

Launches 75th Anniversary Appeal

Little Burgundy Community Centre Completes Major Renovations

Tyndale St-Georges, a community center serving the residents of Little Burgundy for the past 75 years, has recently completed a \$600,000 renovation of its facilities on Richmond Square, a block west of Guy Street off St. Antoine.

Most of the financing for the six-month project came from private donations, while \$100,000 was contributed by the Government of Quebec.

The building that houses Tyndale St-Georges is actually two separate buildings that have been joined together. The original building dates from the early 1900's and 2nd building from the 1950's and both were in desperate need of major renovations. The buildings had to be officially joined, old staircases knocked out, fire safety codes met through adding a sprinkler system, enclosing a stairwell, renovating the gym, kitchen, classrooms, adding new doors, windows and many other changes to bring the building up to today's standards.

"Tyndale St-Georges is much more than a big concrete building," said Tyndale's Executive Director Patricia Rossi. "Every brick, corner and room breathes hope and life. There is activity everywhere, all the time. Someone is always teaching, learning, talking, singing, playing and now we have a building that we can all be proud of."

The renovations are part of a larger undertaking for Tyndale St-Georges that was founded in 1927. The centre recently began a three-year, 75th Anniversary Appeal to raise \$5.8 million. In addition to the \$600,000 renovation, the funds raised will go towards expanding and improving the quality of existing programs (\$2.4 million), create an endowment fund to ensure future stability (\$1 million), and to ensure non-government revenues required to maintain our ongoing programs over three years (\$1.8 million).

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Backgrounder

Tyndale St-Georges was founded in 1927 by industrialist Charles Johnson who was concerned about the material, social and spiritual welfare of his workers, many of whom lived in Little Burgundy.

He approached Montreal's Presbyterian community with a plan to create a 'settlement house' to keep children off the street. Together, Tyndale House was established near des Seigneurs and Notre Dame Streets. It moved to its current location in October, 1951.

In the 1970's, the Anglican Diocese of Montreal joined the Presbyterian Church to support Tyndale which became known as Tyndale St-Georges.

Today, as from the beginning, Tyndale's focus continues to be on providing services to the children and families of the community through the Early Childhood Program for children under 6 and the After-School, Evening, and Weekend Programs for youth for between the ages of 6 -14. Programs are also offered to the adults of the community through the Language Courses and the Employability Program.

On average, the services of the Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre are used by about 400 people per day. The centre relies on over 300 volunteers and has an annual operating budget of \$1.1 million, most of which is raised through the partner churches and private donations from individuals, foundations and corporations.