



ANNUAL REPORT

2021

AMADEUSZ

2021

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: Kim D'Cunha

Director of Research & Program Evaluation: Sarah Woods

Director of Finance: Grace Kosir

Education Program

Education Case Workers: Megan Macdonald, Harsha Momi

Prosper

Case Workers: Sheena Blake, Elo Igor, and Tatiana Ambursley

Peer Mentor: Warren Abbey, Cauldrick Woods

Board of Directors

Chair: Sonya Aslan

Outreach and Partnership Development: Ardavan Eizadirad

Interim Treasurer: Laura Wilson-Lewis

Secretary and Policy Development: Annie Ayn

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER AND CHAIR

TINA-NADIA CHAMBERS & SONYA ASLAN

After 11 years under the trusteeship of Albion Neighbourhood Services, in 2021, Amadeusz obtained charitable status, a strategic move that was the next step in supporting our autonomy, making us an independent qualified charitable entity.

In 2021, Amadeusz's education program continued to provide support and resources for young people to complete high school and attend post-secondary schooling while incarcerated. In 2021, the education program served 431 young people. 15 young people graduated high school, and 25 young people completed 31 post-secondary courses. Prosper continued to provide case management support to 56 young people. Amadeusz research and program evaluation consultants published "Amadeusz: Inequities in the Enactment and Implementation of Record Suspensions" in the Journal of Law and Social Policy at York University. In addition to this, they worked in partnership with The Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer to conduct 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." In addition to these research projects, a program evaluation audio report for Prosper and a written report for the education program were completed.

We would like to thank the board of directors for providing strategic leadership that promotes expansion while ensuring accountability. We also recognize the work of financial manager, Grace Kosir, who has been dedicated, from its inception to date, to ensure Amadeusz's financial accountability and growth.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the staff for executing Amadeusz's mandate. Manager of Prosper, Sheena Blake Brown's hard work supporting young people throughout their custodial status and during court hearings, was recognized by Ish Aderonmu, a former law school student, who through a front-page newspaper article about himself, mentioned "Amadeusz, a not-for-profit that supports young, racialized people, which Aderonmu saw in action in criminal courts." This article, read by many people, moved K2 & Associates, a Canadian hedge fund, to make the largest donation ever received by Amadeusz at the end of 2021.

Moving forward in 2022, Amadeusz will conduct a five-year strategic plan to execute its work as an independent entity. This will support the organization to continue to impact change for young people who are incarcerated in Ontario.

Tina-Nadia Gopal Chambers
Founder

Sonya Aslan
Chair - Board of Directors

References:

1. [Amadeusz: "Inequities in the Enactment and Implementation of Records Suspensions"](https://amadeusz.ca/files/research/Inequities-in-the-Enactment-and-Implementation-of-Records.pdf)
<https://amadeusz.ca/files/research/Inequities-in-the-Enactment-and-Implementation-of-Records.pdf>
2. ["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"](https://amadeusz.ca/about/program-evaluation-reports)
3. <https://amadeusz.ca/about/program-evaluation-reports>
4. [He was the poster child for Toronto's newest law school. He's now filing a \\$750,000 human rights complaint against it | The Star](#)
5. [About K2 - K2 & Associates](#)

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

KIM D'CUNHA

When I think about Amadeusz in 2021, three words come to mind: growth, resiliency and impact. In 2021, Amadeusz's organizational growth is exponential. From producing its own original podcast and releasing another two seasons in 2021, to collaborating with Exclucity to release limited time merchandise, Amadeusz continues to broaden its scope and create ripples in multiple domains. One of the most significant markers of growth in 2021 was Amadeusz acquiring charitable status. After 12 years, first as a community project, then as a non-profit, Amadeusz reached another significant milestone. This has been made possible due to the dynamic staff, funders, community partners and, of course, the participants.

As 2021 progressed, COVID-19 continued to disrupt all aspects of "normal" programming. Learning from 2020, we continued to pivot, shift, refocus and recalibrate in 2021. This resulted in organizational resiliency and creative problem-solving. In 2021, we had two virtual fundraisers, and we raised \$2895 - an amount that we would not have even thought possible prior to this year. We also began to resume in-person programming in the detention centres, and although this new "normal" brought its own unique set of challenges, Amadeusz persisted.

The impact that Amadeusz has on participants, families, and community members is the epitome of what a charitable organization strives to accomplish. We reached record-high numbers of graduating students, supported families and Prosper participants, and reached new audiences across the world through "OTR." The impact that our programs have on the everyday lives of the young men and women we serve is a daily reminder of why this work is not only important, but needed.

There truly isn't an organization I know that operates the way Amadeusz does - with authenticity, joy, compassion and a focus on relationship building. These pillars have created a foundation for an organization that can only continue to grow year to year. It has been the biggest honour of my life to be involved in this work, but more importantly, to have done it with a one-of-a-kind organization like Amadeusz.

There is only one thing I can say about my experience working with Amadeusz: *thank you.... you changed my life.*

Kim D'Cunha
Director of Programs & Services

THE AMADEUSZ TIMELINE



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

2009



2006

Amadeusz identifies need for education in remand facilities.

2010

Summer camp operates in Roy McMurry 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.

2013

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

Education program begins at Vanier.



2014

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

2015

Amadeusz develops partnership with Thompson-Rivers University.

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

THE AMADEUSZ TIMELINE



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.
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 Toronto and Guelph-Humber to complete The Quiet Storm.

2020

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



2021

Amadeusz receives charitable status.

2021 STATS

High School
Credits
Registered In:
274

High School
Credits
Completed:
110

PLAR Credits
Achieved:
848.92

OSSD
Achieved:
15

Post-
Secondary
Courses
Registered In:
53

Post-
Secondary
Courses
Completed:
31

Post-
Secondary
Programs
Completed:
2

Prosper
Participants
Supported:
56

AMADEUSZ PROGRAM 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 2021, 110 high school credits were completed, 848.92 PLAR credits were granted, and 15 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.

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 2021, participants registered for 53 post-secondary courses, 31 of which were completed. Two participants completed all of the required courses for a certificate from Centennial College.

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

AMADEUSZ PROGRAM 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 2021, 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.

In 2021, Amadeusz published the paper "Inequities in the Enactment and Implementation of Record Suspensions."

<https://amadeusz.ca/files/research/Inequities-in-the-Enactment-and-Implementation-of-Records.pdf>

WORDS FROM OUR PARTICIPANTS

"It made me stay focus, mentally busy with the school study and it will help me to improve my life."

"The people at Amadeusz have been very helpful and good listeners providing me with confidence in my ability."

"This program helped me depend on my own determination to follow through to meet deadlines. The people at Amadeusz have been very helpful and good listeners providing me with confidence in my ability."

"It give me the answers I was looking in life by building and entrepreneur mindset."

"It's helped by helping me with the very first step needed to have a positive, successful life."

"I am grateful to be apart of project prosper and also am very grateful for meeting my case worker at project prosper, Sheena. Sheena has help me through out my journey in life in a lot of ways and has provided me with support with getting a job and other necessities of a pro social life and she has also helped me with mental health issues as well. Sheena has shown me that she is someone I can always turn to wen I need to speak to someone and when I go through any obstacles in life. She has been a big part of my positive development and has also shared a lot of her self knowledge from business, employment ,mental health and life in general. I am very grateful to her and to project prosper for putting the effort and support into helping me be successful and stay on the road to success."

WORDS FROM OUR PARTICIPANTS' FAMILIES AND SUPPORTERS

"The Prosper and Amadeusz programs have been a major support system through the entire time my partner was incarcerated and also when he was released. Because of Amadeusz's constant support he was able to finish his GED and even enrol and complete a number of college courses. Amadeusz has been our backbone through incarceration and during his transition back to every day life. The support we receive has helped us in so many ways, from mental health support to financial support to just having a community of people to lean on during some very difficult times. Without Amadeusz I'm not sure where we would be on our journey. I'm so thankful for everyone there and the major roles they play as individuals. They have made some of the hardest times feel lighter and have given us the courage and motivation to keep going. Our situation is often ignored or looked down on by society but everyone at Amadeusz has been such a backbone, and has helped us in ways I didn't think was possible. Thank you for being our light at the end of the tunnel!"

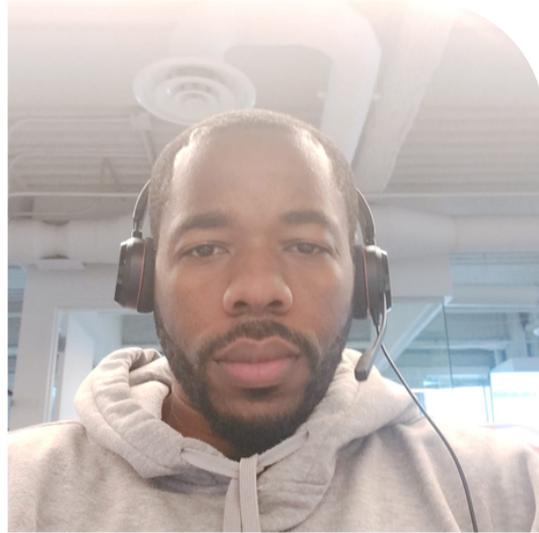
"Sheena, Thank you for all your support, guidance, your love and that listening ear. We're so blessed to have you in our lives. We're grateful for you and we love you so much!"

"Thanks a lot for your help and patience to my son's schooling Megan. More blessings and power to you and the school. Forever grateful. Hope to meet you one day."

IMPACT STORY

SEWA LACLE

Hi, my name Sewa Lacle, and my introduction to the Amadeusz program happened in June of 2019 while being detained in the Toronto South Detention Center. I first got introduced to Wiyanna through other inmates when they would meet her, but it was when I went to administrative segregation that Emily and Sheena came to visit me to offer me books, and emotional support while I was in a distraught state (following 7 days in segregation).



After my release from segregation, Sheena especially took interest in really helping me cope with the lockdowns by giving me books to read and later participating in her group discussions. In these discussions, we were tasked to write short stories followed by an oral presentations. This really helped me with expressing myself better and not holding my emotions inside as I used to. Because I loved to read, Sheena also created a book club amongst a few detainees and gave us books to keep, which I really enjoyed.

Through Prosper, I was encouraged, by Sheena and others to complete certificates for the forgiveness project workshop series on anger management, substance use educational session for men, supportive relationships, maintaining employment and education.

I can truly say that because of the consistent support from Sheena and others at Amadeusz, since my release in February 2022, I have found a job and housing. Sheena also helped me to prepare my c.v. and helped me find employment through agency placement. I also maintained a great relationship with my parole officer while still staying in consistent communication with Amadeusz.

I must say that I believe that Prosper support helped my transition back into society after 6 years of being inside. I will always be grateful for Sheena, Wiyanna, Emily, Elo, and many other workers who did their best with providing the necessary help I needed to make it work. Thank you again!

Sewa Lacle
Participant
Prosper

2021 UPDATES

Charitable Status

In 2021, Amadeusz was proud to have received charitable status. Becoming a charity was a huge milestone for us.

K2 & Associates Donation

K2 & Associates generously donated **\$175,000** to Amadeusz at the end of the year. In 2022 we will use this donation to fund research projects, create a scholarship and help with administrative costs.

We would like to thank K2 & Associates for the donation. It will do wonders for us as a charity and those in community who benefit from our programs and services.

Footlocker and KRWND

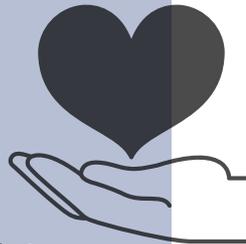
Footlocker EU and KRWND generously donated **\$9,000** to Amadeusz. KRWND donated all proceeds from the exclusive Justice is Golden launch in honour of European Black History Month. These proceeds went directly towards supporting Amadeusz programs and services.

Change Over Chains Sweaters

Exclucity generously helped Amadeusz with our Change Over Chains merch launch in 2021. 100% of the profits went towards Amadeusz programs and services.

Graduations

Amadeusz held two virtual graduations in 2021 at the Toronto East Detention Centre. Congratulations to all the participants who graduated!



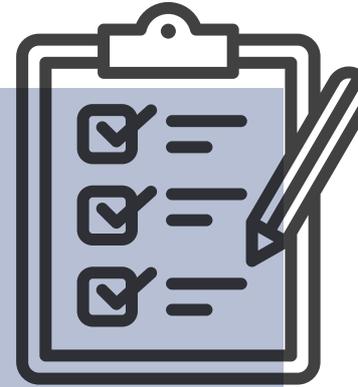
2021 UPDATES

Evaluation Reports

The following program evaluation reports were created in 2021:

- Education Program Report 2018-2021
- Prosper Audio Report 2021

<https://amadeusz.ca/about/program-evaluation-reports>



Off the Record

In 2021, we wrapped up our third season of the podcast. Off the Record, the podcast, brought 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 was hosted by Amadeusz peer mentors Cauldrick and Warren. Both young men have been incarcerated themselves, and have real and honest conversations about their experience before, during and after incarceration on this podcast.

DVD Drive

From May 24th - June 4th, 2021, Amadeusz held a DVD drive for the Toronto East Detention Centre. These DVD's went to the TEDC recreation program.



2021 UPDATES

Spring Auction

In the spring of 2021, Amadeusz held a spring auction for mental health awareness. This fundraiser raised **\$825**. This money went towards putting together self-care packages for Amadeusz participants who are in community.

Holiday Auction

At the end of 2021, Amadeusz held our second virtual holiday auction to raise money for individuals who were recently released from incarceration. With everyone's continued support, we were able to raise **\$2070!**



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Amadeusz Statement of Financial Position

| As at December 31 | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Assets | | |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 151,480 | 78,027 |
| Amounts receivable (Note 3) | 175,987 | 59,034 |
| | 327,467 | 137,061 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | |
| Current liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 4) | 8,608 | 9,560 |
| Deferred contributions (Note 5) | 194,618 | 70,742 |
| | 203,226 | 80,302 |
| Net assets | | |
| General fund - unrestricted | - | 2,341 |
| Reserve fund - internally restricted | 124,241 | 54,418 |
| | 124,241 | 56,759 |
| | 327,467 | 137,061 |

See accompanying notes

Approved on behalf of the board:

Sonya Aslan Director

Qusatul Ayn Director

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Amadeusz Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

| For the year ended December 31 | 2021 | 2020 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Revenue | | |
| Contributions - Sparks | 47,939 | - |
| Contributions - Scale | 101,377 | 92,690 |
| Contributions - Vanier | 21,847 | 20,168 |
| Contributions - Access - ONCAT | 24,057 | - |
| Administration fee | 19,146 | 27,389 |
| Wage subsidy | 51,586 | 54,757 |
| | 265,952 | 195,004 |
| Expenditures | | |
| Salaries and benefits | 124,874 | 105,176 |
| Program related expenses | 46,929 | 1,261 |
| Rent | 14,418 | 9,924 |
| Professional fees | 7,672 | 8,599 |
| Fundraising expenses | 2,844 | 2,477 |
| Office and general | 1,080 | 263 |
| Advertising and promotion | 421 | - |
| Bank charges | 232 | 259 |
| Telephone | - | 4 |
| Insurance | - | 2,165 |
| | 198,470 | 130,128 |
| Excess of revenue over expenditures | 67,482 | 64,876 |

See accompanying notes

CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

Amadeusz would like to thank our **2021 funders** for their generous contributions, which allowed 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
K2 & Associates

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 former administrative partner **Albion Neighbourhood Services** for your 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.