

Education Program Evaluation Report

2022



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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Amadeusz supports young people who are incarcerated to create positive change in their lives through access to education, community supports, mentorship and exceptional care.

The education program supports young people aged 18 to 35 who are incarcerated at the Toronto South Detention Centre (TSDC), the Toronto East Detention Centre (TEDC), and the Vanier Centre for Women, as well as individuals who have been transferred or released from one of these institutions. The goal of this program is to provide young people who are incarcerated with the opportunity, resources, and support to complete their high school education and to explore, prepare for, and attend post-secondary schooling.

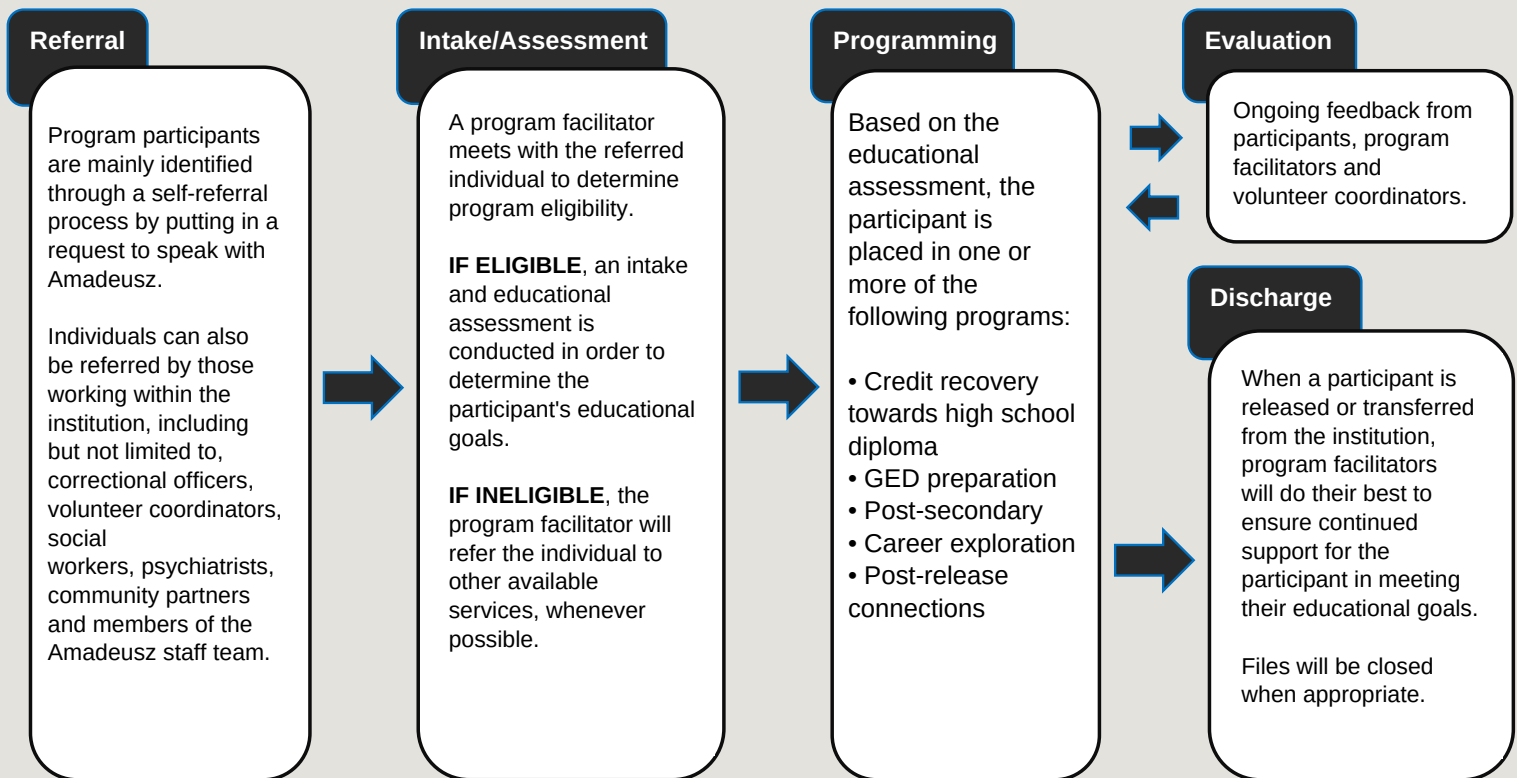
The following program evaluation report is based on program statistics from all streams of the education program, including high school completion (OSSD and High School Equivalency) and post-secondary schooling at all of the above-mentioned locations. The report shares 2022 demographic information of people in the program in male institutions, including people who have been transferred or released from these institutions. The report also includes survey data collected in 2022.

EDUCATION PROGRAM LOGIC MODEL

PROGRAM GOAL: To provide the opportunity for young people who are incarcerated to obtain their high school and/or post-secondary education.

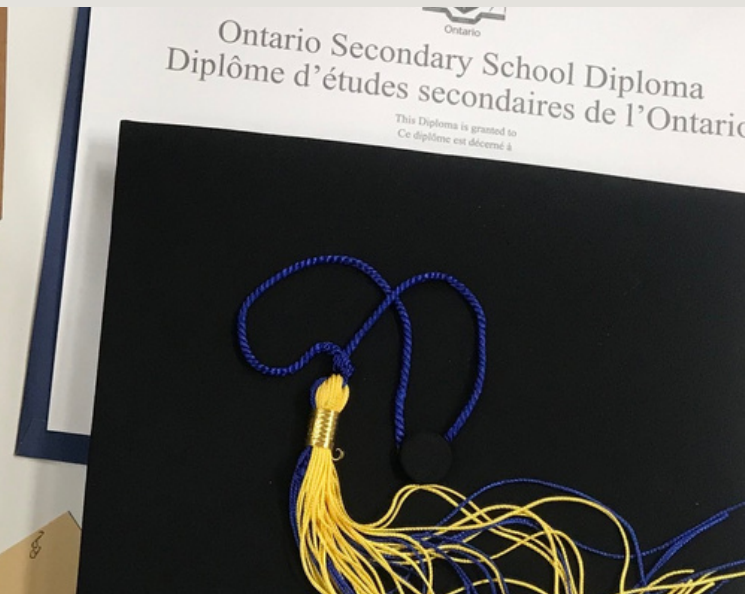
Program Plan				Outcome Plan		Measurement Plan		
Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Target Group	Outcome Statements		Success Indicator	Outcome Measurement Tools	Evaluation Design
<i>Resources, Budget Lines</i>	<i>Activities, Tasks, and Strategies</i>	<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>Client Group, Sample, or Community</i>			<i>Evidence of Success</i>	<i>Surveys; Standardized Tests; Other Measures</i>	<i>Data Measurement Design</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding - Manager oversees all aspects of program - Research consultants assigned to oversee research and evaluation of program - Program facilitators assigned to group and one-on-one setting in specific detention centres - Books and supplies - Examination - Administration costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intake and assessment - Goal setting and education planning - Group/one-on-one instruction - Research and evaluation - Information management and reporting - Team meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborate with detention centres and MCSC - Individual assessments - Individual and group instruction: clear and consistent facilitation practices - Post-release connections for participants - Documentation completed: participant statistics, reports, evaluation documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth residing in detention centres aged 18 to 35 - Participants at each detention centre - Three detention centres in Ontario: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Toronto South o Toronto East o Vanier Centre for Women 	Short Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth demonstrated improvement in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o literacy o math skills o problem solving o positive social skills o self-confidence o attitude towards education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obtainment of high school education - Increase education levels, literacy skills, math skills and social skills self-confidence reported among participants - Decrease recidivism rates and incidents within detention centres continuing education post-release 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attendance records - Observation - Feedback - Case files/case notes - Surveys completed by participants, correctional facility, liaisons, and program staff - Interviews - Participant satisfaction questionnaires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participatory pre-test and post-test - File reviews - Education reports - Key informants, stakeholders (i.e., funders, volunteers), participants and project staff
				Mid-Term (Impact)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational attainment among incarcerated population 			
				Long Term (Impact)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Successful reintegration into society - Recidivism rates 			

EDUCATION PROGRAM PROCESS FLOWCHART



Program eligibility is based on the following criteria:

- **High School Stream** - 18 to 35 years old, has not yet completed their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or General Education Development (GED) certificate
- **Post-Secondary Stream** - 18 to 35 years old, has previously completed high school, is a transfer student



The Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) stream of programming provides participants access to high school credit courses through various partnerships. Participants are given the opportunity to complete print-based courses and tests to work towards obtaining their OSSD. In 2022, 190 high school credit courses were completed, 1053.67 PLAR credits were granted, and 42 participants earned their OSSD.

Location: Toronto South Detention Centre, Toronto East Detention Centre

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA

"Among the many things, it has helped me to reestablish confidence in myself from writing to communication skills and has made me feel more connected to my community."

- Education program participant

265

OSSD courses
registered in

1243.67

OSSD credits
completed
*1053.67 PLAR credits

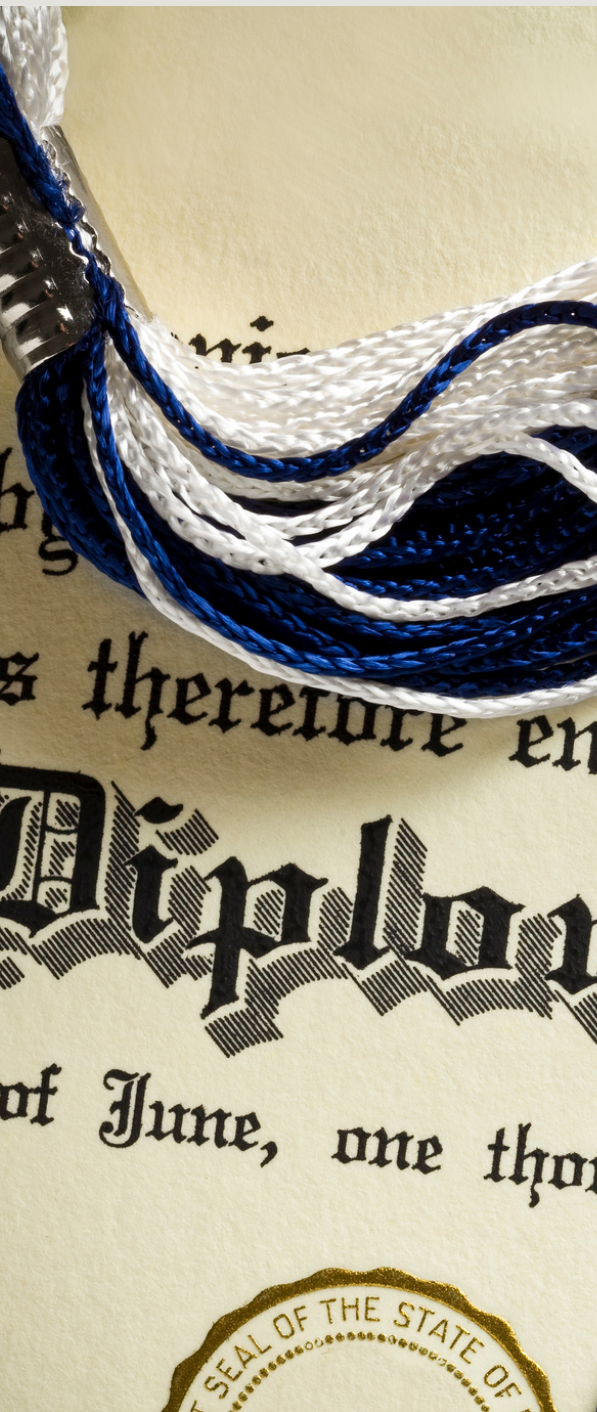
42

participants
earned their
OSSD

34

community
referrals

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY



The high school equivalency stream of programming provides support in working through GED-specific content in order to prepare participants to write the GED exam and obtain their high school equivalency certificate. Amadeusz, in partnership with the Independent Learning Centre (ILC), runs GED examination sessions multiple times a year at each institution. In 2022, two (2) participants wrote and passed the GED exam.

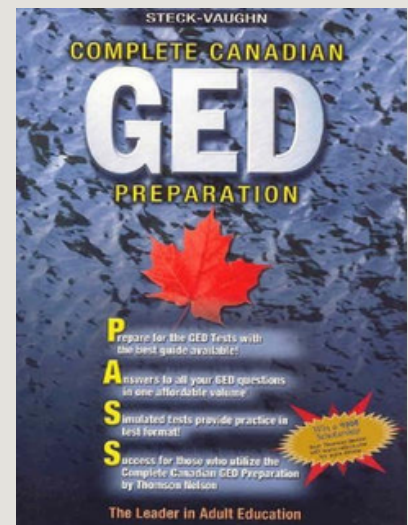
Location: Toronto South Detention Centre, Toronto East Detention Centre, Vanier Centre for Women

2

participants
wrote the GED
exam

2

participants
earned their GED
certificate



POST-SECONDARY PROGRAM

The post-secondary stream of programming facilitates access to post-secondary college and university courses through our various partnerships with post-secondary institutions. This allows participants the opportunity to work towards post-secondary certificates through access to print-based courses, or complete courses that can be transferred to their pre-existing post-secondary education. In 2022, participants registered in 96 post-secondary courses, 63 of which were completed. Four (4) participants completed all of the required courses for a certificate from Centennial College.

Location: Toronto South Detention Centre, Toronto East Detention Centre

96

post-secondary
courses
registered in

63

post-secondary
courses
completed

4

post-secondary
certificates
achieved

"My outlook on life is still not very positive as I face many challenges that are going to dictate my career in a way that is unforeseen. But I am more prepared to try and succeed when that time comes."

- Education program participant

MIND SETS

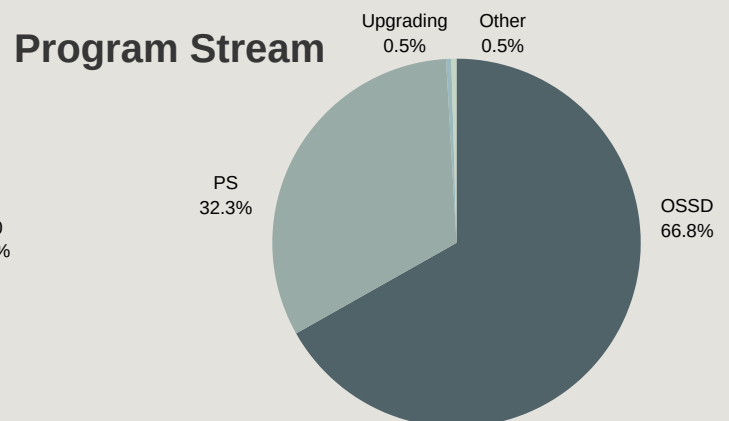
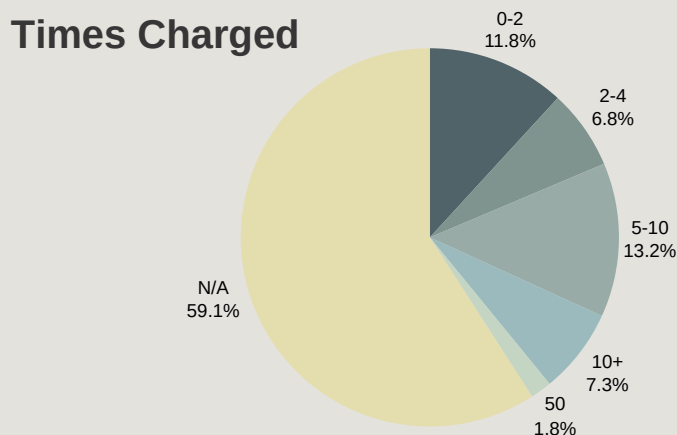
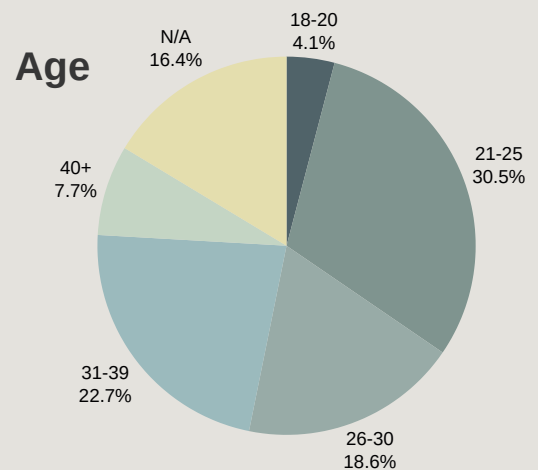
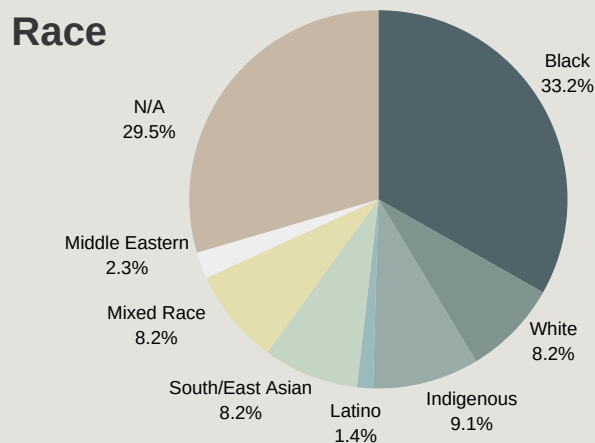
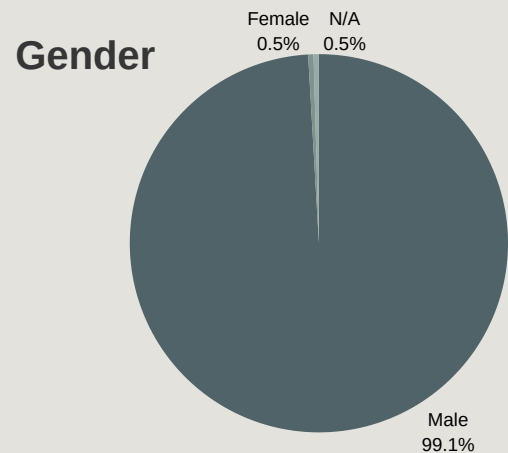
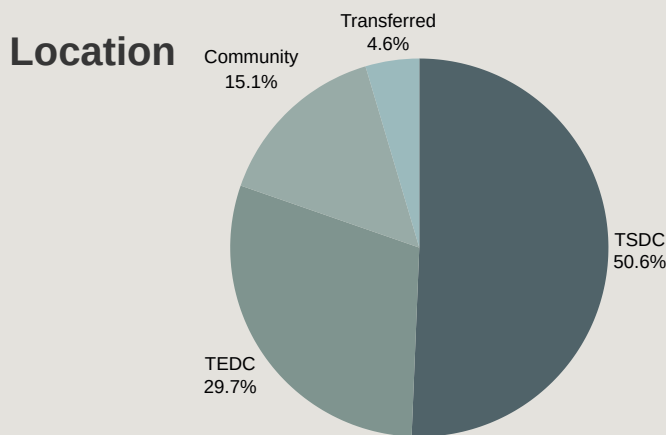
In 2021, Amadeusz, in partnership with the City of Toronto's Urban Health Fund (TUHF), launched Mind Sets. The program provides young people with knowledge, tools, and access to a health and fitness plan aimed at improving their overall well-being. Upon completion, participants will have a unique set of tools and a program specifically tailored to their physical and mental health goals. Mind Sets participants who are in the Amadeusz high school stream of programming will receive a PLAR credit toward their OSSD upon completion. Participants who are in the Amadeusz post-secondary stream of programming will receive access to courses within the Centennial College Addictions Work: Professional Practice Skills certificate program.

In 2022, 32 program participants completed the Mind Sets program. 23 participants were granted a PLAR credit towards their OSSD. 35 courses within the Addictions Work: Professional Practice Skills program were completed by 15 program participants, and four (4) participants completed their full certificate through Centennial College.



DEMOGRAPHICS

260 people, in both male and female institutions, were registered in the education program in 2022. The following demographic information is based on 220 people in the high school completion and post-secondary education programs at the Toronto South Detention Centre, the Toronto East Detention Centre, other male institutions across Ontario, and in community between January 1st, 2022, and December 31st, 2022.



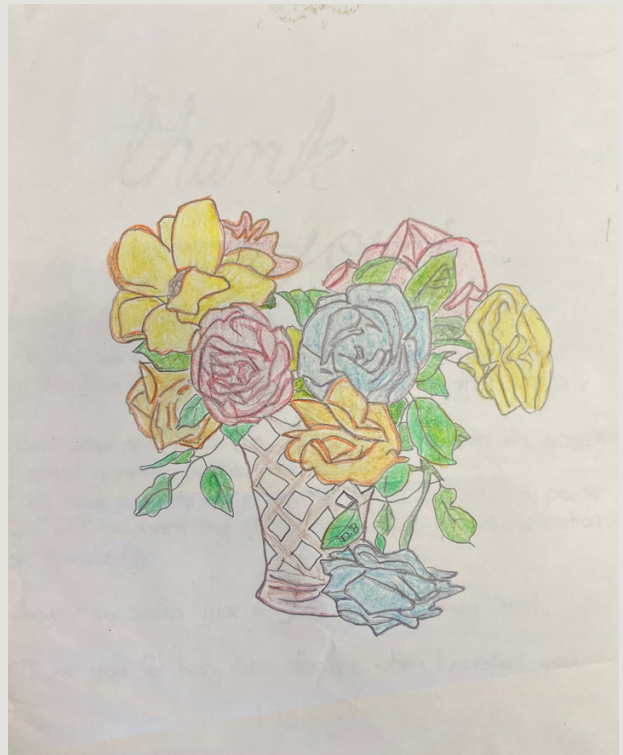
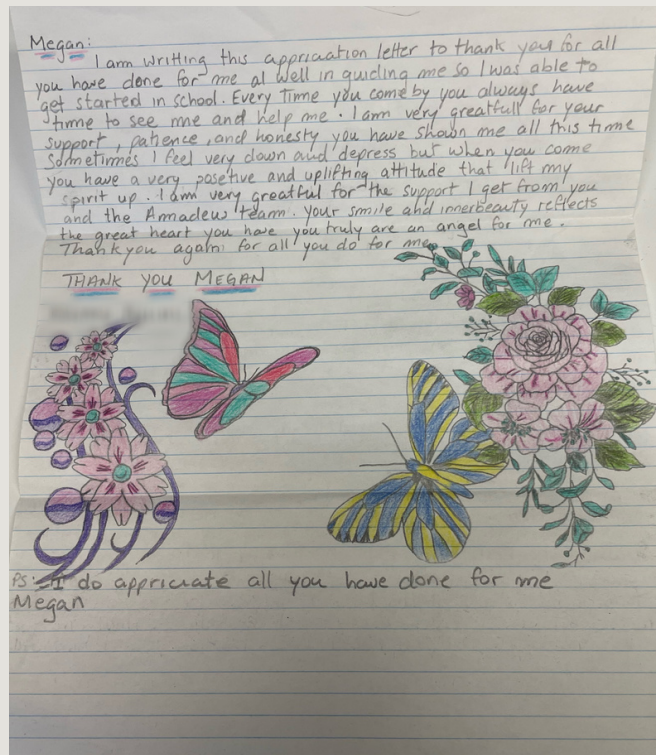
IMPACT

To whom this may Concern:

I am beyond grateful for Amadeusz. Amadeusz has been an amazing program, not just for me but for every other student as well. I've been enrolled in the program for approx 5 months, & in those last 5 months I've gained numerous amounts of skills. I've got the full amount of support to move forward in getting my diploma, & I'm 3 credits away! The staff are amazing, they go above and beyond for the students in order for us to graduate. That's truly a big step for the all of us a lot of us don't have our GED's or Highschool diplomas, & some are scholars, but point is we get an opportunity to move forward, to get a degree, to study a trade, to even get a simple labour job. It's a big opportunity. The help is also there if you don't understand certain work, if you didn't know certain stuff, they make sure to explain so you do understand. Thank you for everything you guys do. The hard work is recognized & appreciated. Thank you again.

*Ben
Simplicity*

IMPACT





PROGRAM UPDATES

Graduation Ceremonies

In April 2022, Amadeusz held a virtual graduation at the Toronto East Detention Centre (TEDC) for four (4) Ontario Secondary School graduates.

In June 2022, Amadeusz held an in-person graduation ceremony for ten (10) Ontario Secondary School graduates at the Toronto South Detention Centre (TSDC).

In November 2022, Amadeusz held an in-person graduation ceremony for four (4) Ontario Secondary School graduates at the TEDC. We are currently in the process of scheduling ceremonies at TEDC for 11 additional OSSD graduates.

We would like to say a big congratulations to all program participants who are now Ontario Secondary School graduates!

SCHOLARSHIP

Launched in March 2022, the Amadeusz Scholarship is designed to offer financial support for individuals in the community who have been released from incarceration and are working towards their post-secondary education. Thanks to K2 & Associates, Amadeusz was able to award:

- Three (3) \$1000 scholarships for part-time students, and
- Six (6) \$3000 scholarships for full-time students

Read the full 2022 scholarship report: <https://amadeusz.ca/scholarship>

Congratulations to all the recipients!

Teshawndra Thomas

Teshwandra is studying in
Business Administration,
Human Resources Program
at George Brown College.



RESEARCH

Between 2021 to 2022, Amadeusz, in partnership with The Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT) engaged in the research project, *Access to Education Claimed as a Right But Treated as a Privilege: Experiences of Learners who are Incarcerated with Accessing Educational Opportunities and Pathways in Ontario, Canada*.

This research project, conducted a series of interviews with various key stakeholders to further explore and expand on the themes and findings from the literature review. It was important to capture perspectives and lived experiences of individuals who accessed education while incarcerated or post-release. The objective was to better understand processes, challenges, and systemic barriers related to accessing education, particularly how to make improvements to ensure the human right of access to education is upheld by incarceration facilities and various levels of government.

Read the full-length paper:

[Experiences of Learners Who are Incarcerated With Accessing Educational Opportunities in Ontario, Canada](#)

Read the summary of the findings:

[Access to Education Claimed as a Right But Treated as a Privilege: Experiences of Learners who are incarcerated with Accessing Educational Opportunities and Pathways in Ontario, Canada \(Summary of the Findings\)](#)

NEW & CONTINUING PARTNERSHIPS

Amadeusz continues to build new partnerships, and expand existing partnerships, to provide access to education for young people who are incarcerated.

In 2020, Amadeusz began a partnership with Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB) to provide print-based high school courses for our participants. This partnership has also allowed for participants to partake in PLAR assessments, meaning they can obtain credits based on their prior knowledge and life experience. This has led to an increase in the number of credits young people obtained towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

Amadeusz has expanded their long-standing partnership with Centennial College to now include access to the part time community studies certificate program, Addictions Work: Professional Practice Skills. Four (4) program participants have since graduated from this certificate program.

In January 2022, Amadeusz partnered with Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) to offer the SOC705: Special Topics in Community Issues course to two (2) program participants. They both successfully completed the course.

SURVEY DATA

Beginning January 2022, Amadeusz mailed out surveys to education program participants who had completed a course, either high school or post-secondary, in order to get their feedback on the program.

Amadeusz used a custom survey to examine the qualities and outcomes of the program:

1. **Quantitative:** Through ten (10) quantitative questions, participants were asked about resources and opportunities available to them through Amadeusz's education program.
2. **Qualitative:** Through nine (9) qualitative questions, participants were given the opportunity to express their opinions about the education program and the impact they felt it had on their lives.

72 participants from the Amadeusz education program, located either at the Toronto South Detention Centre (TSDC) or the Toronto East Detention Centre (TEDC), completed the custom surveys. Overall, those involved in the programs seemed aware of the resources available to them and felt fairly positive about their futures.

This data will be broken down into two (2) sections:

1. **Quantitative:** This section is a quantitative analysis of how young people answered the custom survey and is supported by the use of graphs to allow for a visual representation of the data.
2. **Qualitative:** This section is a qualitative analysis of the themes and frequency in responses to the custom survey and is supported by the use of examples to highlight the voices within the data.

QUANTITATIVE DATA

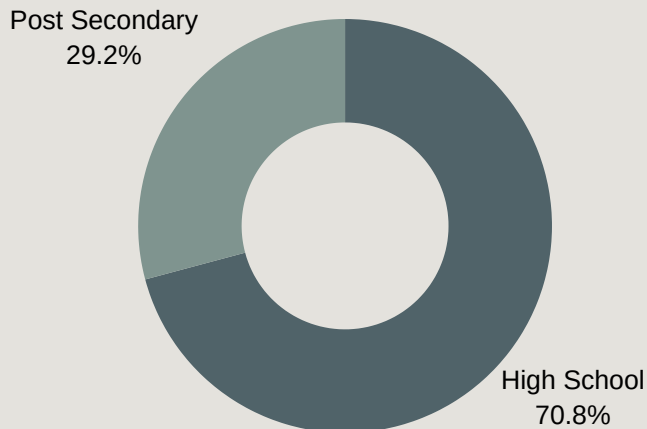
The quantitative section of the custom survey asked the following questions:

1. Did the program help you to feel more aware of your strengths and areas of improvement?
2. Did the program help you to improve your problem-solving, decision making, and critical thinking skills?
3. Did the program help you to develop education or employment goals and know the steps needed to work towards these goals?
4. Did the program help you to improve your communication skills?
5. Did the program give you a more positive outlook on your experience with education and school?
6. Did the program help you in developing positive relationships?
7. Did the program allow you to form a strong and trusting bond with your program facilitator?
8. Did the program help to give you a sense of purpose?
9. Did the program help you to find and access additional supports and resources?
10. Did the program increase your knowledge, skills, and confidence on financial matters (i.e., money management, financial products)?

Participant answers to these questions will be summarized and presented using charts.

QUANTITATIVE DATA

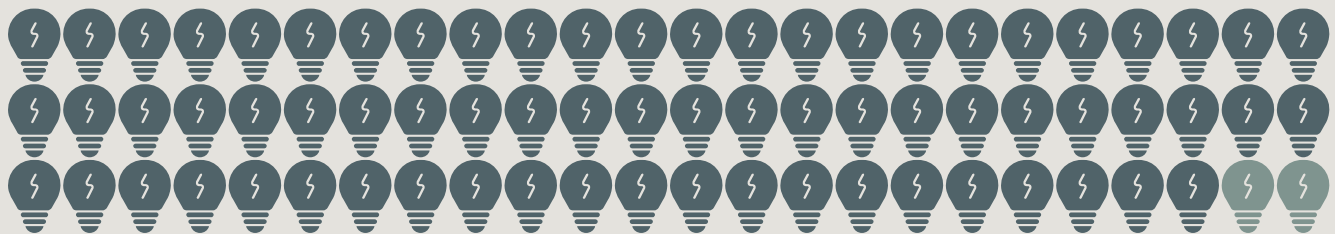
PARTICIPANTS



DID THE PROGRAM HELP YOU TO FEEL MORE AWARE OF YOUR STRENGTHS AND AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT?



DID THE PROGRAM HELP YOU TO IMPROVE YOUR PROBLEM-SOLVING, DECISION MAKING, AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS?

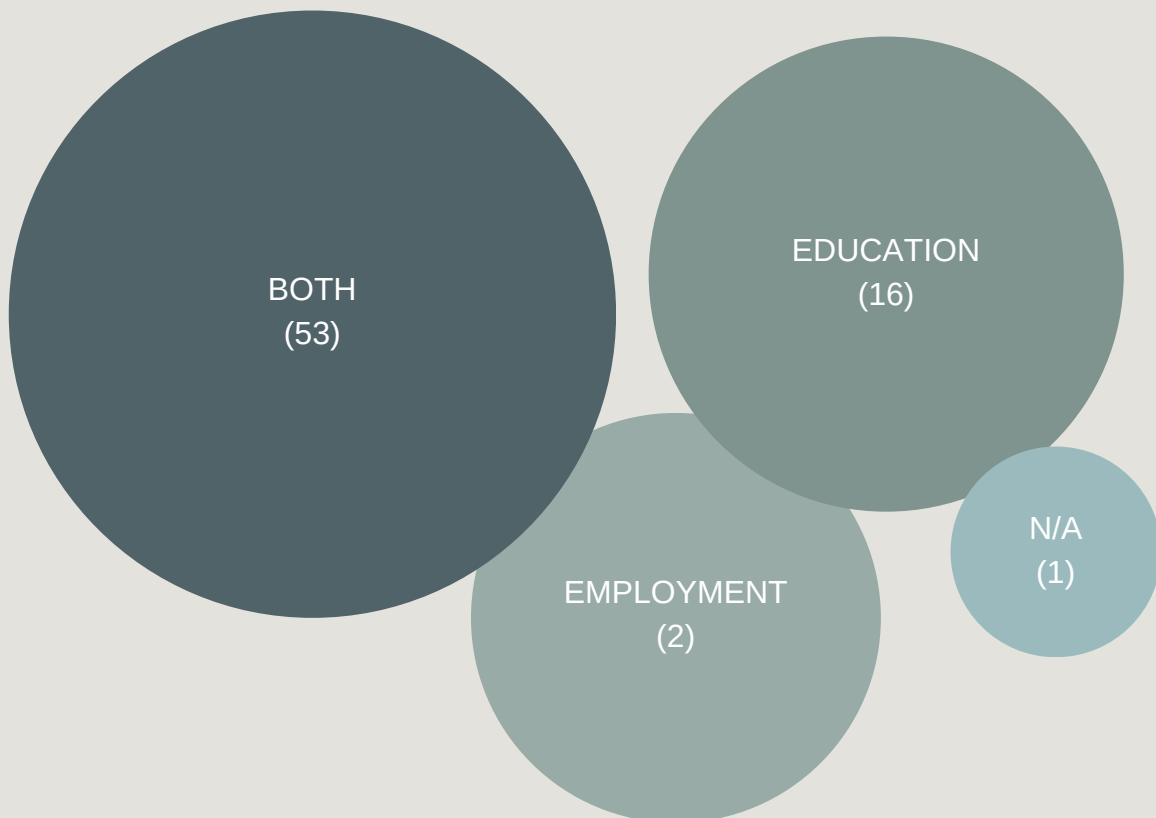


YES (70)

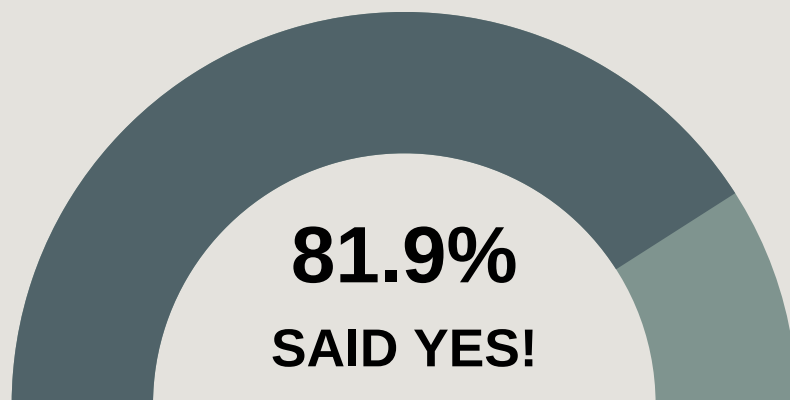
NO/N/A (2)

QUANTITATIVE DATA

DID THE PROGRAM HELP YOU TO DEVELOP EDUCATION OR EMPLOYMENT GOALS AND KNOW THE STEPS NEEDED TO WORK TOWARDS THESE GOALS?

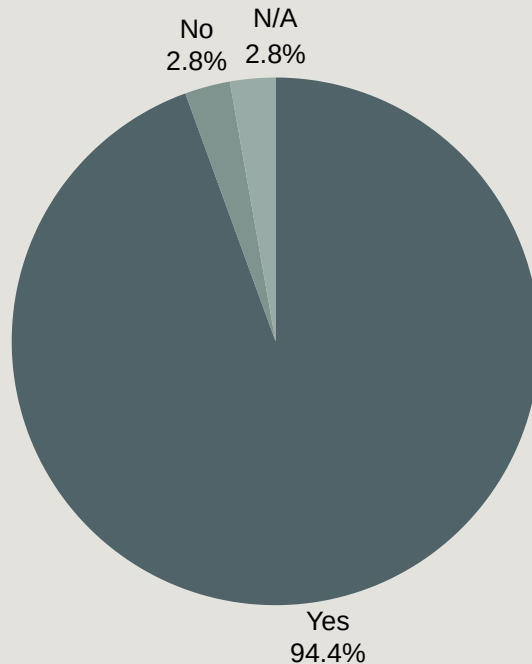


DID THE PROGRAM HELP YOU TO IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS?



QUANTITATIVE DATA

DID THE PROGRAM GIVE YOU A MORE POSITIVE OUTLOOK ON YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH EDUCATION AND SCHOOL?



DID THE PROGRAM HELP YOU IN DEVELOPING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS?

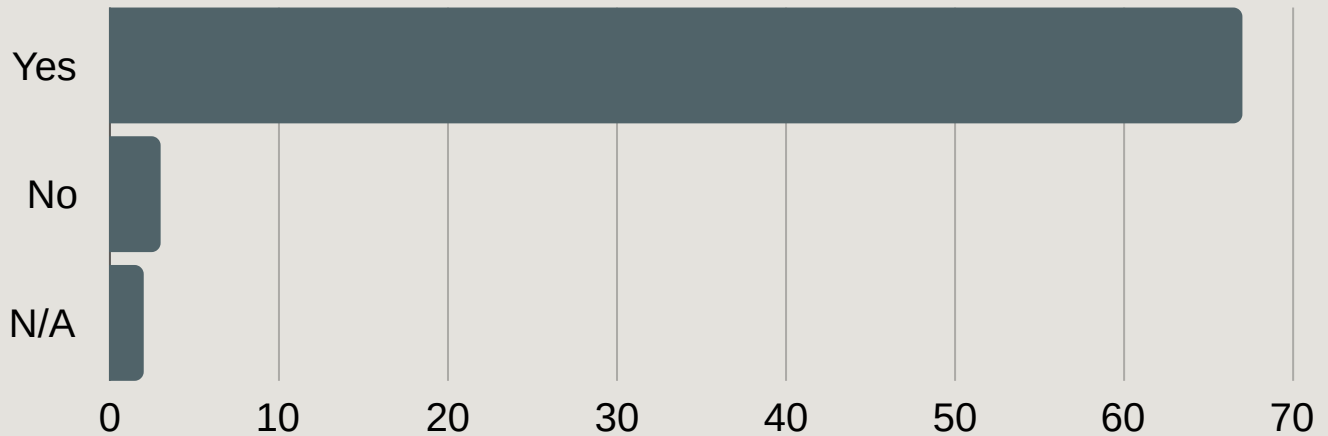


Yes (65)

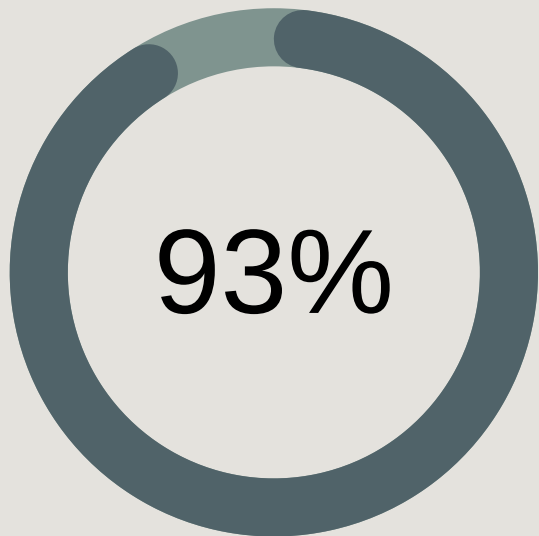
No (7)

QUANTITATIVE DATA

DID THE PROGRAM ALLOW YOU TO FORM A STRONG AND TRUSTING BOND WITH YOUR PROGRAM FACILITATOR?



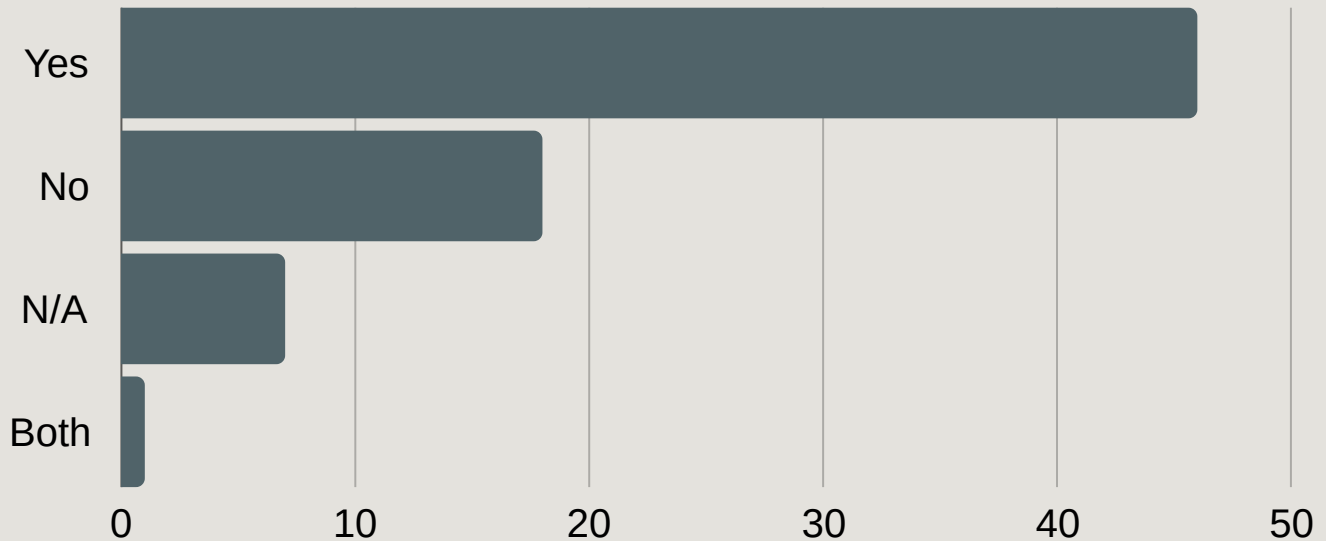
DID THE PROGRAM HELP TO GIVE YOU A SENSE OF PURPOSE?



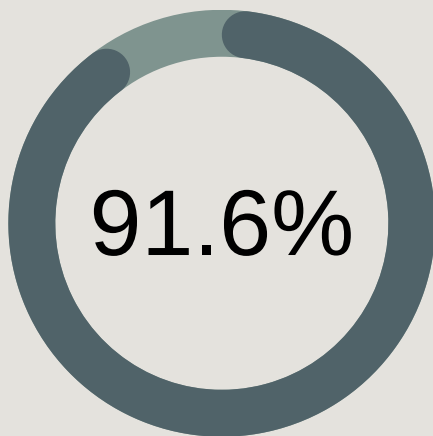
93% of the program participants agreed that the program gave them a sense of purpose!

QUANTITATIVE DATA

DID THE PROGRAM HELP YOU TO FIND AND ACCESS ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS AND RESOURCES?



DID THE PROGRAM INCREASE YOUR KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND CONFIDENCE ON FINANCIAL MATTERS (EX. MONEY MANAGEMENT, FINANCIAL PRODUCTS)?



66 out of 72 participants agreed that the program increased their knowledge, skills, and confidence on financial matters.

QUALITATIVE DATA

The quantitative section of the custom survey asked the following questions:

1. Did the program help you to feel more aware of your strengths and areas of improvement?
2. Did the program help you to improve your problem-solving, decision making, and critical thinking skills?
3. Did the program help you to develop education or employment goals and know the steps needed to work towards these goals?
4. Did the program help you to improve your communication skills?
5. Did the program give you a more positive outlook on your experience with education and school?
6. Did the program help you in developing positive relationships?
7. Did the program allow you to form a strong and trusting bond with your program facilitator?
8. Did the program help to give you a sense of purpose?
9. Did the program help you to find and access additional supports and resources?
10. Did the program increase your knowledge, skills, and confidence on financial matters (i.e., money management, financial products)?

Participant answers to these questions will be summarized and presented using charts.

QUALITATIVE DATA

THEME 1	SELF-IMPROVEMENT	<p>"To better myself & complete my education so I can pursue a job."</p> <p>"Get my mind of negative things and help improve myself."</p> <p>"It has helped become more goal oriented and do more toward my future & improve myself."</p> <p>"This program provided me with skills I needed to improve in my mental and physical health."</p> <p>"To better myself, learn different things, challenge my abilities and to make something out of myself."</p> <p>"To better myself when I return to society."</p>
THEME 2	FOCUSED AND PREOCCUPIED	<p>"It has given me a sense of accomplishment. Helped me gain focus again."</p> <p>"It's kept me occupied and away from trouble and also access to resources and education otherwise not available here."</p> <p>"It made me stay focus, mentally busy with the school study and it will help me to improve my life."</p> <p>"To keep my mind occupied and gain more knowledge."</p> <p>"It has given me a way to keep myself occupied and do something that may better my life."</p> <p>"Always pursued education but being incarcerated gave me the time to take education and being in a cell kept me focused."</p>
THEME 3	CONFIDENCE BOOST	<p>"It has helped me gain confidence in my goal setting and started me down a good path."</p> <p>"This program helped me to improve my intrapersonal skills and has boosted my self confidence and my overall morale."</p> <p>"The program help me to be confident, matured, focused, determent, the most I like was eged."</p> <p>"In many different ways from pushing me to be more creative to igniting more confidence within me and the list goes on."</p> <p>"The people at Amadeusz have been very helpful and good listeners providing me with confidence in my ability."</p>

QUALITATIVE DATA

THEME 4	GOALS	<p>"It was my goal to get my grade 12 diploma while incarcerated."</p> <p>"It has helped become more goal oriented and do more toward my future & improve myself."</p> <p>"Helped me get one step closer to my goals."</p> <p>"Reading and being determined to put my mind to my goals."</p> <p>"My future educational goals is to achieve my highschool diploma, finding my future career and preparing me for college and the real world, so yes Amadeusz has supported me in that."</p> <p>"Working towards a long term goal w/o crime."</p> <p>"I wanted to get the qualifications necessary to become an addictions worker."</p> <p>"Wanted to get my degree in business to start my own business the right way."</p> <p>"Having 2 case workers to help with getting goals accomplished."</p>
THEME 5	FAMILY	<p>"I wanted to pursue my education while incarcerated because I want to change my life style not just for my self but my daughter future."</p> <p>"Family" To prove myself, to learn what they teach in high schools in Canada. To show off to my family, to gain confidence."</p> <p>"So I can turn my life around, and be able to help others and my family."</p> <p>"My ambition to complete my education, my family and my desire to change my life."</p>
THEME 6	LIFE SKILLS	<p>"Yes life management skills."</p> <p>"Helped out with common sense thinking."</p> <p>"Relationship building."</p> <p>"It helped me to improve everything about life and myself. I will continue to live and learn as life goes on."</p> <p>"Yes, it has taught me how to write. By write I mean in proper format."</p> <p>"Patience, endurance, commitment, math, communication, education, determination, fashion & passion"</p> <p>"Help me to do my own taxes skills and knowledge."</p> <p>"My communication skills"</p> <p>"It help me to learn things, being mindful, be more responsible, & help me be more motivated & educated."</p>



High School Participant



Post-Secondary Participant

CONCLUSION

There were clear positive findings about the resources and the qualities of Amadeusz's education program. Overall, the voices found within the data in the report illustrate that participants involved in Amadeusz's education program have a number of positive things to say about the program and themselves as a result. Through Amadeusz's custom survey, participants expressed their beliefs in their chances at positive futures. Participants reported that there was support from a number of sources, either through family or connections with the Amadeusz staff. This year, additional opportunities for participants to share their stories of their experiences with Amadeusz's education program offered a deeper examination of the individual, social, and system level changes and barriers that are occurring as a result of the program and institutional policy. Funding to address the recommendations of this research is needed.

FUNDING PARTNERS



In 2021, United Way granted the education program three years of funding under the Community Service Strategy Program.

In 2020, Laidlaw Foundation granted the education program three years of funding under the Youth Action Fund.



In 2021 to 2022 The City of Toronto Urban Health Fund, joined the Amadeusz education program to create Mind Sets.

In 2022, Catapult approves two-year funding for the Amadeusz education program.



In 2022, Scotiabank approves multi-year funding for the Amadeusz education program.

THANK YOU!

Amadeusz would like to thank our partners and funders for their generous contributions, which allow us to continue to do this important work. Thank you for believing in our programs, services, and participants.

