of risk and vulnerability. This approach consists in a package of measures to be taken as soon as integration (or even the appearance of a risk of integration) into the sex industry arise.

16 WOMEN
REACHED THROUGH
LOCAL ACTIVITIES

We have made direct contact with women in the industry in the Hochelaga Maisonneuve neighborhood. The goal is to be there to listen and offer services if they express that need. Thanks to "Purse of Hope" initiative for their bags full of useful items which we have given to the women.

2 WOMEN
REACHED THROUGH
VOLUNTEER HELP

La Sortie began a citizens initiative and functions mostly in part due to volunteer resources. Although, because the organization has paid staff to do prevention work with victims of sexual exploitation, the volunteers' contribution is now directed towards awareness. These contacts were made directly in proximity.

325 WOMEN
REACHED THROUGH
SOCIAL MEDIA

Many of our Facebook followers are young girls between the ages of 13-25. Girls in this age bracket are statistically at a higher risk of sexual exploitation in Canada and have been prevented by getting informed and interacting with us.

Awareness and Research

- *Provide the public with awareness-raising and educational activities demonstrating the reality and needs of victims of sexual exploitation.*

I. AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

Lack of knowledge of this phenomenon and the types of services we offer requires that we pay greater attention to devising strategies and tools for raising awareness. We see each of La Sortie's activities as an opportunity to inform the public of the need for intervention of victims of sexual exploitation.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED

NEWS REPORTS **6 000 000**

In light of the grand opening of our residence, the media has written 13 reports on our mission and project.

FACEBOOK POSTS **126 000**

278 articles uncovering the reality of victims, survivors' testimonies and statistics aiming to educate our 800 followers and the public, have been published.

NEWSLETTERS **12 203**

The 14 newsletters, sent to 939 subscribers, including members and anyone wanting to know more about us, were intended to provide information about our activities.

WEBSITE **29 800**

Not only has the website been optimized for SEO, it is now a real gateway for survivors searching the internet for services. Thanks to Pascal Taillon for managing the website.

CONFERENCES **140 participants**

Among the four conferences offered by Maylissa, an information session was given to medical students at McGill University in collaboration with the CAMSAHT. Thanks to Guido Guiderman for his involvement.

VIDEOS **35 839 views**

A video was produced to raise awareness on clients and another one to promote our gala. Thank you to Dustin Luby and to Cinearcal.

INSTAGRAM POSTS **267 followers**

112 Instagram posts, mainly inspirational quotes, but also details on who we, have allowed us to better reach our followers. (new)

INFO SESSIONS **200 participants**

Two public information sessions were given to members and to the public interested in knowing more about our activities.

2. GALA NOVEMBER 17, 2018

During this fundraising event, numerous artists and personalities are in the spotlight, and guests are invited to enjoy a festive atmosphere enhanced by a gourmet meal and a cocktail. Although this event was planned with the purpose of raising funds, it truly made for an awareness-raising event with its effect and media impact. We had guest speaker Laurence Latreille, who portrays Ariane in the popular TV series Fugueuse which premiered winter 2018. She spoke on the hypersexualisation of girls – which takes place at a very young age – to explain the reasons why so many young girls are vulnerable to proxenetism.

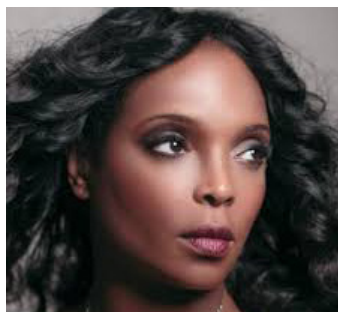
GUESTS	210
NEW GUESTS	49
\$1 INVESTED RETURNS	\$3
FUNDS RAISED (evening)	\$92,000
FUNDS RAISED (including campaign)	\$100,000



A dozen volunteers lent us a helping hand during the evening of the gala. Thank you to each and every one of them!



Laurence Latreille



Marlyne Barrett



3. STUDY ON HOUSING NEEDS

Projet Horizon

Started in October 2016, the project identifies and exposes the housing needs of victims of sexual exploitation in Quebec.

The year 2018-2019 consisted of data collection, analysis, as well as written report. A record number of 548 questionnaires in both official languages were completed by women still in the sex industry and by survivors who left the industry. Following data analysis, the Housing First approach appears to suit at best the needs of female victims of sexual exploitation. This approach consists of quickly providing permanent housing, and this, without any preconditions or prior steps. The report is translated into both languages, also available in abridged form, and is fully available on our website. Additionally, the illustrations and highlights of the report have been formatted as a drop-down menu to expedite information access. Here are our main findings:

- The residential situation of those surveyed is rather precarious and unstable. In fact, the vast majority of respondents do not live in their own apartment, house or subsidised housing. More than half do not reside in their own apartment or house without subsidies, and more than one third reside in the same place for less than six months.
- Consequently, many of the women and girls in the study want subsidised housing (low-income housing, Federation of NGO Housing of Montreal) or a rent subsidy. They want residential stability at a low cost.
- Temporary housing was not a preferential choice. Ideally, these women would like permanent housing.
- Most respondents rejected housing models involving a restriction on their autonomy, while those who were willing to cohabit with women were not in prostitution.
- Regardless of the type of accommodation, these women request security access (intercom, camera, etc.) and a security guard in their building.



Maria Mourani, President and Founder of Mourani-Criminologie, is the doctoral researcher responsible for the study. She is a criminologist and sociologist specializing in the issues of human trafficking, prostitution and criminal groups. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Clinical Criminology and a Master's degree in Sociology, both completed at Université de Montréal. She is currently completing her PhD in Sociological and Anthropological Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ottawa.



Community Life

I. VOLUNTEERS

BOARD MEETINGS: 5

On March 31, 2019, six out of nine directors sat at the Board of Directors. Several exchanges also took place outside the meetings.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: 3

2 rencontres du comité du gala : créer le contenu du gala et organiser l'évènement.
1 rencontre du comité budget : proposer les prévisions budgétaires

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS: 4

- *President:* Pastor for over 30 years in the West Island community of Montreal.
- *Vice-President:* As hospital manager and nurse clinician, Heidi Yane specialises in emergency care.
- *Secretary:* As airport administrator, Sylvie Lemieux dedicates herself to democratic governance.
- *Treasurer:* Mario Teti and his wife Nadine are entrepreneurs in a bakery/deli the West Island.

BOARD MEMBERS: 4

- Jason Comtois, B.COM is a personal finance advisor.
- Thanks to Jennifer Lavoie, Jacques Bellemare and Bernice Pynn for their invaluable services during their last in-office term.

BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTING THE PARTICIPANTS: 1

Chantal Mallet is a survivor of sexual exploitation in human trafficking. "No one should be forced to sell their body to meet their needs. It is a fundamental human right to aspire to a better future. I hope that my testimony can give hope to young women and enrich the board of directors."

VOLUNTEER OPERATIONS: 30

2500 hours are estimated for volunteer time on various activities such as board, committees, home support and many other operational tasks.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2018 AGM: 13

Although the number of people present at the annual general meeting was small, those present showed a lot of interest by asking questions and expressing well-wishes. The meeting was held June 20, 2018 and lasted two hours.

AMBASSADORS: 40

Ambassadors' activities vary at La Sortie, but were focused this year on recruiting participants for the 2018 Gala.

2. EMPLOYEES



RONALD LEPAGE

Director

Ronald is tasked with all the operations of the organization and with setting up assistance and support services for the victims.



MAYLISSA

Social worker

Maylissa she is a full-time intervener in social integration and accompanies women in their reintegration.



ESTHER

Administrative assistant

Esther is a part-time administrative assistant and produces the communication tools, as well as manages the donor database.



LYNE

Residence employee

Lyne is a resident attendant who stays at the residence every day to help survivors.



PASCAL

Technologist

Pascal is a technologist working on tech support and web development

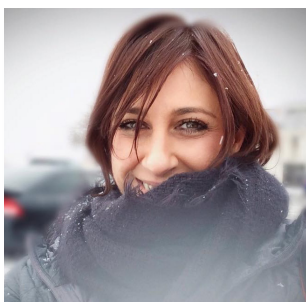


DUSTIN

Videographer

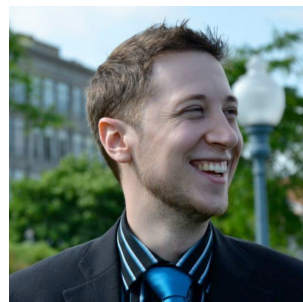
Dustin is a videographer, responsible for creating visual content to inform the public of La Sortie's work.

3. FREELANCERS



SARINE

Sarine managed social media posts.

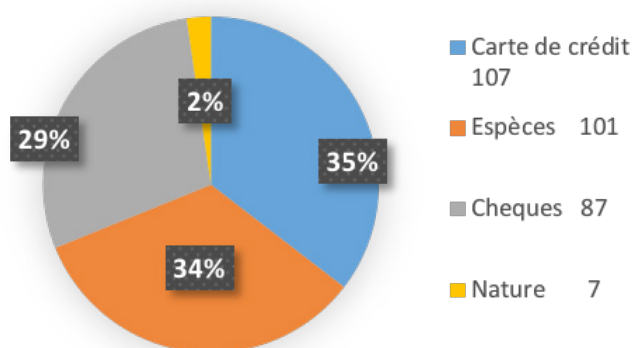


MATTHEW

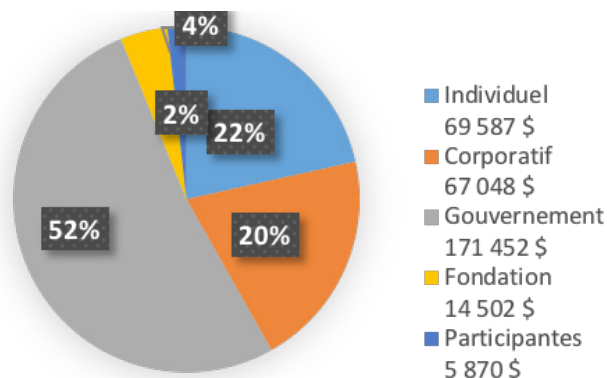
Matthew translated various documents, including the research report.

4. MEMBERSHIP

302 donations
\$505 on average



239 members
145 new members



SPECIAL MENTION

- Association Filipino-Canadian of Vaudreuil-Soulanges
- Église Catch The Fire
- Tournoi Poker des ambassadeurs
- Église Connexion
- Fondation Heller-Smith
- Kirkland Oldtimers Hockey Tournament
- St. Matthias' Anglican Church

5. PARTNERS

The development of a charity requires the participation of many partners. In addition to the 34 organizations we made mutual references with this year, several others correspond to referencing and consultation.

ASSOCIATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

- Association des Professionnels en Gestion Philanthropique (APGP)
- Association québécoise des centres d'intervention en dépendance (L'AQCID)
- Fédération des OSBL d'Habitation de Montréal (FOHM)
- Table en Violence Sexuelle de l'Ouest de l'Île de Montréal (TVSOI)
- Comité violence conjugale et agression sexuelle de Vaudreuil-Soulanges (CVCASVS)
- Table de Concertation Enfance Famille Jeunesse de l'Ouest-de-l'Île (TCEFJOI)
- Réseau d'échanges Santé mentale Adulte/Continuum d'intervention santé mentale et dépendance

OTHERS

- Programme Interconnexion de la Chambre de Commerce du Montréal Métropolitain (CCMM)
- Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Vaudreuil-Soulanges (CCIVS)
- Canadian Alliance of Medical Students Against Human Trafficking (CAMSHT)
- Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (CIUSSOI)