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NEWSLETTER THE KANGAROO HOUSE July 2021

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HELLO TO ALL !

We are pleased to send you our new annual newsletter about our latest activities.

This year is a very special year for The Kangaroo House as we celebrate the **10th anniversary** of the opening of the first 24/7 emergency and first line center that works with children and families going through the great storms of life. This year, more than ever in the context of the pandemic, we have worked tirelessly to continue our mission to families in emergency situations.

The year 2021 marks the 10th anniversary of the founding of The Kangaroo House. We have come a long way! Our history is also the journey of all those we have helped over the years.

We would like to take this opportunity to offer you a short story of the organization's creation.



It was in the wake of the events following the infanticide committed by Guy Turcotte and many other family tragedies, that the founder and executive director, Ms. Josée Fortin, had the idea of setting up the first emergency and first-line center open 24/7. In 2011 she officially founded The Kangaroo House in Montreal, in a small apartment on the Plateau Mont-Royal.

Ms. Fortin is convinced that we must work upstream with families to prevent family tragedies in order to avoid the deterioration of family health in Quebec. The primary mission of the emergency center is to prevent children from experiencing stressful situations and to put them in a safe and secure environment while supporting families by referring them to organizations that can help them.

In 2014, due to the growing demand from families in need, the foundress began looking for a larger house to house the children. Mrs. Fortin met Sister Annette Coutu, a 74-year-old Sister of Providence. She decided to help the foundress in her search for a place to house the children. Together, they found an available house on the island of Montreal.

Mrs. Fortin immediately began the process of acquiring the house, not without difficulty. With the help of numerous volunteers and financial backers, they succeeded in renovating and setting up the first Kangaroo House on Sherbrooke Street in Montreal.

Despite very limited financial means, Mrs. Fortin continues her mission with the families because the demand for emergency assistance is great. She is immersed in the heart of distress and family problems on a daily basis.

Thanks to her faith in her project and her courage, the following years were blessed by providence. Many children and their families have come through the door of The Kangaroo House. These families have had the courage to seek help in order to take care of their most precious possession in the world: their children. They found comfort and dropped off their suitcases in order to recharge their batteries and get back on the road with more strength and courage.

Unfortunately, in January 2018, The Kangaroo House fell prey to a terrible water damage resulting in the closure of the house that welcomed the children. With no recurring funding to continue the work, Ms. Fortin continues to actively fight to provide emergency assistance to vulnerable families.

In 2019, even before the pandemic, in order to maintain emergency assistance to families, Mrs. Fortin set up brand new emergency funds and managed to maintain emergency shelter services through new partnerships with hotel networks, and we continue the mission to this day. We have worked hard over the past few years to make sure that The Kangaroo House can accommodate hundreds of children, and now, with our new emergency funds and emergency shelter services, we are helping parents as well.

These last few years have been rich in learning to lay the foundations of such an innovative and essential project. We have learned a great deal and have acquired invaluable expertise in emergency intervention for families in difficulty and we witness every day the importance of such a resource.

This is a summary of a great story that is not over yet, because 2021 is a new beginning for The Kangaroo House. We have many projects in mind for the next decade.



Here are some of the organization's projects for the next few years :

The opening of a new Kangaroo House 2.0

Indeed, we have developed new plans and a model of the new Kangaroo House 2.0. Moreover, we are heading towards new adventures, because we also intend to realize the dream of the founder Josée Fortin, which has been close to her heart for a few years, which is to become mobile in 2021.

We have done a great tour of Quebec in 2019 in RV with our event *Un Dodo, Un Voyage* and we have seen that it is essential to make the resource known on the ground. So, thanks to our new promotional vehicle, we are going to out and meet families in order to make The Kangaroo House and our emergency services known to families throughout Quebec.

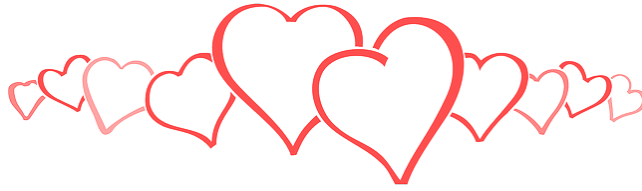


Our new emergency funds for children and their families have been renewed for the year 2021.

The Kangaroo House receives more than **750 requests for emergency family assistance** every year from all over Quebec. This represents helping annually more than 1500 children and their parents.

The organization not only responds to emergency calls from families by offering listening and referral services, but also offers, through the new emergency funds, financial or material assistance, emergency lodging for families facing situations such as mental health, depression, exhaustion, illness, hospitalization, childbirth, domestic violence, etc.

Our **five new emergency funds for families** have allowed us to expand our range of services and now offer help not only to our little kangaroos but also to their parents. These new services allow them to resolve or alleviate their family problems so that they can get back on the road with a little lighter luggage.



Your generosity is the lifeline for the little ones and adults we help.

Although the founder, Mrs. Josée Fortin, was the instigator and still at the helm of this humanitarian project, it was also possible thanks to the generosity of our partners, donors and our faithful employees and volunteers. All of them are committed to our great cause and to helping the children and their families.

It is also thanks to the trust of many communities and public organizations, social workers and interveners, parents, who contact us on a daily basis so that we can come to the aid of families. We can mention in particular: hospitals, CIUSSS, health and social services networks, the school network, the SPVM, CAVAC, DPJ, SOS Violence Conjugale, just to name a few.

Your generosity is essential to pursue our mission with the children and their families. We need you all to warm hearts and bring comfort to families.



The team at The Kangaroo House joins me in wishing you a wonderful summer.

Josée Fortin

Founder and Executive Director



OUR FAMILY TESTIMONIALS

Here are a few testimonials from families who benefited from the emergency funds, which allowed them to receive specialized financial assistance according to their immediate needs. Many of these families have written to us with heartfelt thanks. Since a picture is worth a thousand words, we have included their testimonials and photos below, illustrating the immediate and positive impact felt by the parents and their children.



We are happy to have been able to help a mom who needed a break.



Hello,

We are extremely grateful to The Kangaroo House for having given a little moment of joy to our son who just suffered a major trauma on Valentine's Day. Since then, he has suffered from anxiety and post-traumatic stress and is not the same, but thanks to Josée and her team at La Maison Kangourou who offered him a computer game, he was able to smile again.

Playing games allows him to escape and forget for a while his misfortunes.

Thank you very much from the whole family.

P.



Hello,

I would like to thank The Kangaroo House for allowing us this getaway. It was great to be able to enjoy life and get away from a family context that is really difficult at the moment.

Here is a child who enjoyed this moment so much!
Many thanks.



Hello,

I wanted to thank Josée and The Kangaroo House for allowing me to go and relax with my spouse and two of my eight children (the ones who are still living with us, the others being older). I really needed to rest and get out of the house, and you allowed me to do that. With eight children, 7 grandchildren and a 14 year old with autism it is not always easy. I am always available to help my children, but the accumulation of time meant that I too needed help and rest.

Thanks to you I was able to get some rest, and I thank you very much for your help.
Thank you
M.J.



Hello,

I am truly grateful to the Kangaroo House. Josée, you are a gem. Not only did they help me with my needs, but they treated me with humanity, kindness and caring. After an extremely difficult year, this is simply priceless.

Thank you so much



[Read more testimonials](#)

Kangaroo House does not receive any recurring support from governmental authorities. Our families are helped by your great generosity.

Please join us by making a donation to support one of the five new 2021 emergency funds.

PLEASE DONATE HERE

www.lamaisonkangourou.org



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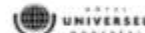


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