



AMADEUSZ

2020
ANNUAL REPORT

PHOTO CREDIT:
ALAGHBARI HUSAM

AMADEUSZ AT A GLANCE

Mission

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

Vision

Creating a future with equitable access to education and community supports.

Staff Team**Management**

Director of Programs and Services: [Kimberly D'Cunha](#)

Director of Amadeusz West: [Wiyanna Trevis](#)

Director of Research & Program Evaluation: [Sarah Woods](#)

Director of Finance: [Grace Kosir](#)

Education Program

Toronto South Detention Centre Site Lead: [Megan MacDonald](#)

Education Program Facilitator: [Harsha Momi](#)

Prosper

Case Workers: [Sheena Blake](#), [Elo Igor](#), and [Tatiana Ambursley](#)

Peer Mentor: [Warren Abbey](#)

Board of Directors

Chair: [Sonya Aslan](#)

Outreach and Partnership Development: [Ardavan Eizadirad](#)

Interim Treasurer: [Laura Wilson-Lewis](#)

Secretary and Policy Development: [Annie Ayn](#)

MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER AND CHAIR

In 2020, Amadeusz continued to operate as an incorporated not-for-profit organization in Ontario that continues to support young people who are incarcerated to create positive change in their lives through access to education, community supports, mentorship, and exceptional care. Globally, 2020 was a unique year that brought uncertainty and with it a new way of life and work. In 2020, Amadeusz's biggest concern was how to continue meeting the needs of our participants within the limitations set out by the province. Through strategic and risk management planning, Amadeusz was able to work at a capacity larger than ever before, pushing Amadeusz to continue its pattern of tremendous growth. The commitment of staff, interns, funders, partners, and participants to equitable access to programs and services for young people on remand was evident again in 2020. And of course, our work could not be achieved without the board of directors. The board of directors' support Amadeusz's vision and mission by ensuring accountability and that staff and participants have access to the resources, supports, and tools that they need to drive change. In 2020, Amadeusz's education program had 179 people participate in the program. 49 high school credits were completed and 5 young people graduated with their high school diploma. 42 post-secondary courses were registered in, 13 post-secondary courses were completed, and 1 college certificate was achieved. In 2020, Amadeusz's service Prosper served 56 young people. Project Quiet Storm continued its development with the support of students from The University of Toronto. Additionally, in 2020, Amadeusz completed two academic papers, and both were submitted for publication. Lastly in 2020, we were able to develop and launch new initiatives such as our podcast Off the Record and develop our merchandise Change over Chains.

We look forward to the year to come and continuing our theme of growth to provide equitable access to programs and services for young people incarcerated in Ontario.



Tina-Nadia Gopal Chambers
Founder



Sonya Aslan
Board Chair




PHOTO CREDIT: MIKA WEE

MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

I recently heard a staff say, "I like the person I am now, after working with Amadeusz, more than the person I was when I started this job." This statement really resonated with me and my own journey with Amadeusz. After 5 years, and different roles within the organization, I've been honoured to be a part of something so much bigger than myself. This organization represents the cultural shift that is happening in the world right now and is doing work that I believe, will make a lasting impact on the individual, systemic level, and global level.

Reflecting on 2020, I've realized that we may never have a year as unique as it. So many ups and downs, firsts and lasts, and a new set of life circumstances we hadn't faced. Working with an incredible team of self-motivated and goal-oriented people has been one of the driving forces of success in Amadeusz. Our work wouldn't mean anything without our participants. Both in our education program and in Prosper, we have seen determination and resilience like never before. Finally, to our funders, partners, volunteers, placements students and supporters - your contributions, whatever they were, have never gone unnoticed. The growth we have experienced as an organization in the past year is a testament to all of you, so thank you.

Working in this organization has, and always will be one of the greatest honours of my life. It has shaped me in more ways than I even have words to explain. I'm grateful for all the stories our participants have trusted us with and the circle of support we have built with each other.

I like the person I am now, more than the person I was when I started this job. After all, it has always been, and always will be, much more than just a "job".



Kimberly D'Cunha, Director of Programs and Services



PHOTO CREDIT: MIKA WEE

AMADEUSZ TIMELINE

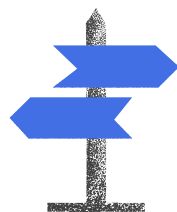
2006

-Amadeusz identifies need for education in remand facilities.



2010

-Summer camp operates in Roy McMurtry Youth Centre.



2012

-Amadeusz receives Toronto Community Foundation's Vital Ideas Award, CUI's Urban Leadership Award for Safety and Resilience in Canada, & City of Toronto Youth Worker of the Year Award.
-Education program begins at Vanier.



2009

-Amadeusz creates partnership with Toronto West Detention Centre.
-Amadeusz receives City of Toronto Youth Worker of the Year Award.



2011

-Education program begins at Toronto Jail and Toronto East Detention Centre.
-First GED exam at Toronto West Detention Centre.
-Services expand to include post-secondary programming.



2013

-Amadeusz hosts discussion focusing on policy issues with over 200 attendees.
-Amadeusz develops partnership with Centennial College.



AMADEUSZ TIMELINE

2015

-Amadeusz develops partnership with Thompson-Rivers University.



2018

- "Look at My Life: 'Sparks' for Firearm Possession Among Young People in Toronto" is released.
- Prosper is launched.
- "Responding to Neoliberalism: The Case of the Look at my Life Project." is published.



2020

-Amadeusz develops partnership with Durham Catholic District School Board.
-Off the Record podcast is launched.
-Two academic papers are completed.



2014

-Amadeusz develops partnership with Northern College.
-Education program begins at Toronto South Detention Centre.



- "Look at my Life: Access to Education for the Remand Population in Ontario" is published.



2016

-Amadeusz partners with Humber College, Laidlaw Foundation, and the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy to conduct research on sparks for firearm possession.



2019

-Amadeusz partners with students at University of Toronto and Guelph-Humber to complete The Quiet Storm.

2020 STATISTICS

49

high school credits
completed.

42

post-secondary
courses registered.

13

post-secondary
courses completed.

1

college certificate
completed.

5

Ontario Secondary
School Diplomas
achieved.

56

young people
supported through
Prosper.

AMADEUSZ PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Education Program

The Amadeusz education program supports young people aged 18 to 35 in working towards their educational goals. 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.

Education Program Pathways

Ontario Secondary School Diploma Completion

The 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 in order to work towards obtaining their OSSD. In 2020, 49 high school credits were completed and five people earned their OSSD.

Location: Toronto South Detention Centre, Toronto East Detention Centre.

High School Equivalency Completion

The GED 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, runs GED examination sessions multiple times a year at each institution. In 2020, two participants wrote the GED exam.

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

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 2020, participants registered for 42 post-secondary courses, 13 of which were completed. One participant completed all of the required courses for a certificate from Centennial College.

Location: Toronto South Detention Centre, Toronto East Detention Centre.

AMADEUSZ PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Prosper

Using intensive case management, case workers work with young people aged 18 to 29 with firearm-related charges to create and execute an individualized plan of support based on their needs and goals. Case workers work with young people throughout incarceration and co-ordinate existing systems to support their transition to community. The goal of this is to reduce the young person's involvement in future violence and crime. In 2020, 56 young people were supported through Prosper.

Location: Prosper case workers facilitate continued support through transfers to varying institutions. Case workers also continue to provide support after a participant's release into the community.

Research

Amadeusz engages in research projects that are relevant to the work that we do. Please refer to our website to view our publications: www.amadeusz.ca/research.

The Quiet Storm

The Quiet Storm is a strategy that was established to fulfill the recommendations outlined in Look at my Life: Access to Education for the Remand Population in Ontario (Woods, Gopal, & George, 2014). Amadeusz received a revised version of action items for each of the 10 recommendations from The University of Toronto's Community Action Group. Next steps involve providing feedback and finalizing the document.

Off the Record

Off the Record, the podcast, brings voices from the inside out. O.T.R holds real discussions and shares views on personal, social and systemic issues, ranging from gun violence in our city to the effects of COVID-19 in our jails.

TESTIMONIALS AND PARTICIPANT APPRECIATION

"I am so thankful that there are people like you in the world who are so willing to help people and not judge them as they try to get back on track. Keep doing what you're doing Megan as I believe you can make a huge difference in the world one person at a time. Thank you for everything."

- Education Participant

Bein lock'd down I know many individuals who looked forward to stayin connected to the work and each meaningful interaction you've provided behind bars.

- Prosper Participant

"Just a little thank you for the care, support, and compassion the 3 of you have shown me. Makes a guy think he can do anything. You're probably not paid enough for what you do, but you 3 go above and beyond. I am sure you take great pride in what you do and it shows in your fantastic attitudes. I hope one day your organization gets the funding it deserves. Education really is the starting point for a better life and world."

- Education Participant

"I really appreciate and respect everything you and Amadeusz have done for me and continue to do for all inmates."

- Prosper Participant

MOKA DAWKINS: IMPACT STORY

Moka is a long time participant of the Amadeusz education program. Moka first completed her high school with Amadeusz and then went on to complete multiple post-secondary courses. She is now enrolled full time in the Community Justice Services program at Centennial College. Moka has been committed to social justice issues long before pursuing her education, and continues to do advocacy work in the areas of incarceration and issues that affect the LGBTQ+ population. Below is a message from Moka:

"My introduction to the Amadeusz team happened in 2016 while I was being detained at the Toronto South Detention Center. I first got connected to Wiyanna from Amadeusz through the social worker in the institution which enabled me to get enrolled into the high school completion program. With supportive study support from Wiyanna and the rest of the Amadeusz team, I graduated in 2018 and progressed on to post secondary studies. Since my release in 2019, reintergrating back into an economic world has been more successful for me in financial opportunities and employment from the skills and education I acquired.

Currently in 2021 I am enrolled as a full time student in the Community and Justice Services Program with Centennial College with the continuous support of Amadeusz on my academic journey. I am grateful for the career choices Wiyanna, Kim, and the rest of the Amadeusz team made for the betterment and growth of their communities and I am proud to be a product of their constructed commitment to the program and their clients.

Sincerely,
Moka Dawkins"



2020 UPDATES

COVID's Impact on Amadeusz

During COVID-19, we have had to adjust our programs and services to fit the limitations that have been outlined by the province in order to continue to meet the current needs of the young people that we work with.

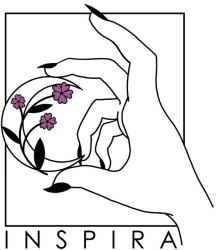
- Amadeusz employees have continued to support their participants within institutions through phone calls, mail correspondence, and newsletters that provide activities and helpful resources. Staff have been able to run programming through video visitation at Toronto South Detention Centre, through glass visits at the Toronto East Detention Centre, and in person at the Vanier Centre for Women. Staff continue to provide programs and services in community for individuals being released from incarceration.
- We have provided gift cards for people who have been recently released from incarceration to support them in purchasing groceries and other essential items.
- Prosper case workers now have direct toll-free lines, making it easier for people within institutions to contact them directly.
- Thanks to donations from the Electronic Recycling Association and Albion Neighborhood Services, Amadeusz has been able to provide technology, such as laptops and tablets, for program participants.



2020 UPDATES

Virtual Holiday Auction

This year, Amadeusz held a virtual holiday auction to raise money for individuals who are recently released from incarceration. It was even more important to raise money this year, as many Amadeusz participants were being released from incarceration and could benefit from extra supports. 27 amazing individuals and businesses donated their products and services to Amadeusz for this auction, ranging from massages to tattoos, custom cookies to signed band merchandise, and everything in between! We were amazed by the support we received, which allowed Amadeusz to raise \$2357.30. With this money, we purchased 21 grocery gift cards and 14 holiday gifts for the children of program participants. We are so grateful to everyone who participated!



2020 UPDATES

Off the Record

One of Amadeusz's biggest and best kept secrets of the year was our new podcast Off the Record. O.T.R, the podcast, brings voices from the inside out to provide peer support and resources for young people vulnerable to the involvement in violence and crime. O.T.R holds real discussions and shares views on personal, social and systemic issues, ranging from gun violence in our city to the effects of COVID-19 in our jails.

Off the Record is hosted by Amadeusz peer mentors Warren and Cauldrick, who both have experiences with incarceration and want to share their knowledge with listeners. Warren is considered an ex-gang member of Toronto who served 11 years in prison for a gang-related homicide. This is when he initially connected with Amadeusz and became a participant in the education program. Since his release, he has become a peer mentor and a public speaker. Cauldrick was involved in drug trafficking and gun violence at a young age, however since almost losing his life to gun violence in 2010, he has turned his life around. He is now a peer mentor and public speaker and has worked with multiple organizations within the community helping young people who are vulnerable to violence, crime, and incarceration.



2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



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Independent Auditors' Report

To the Members of Amadeusz:

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Amadeusz, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2020, and the statement of revenues and expenditures, statement of changes in net assets and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Amadeusz as at December 31, 2020, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of Amadeusz in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibility of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing these financial statements, management is responsible for assessing Amadeusz's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to a going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate Amadeusz or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing Amadeusz's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they



2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness Amadeusz's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Amadeusz's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause Amadeusz to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Markham, Ontario
April 30, 2021

LG PARTNERS LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants and
Licensed Public Accountants

2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Amadeusz Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	78,027	26,289
Amounts receivable (Note 3)	59,034	8,671
Prepaid expenses	-	2,165
	<u>137,061</u>	<u>37,125</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 4)	9,560	7,642
Deferred contributions (Note 5)	<u>70,742</u>	<u>37,600</u>
	<u>80,302</u>	<u>45,242</u>
Net assets		
General Fund (deficit) - unrestricted	2,341	(8,117)
Reserve Fund - internally restricted	<u>54,418</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>56,759</u>	<u>(8,117)</u>
	<u>137,061</u>	<u>37,125</u>

See accompanying notes

Approved on behalf of the board:

Sonya Aslan Director

Ardavan Ezzadivrad Director

2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Amadeusz Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

For the year ended December 31	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Contributions - Scale (Note 5)	92,690	101,113
Contributions - Vanier (Note 5)	20,168	17,954
Administration fee	27,389	5,000
Wage subsidy	54,757	-
	<u>195,004</u>	<u>124,067</u>
Expenditures		
Salaries and benefits	105,176	99,110
Rent	9,924	13,673
Professional fees	8,599	8,668
Fundraising expenses	2,477	-
Insurance	2,165	1,579
Program related expenses	1,261	4,209
Office and general	263	3,783
Bank charges	259	203
Telephone	4	620
Advertising and promotion	-	339
	<u>130,128</u>	<u>132,184</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	<u>64,876</u>	<u>(8,117)</u>

See accompanying notes

EDUCATE

EDUCATE

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, BETTER NEVER LATE.

YK, \$K, GRADES ONE THROUGH EIGHT,

IT IS MY GOAL TO FIRST EDUCATE.

MYSELF I MAKE, BY THE CLASSES I TAKE.

THE PAST, THE PRESENT, THE FUTURE TAKES SHAPE.

FOR ME TO BE A CAPTAIN OR EVEN A FIRST MATE.

YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN, NO IT'S NEVER TOO LATE.

I COULD BE STUCK ON STUPID, BUT I ELEVATE.

HIGHER LEARNING AND EDUCATION TEACHES US NOT TO HATE,

BUT TO HAVE FAITH.

A LIFE THAT'S CROOKED BECOMES STRAIGHT.

ANGER MANAGEMENT, I'M EDUCATED, NOW I'M LESS IRATE.

YES, TO ACCOMPLISH MY GOALS TAKES TIME,

I PLAY, WORK HARD, AND WAIT.

FROM MY FIRST BREATH TO THE TIME OF DEATH, MYSELF, I

EDUCATE.

- AMADEUSZ EDUCATION PARTICIPANT

CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

Amadeusz would like to thank our **2020 funders** for their generous contributions, which allow us to continue to do this important work.

Laidlaw Foundation

United Way of Greater Toronto

City of Toronto

Humber College, Applied Research and Innovation

Ministry of the Solicitor General

We would also like to thank our **donors, partners, and supporters** for believing in our programs, services, and participants.

A big thank you to our administrative partner **Albion Neighbourhood Services** for your continued guidance and support.

Finally, we would like to thank our **participants**. They are at the centre of this work and their motivation and dedication continue to inspire us every day.

