

AMADEUSZ ANNUAL REPORT

2019



AMADEUSZ

Photo Credit:
Alaghbari Husam @6talez

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ABOUT AMADEUSZ

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.

YEAR AT A GLANCE

From settling into our new office to expanding our programs and staff team, 2019 was a year of great change and achievement for Amadeusz. The Amadeusz education program supported many young people in completing their high school education, and starting or continuing their post-secondary education. Prosper expanded and continued to coordinate existing systems to support transition and success in community. We can't wait to share with you all that we accomplished in 2019!

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MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER AND CHAIR

After 10 years under the trusteeship of Albion Neighborhood Services, Amadeusz incorporated to become a 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. Amadeusz has grown tremendously over the years with the help of young people, Laidlaw Foundation, Albion Neighbourhood Services, the Ministry of the Solicitor General, various correctional facilities throughout Ontario, The Independent Learning Centre, various post-secondary institutions, community mentors, and The City of Toronto. From 2006 when young people were organizing for change for themselves and their peers to today where Amadeusz has its own offices, five full time staff, six part time staff, and one volunteer. The commitment of staff, volunteers, and partners to equitable access to programs and services for young people on remand is at the heart of Amadeusz. We are committed and focused in providing young people who are incarcerated with the resources, opportunities, and support they need to create positive change in their lives and communities.

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.

Amadeusz's education program (formerly known as The Look at my Life Project) gives young people who are incarcerated the opportunity to complete their high school education and attend post-secondary schooling. In 2019, 227 people participated in the education program. 28 young people completed high school, and 22 post-secondary courses were completed. Amadeusz's service Prosper, through intensive case management and peer support, works with young people aged 18-29 with firearm related charges throughout incarceration and co-ordinates existing systems to support their transition to community with the aim to reduce their involvement in future violence and crime. In 2019, Prosper served 32 young people. 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). In 2019, Amadeusz partnered with students at the University of Guelph-Humber to complete the strategy. It is set to release in 2020. Additionally, in 2019, Amadeusz completed two academic papers. Both are to be published in 2020.

We look forward to the coming year and continuing to grow to provide equitable access to programs and services for young people incarcerated in Ontario.

Thank you.



Sonya Aslan
Board Chair



Tina-Nadia Gopal-Chambers
Founder

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MESSAGE FROM DIRECTORS OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Every year brings new challenges and opportunities, and, in response, Amadeusz is continuously building, learning, reflecting, and growing. Without question, 2019 was no exception; it was a year of momentous growth and development. Over the year, we welcomed new and returning staff to the team, expanded programming to respond to urgent community needs, and extended our network and connections. We focused on gaining exposure through various media outlets by releasing video interviews with participants on our YouTube channel. We prioritized our social media presence and used Instagram as a platform to connect with community organizations, agencies, and participants. We continued to work toward our goal of obtaining charitable status and explored possibilities for partnerships and sustainable funding. Within this growth, Amadeusz remained consistent in our work to strive for equitable access to supports and education for the remand population in Ontario.

From Wiyanna...

My years with Amadeusz have been full of so many experiences. There have been moments of great joy, laughter, accomplishment, and celebration. Alongside these, there are times that have carried tremendous heartache and heaviness. This work is challenging and rewarding beyond measure, and it has been a great honour to be a part of it. To our remarkable staff team, present and past, I extend my thanks and gratitude for the skill, compassion, dedication, support, and creativity that have shaped Amadeusz into the organization it is today. To our collaborators and supporters, thank you for partnering with us, demonstrating commitment to this work, and sharing in the vision for equitable access to meaningful supports and opportunities. Finally, I would like to acknowledge our participants, whose contributions cannot be overstated. I am deeply thankful for your trust and willingness to work with us through difficult times. I admire and appreciate the courage, curiosity, kindness, and wisdom that is shared. You inspire, teach, and motivate us in our work, and I thank you.

From Kimberly...

Being a part of this team feels like so much more than just work -- it feels like we are a part of systems that are changing and evolving, slowly but surely. Participants continue to impact our lives, inform our own practices, and inspire us to continue doing this work despite the difficulties we may face. The Amadeusz team is made up of a diverse group of skilled and talented people who are so dedicated to this work and it's truly inspiring to share this experience with them. I am sure we will continue to be challenged in new ways but am confident we will grow because of it. I look forward to all the ups and downs that I'm sure we will face, and I can't wait to see how much more we will grow because of it.

Thank you,



Kimberly D'Cunha
Director of Programs and Services



Wiyanna Trevis
Director of Amadeusz West

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2019 STATISTICS

50

high school course registrations at TSDC and TEDC

14

high school courses completed

3

people earned their Ontario Secondary School Diploma!

40

people wrote the GED exam at the TSDC and TEDC

25

people earned their GED certificate!

45

post-secondary registrations at the TSDC and TEDC

22

people completed a post-secondary course!

32

young people were supported through Prosper!

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AMADEUSZ STAFF

Founder

Tina-Nadia Gopal-Chambers

Management

Kimberly D'Cunha - Director of Programs & Services

Wiyanna Trevis - Director of Amadeusz West

Sarah Woods Surma - Director of Research & Program Evaluation

Grace Kosir - Director of Finance

Education Program

Megan MacDonald - Program Facilitator and TSDC Site Lead

Vanessa Nicholson - Vanier Program Facilitator

Angelina Mighty Osbourne - Post-Secondary Coordinator

Prosper

Sheena Blake - Case Worker

Elo Igor - Case Worker

Warren Abbey - Peer Mentor

Cauldrick Woods - Peer Mentor

Board of Directors

Sonya Aslan - Board Chair

Ardavan Eizadirad - Outreach and Partnership Development

Laura Wilson-Lewis - Interim Treasurer

Annie Ayn - Secretary and Policy Development

We would like to thank all former staff, board members, volunteers, and students for your contribution to Amadeusz's growth and development.

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AMADEUSZ TIMELINE

2006

- Amadeusz identifies need for education in remand facilities.

**2009**

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

2010

- Summer camp operates in Roy McMurtry Youth Centre.

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.

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.

2013

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

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AMADEUSZ TIMELINE

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.



2015

- Amadeusz develops partnership with Thompson-Rivers University.

2016

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

2018



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

2019

- Amadeusz partners with students at University of Guelph-Humber to complete The Quiet Storm.
- Two academic papers are completed, to be published in 2020.

2020

- Amadeusz applies for charitable status.
- Amadeusz continues to launch innovative initiatives.

AMADEUSZ PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Since Amadeusz started in 2009, we have been expanding the programs and services that are offered in order to increase the amount of young people that receive support. Amadeusz started as an education program meant to provide access to young people in remand facilities. We have expanded from that into an organization that offers a variety of different programs and supports with a focus on education, advocacy, research, and case management.

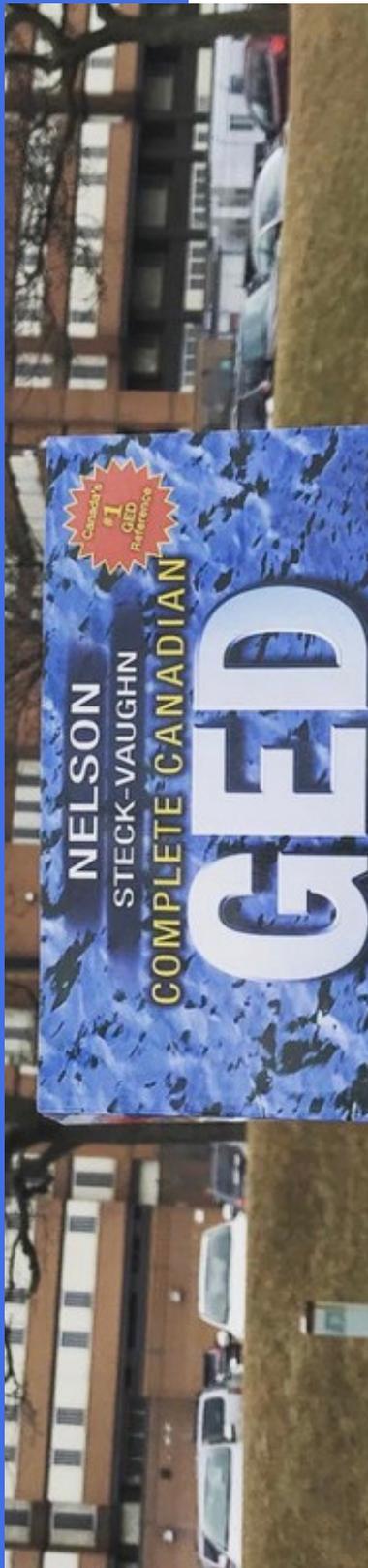
Education Program

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.

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 2019, 50 participants registered in a high school course, and 14 participants completed a course. This led to three participants earning their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

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



AMADEUSZ PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

High School Equivalency Completion

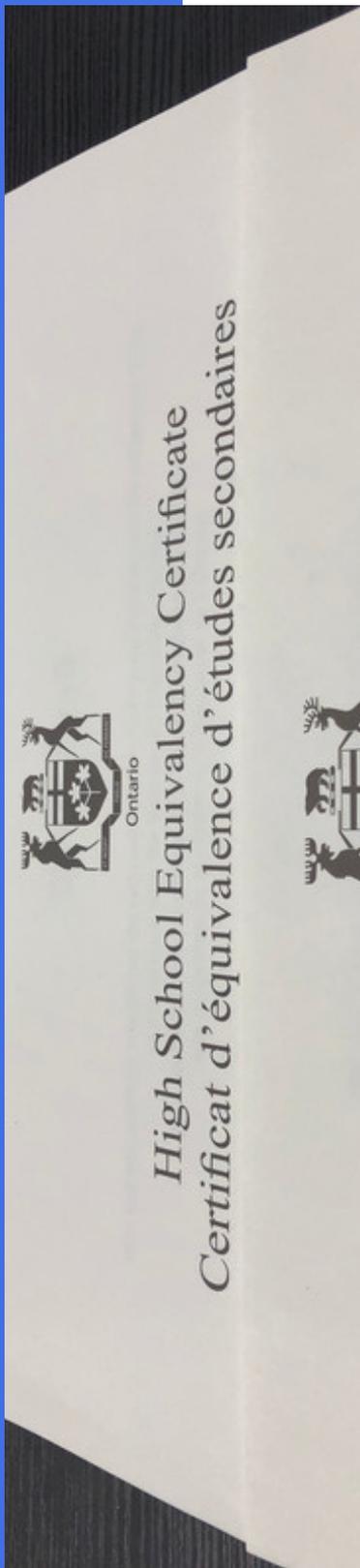
The GED stream of programming provides support in working through GED-specific content in order to prepare participants to write the GED exam and obtain their high school equivalency certificate. Amadeusz, in partnership with the Independent Learning Centre, runs GED examination sessions multiple times a year at each institution. In 2019, 40 program participants wrote the GED exam, and 25 participants passed all five sections and earned their GED certificate.

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 partnerships with Centennial College, Northern College, and Thompson Rivers University. This allows participants the opportunity to work towards college certificates through access to print-based courses, or complete courses that can be transferred to their pre-existing post-secondary education. In 2019, 45 participants registered in a post-secondary course, and 22 participants finished a post-secondary course.

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



AMADEUSZ PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Prosper

Prosper case workers are supportive, caring adults who, through intensive case management, work with young people aged 18 to 29 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 2019, 32 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.

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).



Wilver De Oro, #TOCares Challenge

AMADEUSZ PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Research

Amadeusz engages in research projects that are relevant to the work that we do. Past publications include:

George, P., Gopal, TN., Woods, S. (2014). Look at my Life: Access to Education for the Remand Population in Ontario. *Canadian Review of Social Policy*, 70: 34-47.

Woods, S., Gopal, TN., George, P. (2018) Responding to Neoliberalism: The Case of the Look at my Life Project. *Critical Social Work*, 19 (2): 60-74.

Summary of Research. (2018) Look at My Life: 'Sparks' for Firearm Possession Among Young People in Toronto. 1-19.

In 2019, Amadeusz produced the following publications:

Eizadirad, A., Gopal, TN. (2020) Look at my Life: Limitations and Inequities of the Criminal Records Suspension Program in Canada. (To be published in 2020)

Woods, S., Gopal, TN. (2020) Look at my Life: Emotional Implications for Insider Research for Qualitative Researchers. (To be published in 2020)

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Now i have finished the first semester of the Transition to Post Secondary education program with George Brown College. I'm happy to explore new horizons and I am able to see myself as an individual who could offer a lot to the table, with you i learned a lot about myself and had an awakening and lot of things are dawning. I'm more confident, courageous and optimistic about all these opportunities presented upon me.

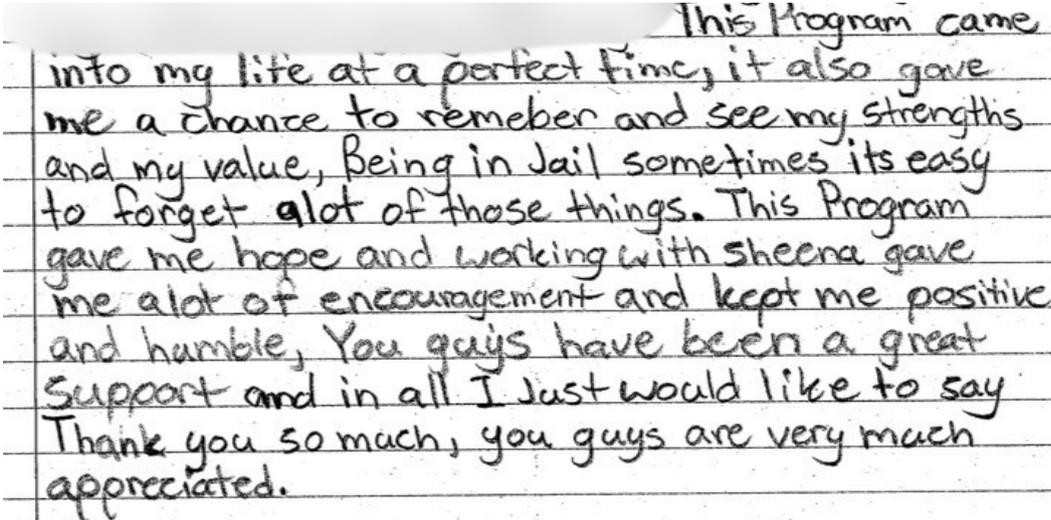
- Education program participant

I have never had someone supportive in my life. It's hard for me to see what I am capable of accomplishing.

- Prosper participant

I am extremely happy to obtain my GED, and I couldn't have done it without a profound teacher. So kudos to her and the rest of the Amadeusz program for the superb job they did.

- Education program participant



This Program came into my life at a perfect time, it also gave me a chance to remember and see my strengths and my value, Being in Jail sometimes its easy to forget alot of those things. This Program gave me hope and working with sheena gave me alot of encouragement and kept me positive and humble, You guys have been a great support and in all I just would like to say Thank you so much, you guys are very much appreciated.

- Prosper participant

I want you to know that I'll never forget everything you did to help me, it means a lot. For the first time since I can remember I felt like I wasn't being judged and could openly talk to you about anything. The fact that you stood by me and helped me along showed me that you cared.

- Education program participant

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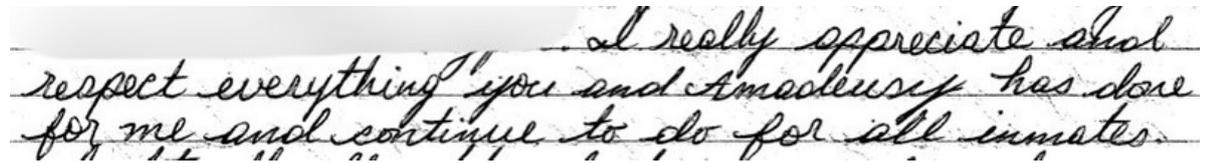
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Thank you for all you have done for me. I will never forget the outstanding job you and the rest of the Amadeusz staff has done for and with me.

- Prosper participant

While I have no statistics or sources from which to prove the following assertions, I hope these few words I'm offering on my lived experience drives home these points: Amadeusz through its education program provides to those in prison an alternative to the embittered disillusionment and resulting recidivism; it lowers our risk to harm and re-offend; it inspires us to do better and aim higher; and then, it goes about realising those aspirations of ours through support in guidance and mentorship. To that, to all that has come about, and to all that may come to pass as a result of my participation in the Amadeusz education program, they have my sincerest gratitude.

- Education program participant



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

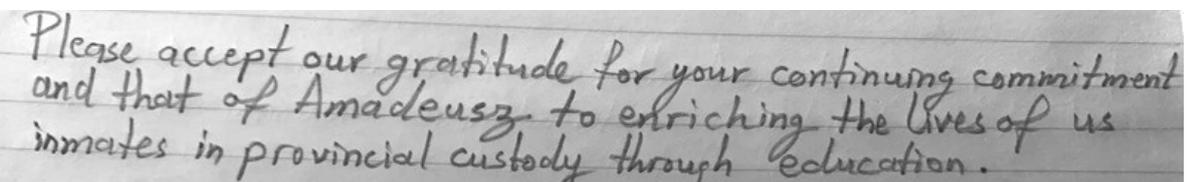
- Prosper participant

You gave me hope when I didn't have any. There were a lot of times where I would think negative and was ready to throw my life away to this lifestyle but you made me realize that it's never too late to be the man that I'm supposed to be.

- Education program participant

Prosper has played a major role in my success after incarceration. If it wasn't for Prosper, the barriers that I faced after my time behind bars would've been 10x more difficult to overcome.

- Prosper participant



Please accept our gratitude for your continuing commitment and that of Amadeusz to enriching the lives of us inmates in provincial custody through education.

- Education participant

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PARTICIPANT APPRECIATION

You guys are the best. Thanks for everything. Looking Forward to working with you in the future.

I'D like to thank all of you, for support & Help, that you give us that makes Reaching are goal's more possible.

1+1=4
...because of nice people like you.

There's so much we have to thank you all For! The opportunity to spend time with such great people and have all the help in our studies won't be forgotten.

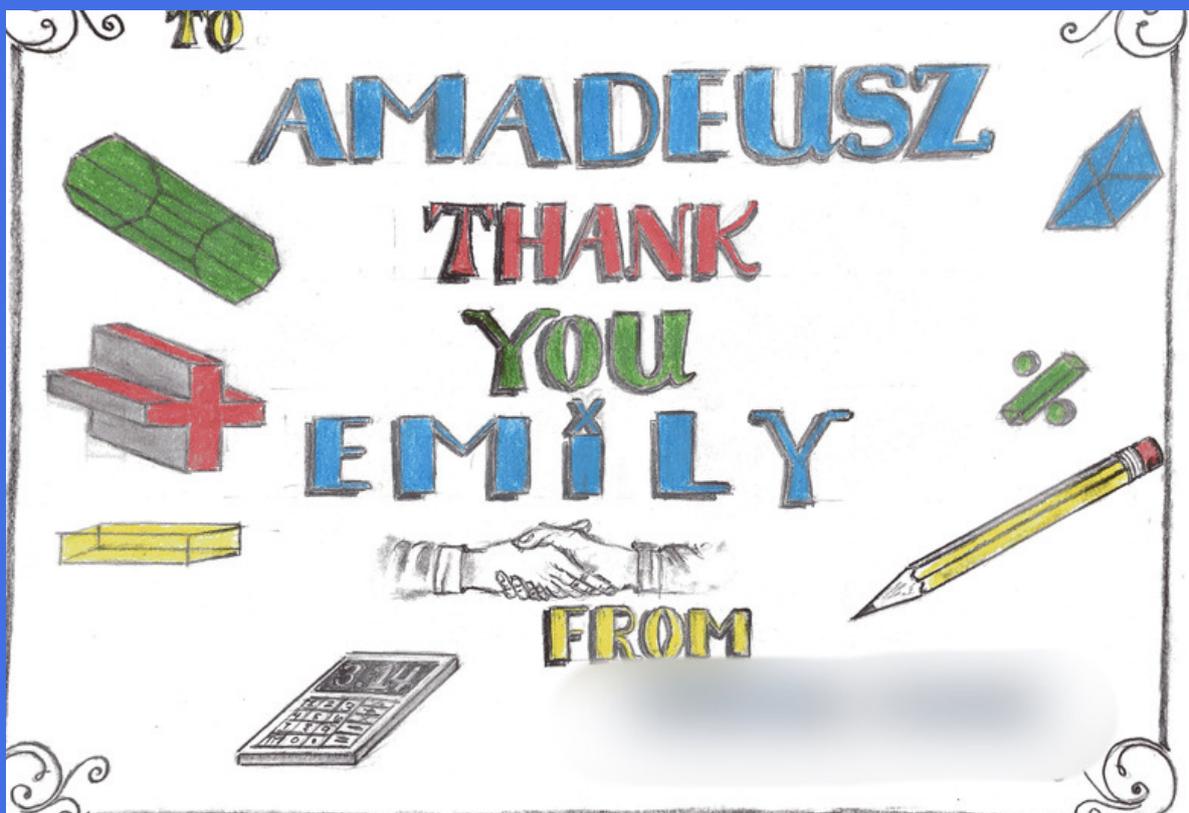
Thank You,

Thanks!

I just want to thank Megan and all the staff at Amadeusz for their hard work and candor towards inmate education. There's definitely a need, and without you, this wouldn't be possible. Thank you so much!
Your student,

Thank You

Thank you for support on Education.



Warren Abbey: A Full Circle Impact Story

When I was first arrested in 2005 and found myself incarcerated in a Toronto Detention Center, there was no such thing as Amadeusz. There was no such thing as a program designed to help individuals who had once made mistakes find their first steps back to redemption. When I first entered the Justice System, men and women who found themselves incarcerated remained stagnant. Labeled a criminal, I remember feeling like nobody cared. I ended up being convicted and sent to prison with no hope for the future. Fast forward ten years later, through the grace of God, I managed to win my appeal and was sent back to the Toronto East Detention Center to once again await trial. Only this time, things were different.

Through the grapevine I discovered a program that was available to guys like me who were willing to break free from the labels of ignorance and recidivism. The program offered a chance to return to school through correspondence despite the proverbial and (sometimes quite real) shackles around my legs. Amadeusz is one of the only agencies that has made a transformative impact in my life. They have and are still going above and beyond the call of duty in assisting me find success. There is a lot of non-profit organizations that are good at talking the talk, but Amadeusz is one of the only agencies that truly walk the walk.

OUR IMPACT

Workshop with Toronto Public Library and Black Youth Jobs

In the summer of 2019, Amadeusz partnered with Toronto Public Library and Black Youth Jobs to host a “Career and Education Workshop” which focused on resources for young people 18 years and older who have been impacted by incarceration. The workshop took place at Malvern Public Library and brought together various community agencies such as Centennial College and John Howard Society.

The event included presentations on employment and education, but the highlight of the event was an inspirational talk by a past participant of Amadeusz, Warren Abbey. Warren spoke to the audience about his story of incarceration and his struggles afterward. He spoke of the reality of how difficult it is to get meaningful employment with a record despite there being community agencies that provide support in this area. John Howard Society was so moved by Warren’s talk that they later offered him a position to work with them as a Peer Mentor. Most recently, Warren has also joined the Amadeusz staff team as a Peer Mentor for Prosper.

OUR IMPACT

Frontline Workers' Toolkit Series with TYES and CET

In September 2019, Amadeusz partnered with the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES) and the Council of Educators of Toronto (CET) to host a workshop highlighting the unique struggles that MVP youth (youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime) face when it comes to educational attainment. This workshop was based on information in the TYES Frontline Workers' Toolkit Series, Educational Attainment for MVP Youth, which was first developed in 2016 and continues to be updated annually.

The workshop and the toolkit provide frontline workers with information on different pathways for youth to complete their high school education, as well as options for post-secondary programs. The workshop in September 2019 involved a panel discussion which past participant and current employee of Amadeusz, Warren Abbey, took part in. A video was developed which focuses on the stories of both program participants and frontline workers. Amadeusz will continue to work with TYES and CET to further develop the frontline workers' toolkit, and host more workshops in the future.

Graduation Ceremony at Toronto East Detention Centre

In January 2020, Amadeusz facilitated the first high school graduation ceremony that took place at the Toronto East Detention Centre. In partnership with institutional staff, Amadeusz hosted a memorable evening celebrating the accomplishments of six high school graduates that either completed their GED or OSSD in 2019. Attendees included the Amadeusz staff team, TEDC Chaplains, social workers, a program officer, Deputy Superintendent of Programs, and most notably, the Superintendent of the TEDC.

The night included speeches from both staff and graduates, snacks provided by the institution, pictures that were later sent to family members, books as a graduate gift from Amadeusz, and on behalf of the institution, an extra visit was given to each graduate. This night highlighted the hard work of Amadeusz participants and gave them the opportunity to revel in their success and feel pride in their accomplishments.

AUDITORS' REPORT



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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, 2019, 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, 2019, 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 could reasonably



AUDITORS' REPORT

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
June 25, 2020

LG PARTNERS LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants and
Licensed Public Accountants



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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Amadeusz
Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31	2019
	\$
Assets	
Current assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	26,289
Amounts receivable (Note 3)	8,671
Prepaid expenses	2,165
	37,125
<hr/>	
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current liabilities	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 4)	7,642
Deferred contributions (Note 5)	37,600
	45,242
Net assets	
Accumulated deficit - unrestricted	(8,117)
	37,125

See accompanying notes

Approved on behalf of the board:

Sonya Aslan Director

Ardavan Eizadirad Director

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Amadeusz	
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures	
For the year ended December 31	2019
	\$
Revenue	
Contributions - Scale	101,113
Contributions - Vanier	17,954
Administration fee	<u>5,000</u>
	<u>124,067</u>
Expenditures	
Salaries and benefits	99,110
Rent	13,673
Professional fees	8,668
Program related expenses	4,209
Office and general	3,783
Insurance	1,579
Telephone	620
Advertising and promotion	339
Bank charges	<u>203</u>
	<u>132,184</u>
Deficiency of revenue over expenditures	(8,117)

See accompanying notes

DEDICATION

To the young men and women who have been lost to violence in Toronto... Our work is dedicated to you.



“In death you push me to bloom. The seeds you planted in life, still grow around me.”

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CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

Amadeusz would like to thank our 2019 funders for their generous contributions, which allow us to do this important work. Your support provides Amadeusz participants with the resources and support to create positive change in their lives and communities. We can't thank you enough for your continued support throughout the years!

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. Whether it is allowing us into your spaces to do our work, partnering with us on projects and events, or providing resources for Amadeusz participants, we appreciate each and every gesture!

A big thank you to Albion Neighbourhood Services for supporting Amadeusz throughout the past 10 years. We appreciate your guidance and wouldn't be where we are without you.

Finally, we would like to thank our participants for believing in the process and allowing us to walk with them on their journey. We are forever grateful.

