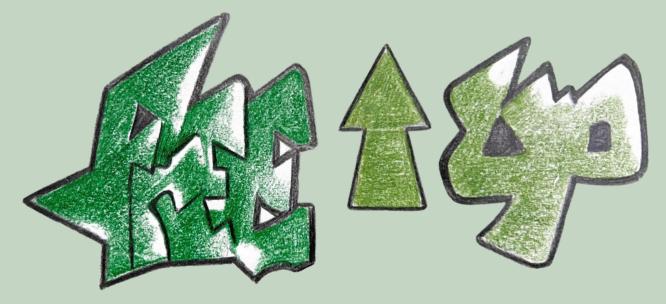


# Annual Report 2022



\*An artwork done by our program participant.

#### 2022 ANNUAL REPORT | 1

### Quick Overview: Amadeusz

Amadeusz is a charitable organization that has been operating in Toronto since 2009.

#### Mission

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

#### Vision

Amadeusz's vision is to create a future with equitable access to education and community supports.

#### Staff

Manager of Operations: Joyce Chua Manager of Education: Megan Macdonald Manager of Prosper: Sheena Blake Brown Education Case Worker: Harsha Momi Education Case Worker: Jenny Ma Education Case Worker: Jenny Ma Education Case Worker: Nikita Lafleur Prosper Case Worker: Tatiana Ambursley Prosper Peer Mentor: Abdi Dayr Research Assistant/Education Case Worker: Emilia Gorny

#### **Board of Directors**

Chair: Sonya Aslan Secretary & Policy Development: Annie Ayn Treasurer: Ayman Barr Human Resources: Aysha Watson Outreach & Partnership Development: Ricardo Dawson

### A Message from the Manager of Operations & Chair

2022 has been a remarkable chapter in our journey of growth and impact, and it fills me with immense joy to share our accomplishments.

In 2022, we conducted a five-year strategic plan which serves as our guide towards our goal of making a profound difference in the lives of young individuals who are incarcerated in Ontario. Additionally, Amadeusz published a research article in the Journal of Higher Education Policy and Leadership Studies, Volume 3, Issue 3, titled "Emotional Vulnerability in Researchers Conducting Trauma-Triggering Research" by Dr. Ardavan Eizadirad, Sarah Woods, and Tina-Nadia Gopal-Chambers.

commitment education Our to remains unwavering, and I am elated to report that our education program has continued to flourish. We provided invaluable support and resources to a staggering 787 young people, encouraging them to complete high school and pursue postsecondary education within the confines of incarceration. The numbers speak for themselves: 190 high school courses completed, 1053.67 PLAR credits granted, 42 OSSDs achieved, 43 Mind Sets program completed, and two GED certificates earned. Furthermore, 63 post-secondary courses and four postsecondary programs successfully were completed. These achievements would not have been possible without the dedication and tenacity of Megan Macdonald, our Manager of Education.

Amadeusz's Prosper also continued to grow in 2022, providing essential support, access to basic necessities, and connections to vital community resources for our young participants. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Sheena Blake Brown, the Manager of Prosper, for her unwavering commitment to our organization's purpose and to the young people we serve.

To our remarkable staff, your love, support, and tireless dedication to our participants ensure that they receive the equitable access to education and community support they rightfully deserve.

I would also like to take this moment to express my deep appreciation for our Board of Directors. Your strategic leadership has been instrumental in driving our expansion while ensuring accountability every step of the way. Another special acknowledgment goes to our Director of Finance, Grace Kosir, whose stewardship ensures Amadeusz's growth and financial accountability.

Lastly, we are deeply thankful for the trust and commitment of our program participants; they are the driving force that fuels our mission and enables us to continue the important work we do.

As we look ahead to 2023, our commitment remains steadfast. We will continue to stand by our program participants, providing support and exceptional care in their life journey.

> Joyce Chua Manager of Operations

> > Sonya Aslan Chair, Board Member

### Programs & Services

Amadeusz offers a variety of programs and supports with a focus on education, community support, 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.

#### **Education Program Pathways**

#### ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA COMPLETION

The OSSD programming stream provide participants access to high school credit courses through our various partnerships. Participants are given access to PLAR assessments and print-based high school credit courses that help them work towards obtaining their OSSD.

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

#### HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY COMPLETION

The GED programming stream 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 programming stream 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 preexisting post-secondary education.

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

## Programs & 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 coordinate existing systems to support their transition to the community. The goal of this is to reduce the young person's involvement in future violence and crime.

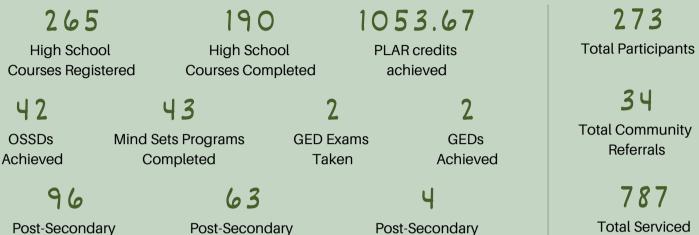
Location: Prosper case workers facilitate continued support through transfers to varying institutions. Case workers also continue to provide support after a participant's release into the community.

#### Research

Amadeusz engages in research initiatives that are closely aligned with our mission and vision. You can explore our research publications by visiting our website at <u>www.amadeusz.ca/research</u>.

### 2022 Statistics

#### **Education Program**



**Programs Completed** 

**Courses Registered** 

**Courses Completed** 

#### Prosper

- 13 participants received support for work, including one participant who received work while in custody
  - participants received support with accessing housing
- participants received support with food by providing them gift cards
- participants in custody registered in high school
  - participants in custody completed their high J school courses
  - participants in custody completed their OSSD 3
  - participants registered in college courses R
  - participants completed their college courses

participant completed their college certificate

(including participants)

- participants received support with accessing 10 and applying to various programs
  - participants received support with accessing their identification
  - participants in the community received support with tax completion and one (1) participant in custody
  - participants received support with purchasing technological devices
  - participants received support with accessing J furniture
- participants received letters of support from 24 Prosper case worker

### Our Impact





SWIPE: Owner Goes From Serving LIFE In Prison To Establishing Durham's First Black Owned Convenience Store!!





"I would like to thank you for all the help and support you've given me in the last few years. Your ability to make difficult questions plain and simple is remarkable. You've always been patient but firm and open to walk me through whatever I was stuck on. I definitely look forward to take on college courses with you in the future. I appreciate your support and encouragement. Thank you."

- Education Program Participant

"I am writing this appreciation letter to thank you for all you have done for me as well in guiding me so I was able to get started in school. Every time you come by you always have time to see me and help me. I am very greatful for your support, patience, and honesty you have shown me all this time. Sometimes I feel very down and depressed but when you come you have a very positive and uplifting attitude that lift my spirit up. I am very greatful for the support I get from you and the Amadeusz team." - Education Program Participant

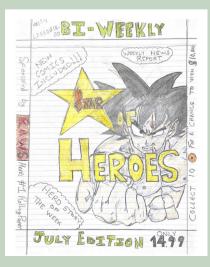
"The Prosper staff have been the most helpful, respectful, nonjudgmental and very supportive people that I have ever worked with. My life has changed so much because of them."

- Prosper Participant

"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... I must say that I believe that Prosper support helped my transition back into society after 6 years of being inside."



- Prosper Participant



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POETIC ATTACK JUSTICE What's the price of Justice, and How much does Justice cost Look around people, the Injustice we see Is the Reason the world's so lost The Law of GOD as opposed to the laws of men When it comes to Justice lawgivers shouldn't have friends But we all know that is not the case Evidence sometimes disappear with no trace The law turns a blind eye in some cases The law has more than two faces People don't be fooled The law and justice are sometimes two different tools I believe in Justice but not in all schools I believe in Justice but I'm no fool Things are the way they are because they've been changed Things will continue to be as they are and this might seem strange Until we all become part of making some decisions From the got go or we're part of the revisions Justice will never prevail with all this division Justice shall prevail this I envision Justice states majority rules, but what happens when the majority's fooled? "Then there's NO Justice Totalitarian Rule," Objection your Honour, "Overruled! Sit down sir, you didn't go to Law School,"

\*A poem written by our Education program participant.

## Impact Story BONGANI SIBANDA



My name is Bongani Sibanda and I am a client of Amadeusz. I started working with Amadeusz when I was in the TSDC. I must say it has been a blessing and an honour work to with closely the Amadeusz dedicated team. L vividly remember when I was

at the TSDC, I actually thought my returning to school was bleak, but no. Wyanna was my first contact at the TSDC and she brought me all the necessary material for me to pursue an education while I was in jail. Believe me, it ain't easy to focus on studies when you are locked up. For instance, you have other inmates hating on you because they assume you are better than them, but that did not faze me at all. I still pushed despite the negative energy and surroundings. With Amadeusz, I completed business leadership: management marketing, fundamentals, principles of and introduction to psychology while I was locked up. I later got an NCR verdict, got released, and graduated from a transition to a post-secondary education program with George Brown College. I further worked with Kim, and she later referred me to Harsha who has been of great assistance together with Megan, Joyce, and other colleagues at the Evans location. This dynamic team has helped me tremendously. Harsha helped me apply for the OSAP grants for the program I am currently taking, which is the community worker program with George Brown College.

My drive and zeal made me have a different perspective and view of life, even with my burden, whenever I go to the office in Etobicoke, this team always welcomes me with open arms. This makes me feel appreciated and overlook my imperfections. I would like to commend this Amadeusz program for the excellent service they offer to inmates in and outside those walls. Right now, I am in my last year of the community worker program and I came this far because of the Amadeusz team that believes in me and their spirits are always up. I feel like I am part of the family, and thanks for the gift cards again. They are convenient and come in handy. Now I know that this program works when you work towards it, and I have come a long way from where I started. My future plans are to graduate from my current program and pursue a career in assisting marginalized individuals in the community and tell other inmates that the sky is the limit and if I can do it, so can they. Amadeusz has always been my pillar of support; everything I need they provide with no hesitation and no judgment. Thank God for this program. As a participant, I will certainly recommend individuals in conflict with the justice system to give it a try. I am certain that I am on the path of greener pastures. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Amadeusz organization and the staff for all you are doing in my life and for believing in me. Even on my down days, I still remind myself of the reason why I participated in this great program, thus to be a better and law-abiding resident. I know I have come a long way, but I firmly believe that the world is mine to discover and know that education is an investment in potential.

I believe in your slogan that says, "change over chains." Whenever the road gets tough, I keep going. It is not how hard I fall that matters, but how I pick myself up. The race is not only won by those who finish first, but by those who endure till the end. I want to thank Amadeusz for believing in me and being a support system. May God bless you all and I wish you all the best in your endeavours.

### Impact Story SHEMORE GETFIELD PROSPER PARTICIPANT

Hello, my name is Shemore, and I've had the pleasure of working with and being included in the Amadeusz program for about three to four years now. I was introduced to them back in 2019 while I was incarcerated because of some trouble I had gotten into with the law. For a while, at first, I worked with a case worker named Elo, who helped me complete the rest of my high school credits while I was incarcerated. I had not graduated high school on time, so it was nice to finally finish it. She also enrolled and participated with me in various other programs such as book clubs and even music programs to help me further my passion and career for music. Around the same time, I was introduced to Sheena and other teachers, Kim, Shaneka and the Amadeusz Manager, Joyce. They were there to help with other things like helping me prepare for my release from incarceration, employment, and basically anything I might need to make my path moving forward easier.

After my release, they continued to help me in the community with things I needed to succeed. Whether it be providing safety gear boots and gear for work, giving grocery cards or even putting money on my presto, Amadeusz is always there to make sure I have what I need to better my success. They've looked at my interests and my needs and have supported me since we first made acquaintance. I would say they're more of a big family than they are an organization because that's the feeling you get when being around and working with them. The consistent support from Sheena and others makes it easier to open up, and express the things guys like us, who they help, have a hard time doing. It's warm and welcoming and overall makes you feel appreciated and understood.

My experience with Sheena and the rest of Amadeusz has been extremely beneficial, but also insightful. I've grown and learned different things while with them and I still continue to do so. I encourage anyone who gets the opportunity to work with Amadeusz to take full advantage of the program because there is much to offer.



### 2022 Highlights

#### **Strategic Plan**

Amadeusz completed a five-year Strategic Plan for the period of 2023 to 2028. Visit <u>https://amadeusz.ca/about/strategic-plan</u> to read the strategic plan.

#### Donations

In September 2022, Amadeusz was the beneficiary of four laptop donations courtesy of the United Way Greater Toronto's Gift-In-Kind program. Subsequently, in October 2022, GroupeX Solutions contributed an additional eleven laptops. With these laptop donations, we were able to provide several community participants with laptops, which helped them continue their education after being released from incarceration.

Amadeusz received a \$25,000 donation from The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation towards Amadeusz's education program!

#### Amadeusz Scholarship

The Amadeusz Scholarship is designed to offer support to individuals in the community, who have been released from incarceration and are working towards reaching their postsecondary education goals. In 2022, Amadeusz awarded a total of \$21,000 in Scholarship Funds to nine young people! Thank you K2 & Associates for funding this intiative.

Visit https://www.amadeusz.ca/scholarship for the full scholarship report.

#### **Published Articles**

Emotional Vulnerability in Researchers Conducting Trauma-Triggering Research (2022) Journal of Higher Education Policy and Leadership Studies, 3(3): 71-88. Woods, S., Chambers, TN., & Eizadirad A.

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 (2022)

Summary of Research Findings Eizadirad, A., & Gopal, TN.

Visit <u>www.amadeusz.ca/research/</u> to read all of our past publications.

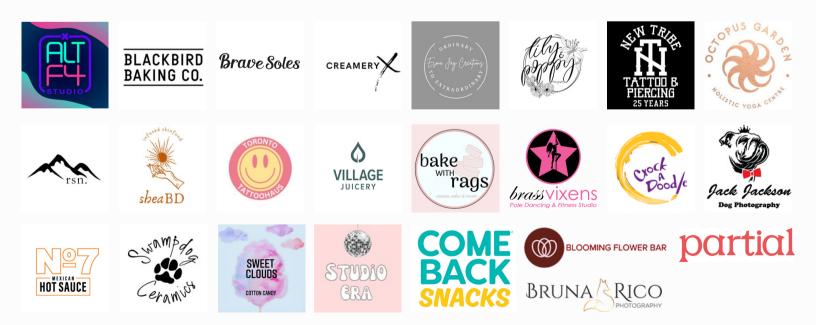
## 2022 Highlights

#### **Annual Holiday Auction**

Amadeusz held a Holiday Auction fundraiser from December 12 to 16, 2022. It was a tremendous success, raising a total of \$1695! We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the local businesses and our wonderful community for their enthusiastic support. With your help, we auctioned off 32 items and services generously donated by amazing businesses. These funds will directly benefit Amadeusz programs and services.

Please show some love to the following businesses who generously contributed their items and services to our annual holiday auction. Their Instagram handles are as follows:

- @altf4studio
  @bakewithrags
  @bbirdco
  @bloomingflowerbar
  @brassvixens
  @bravesoles.life
  @brunarico
  @comebacksnacks
  @creameryx
  @crockadoodleinetobicoke
- @esmajaycreations
  @jackjacksondogphotography
  @jai.d.tattoos
  @lilypoppyco
  @newtribetattoo
  @no7hotsauce
  @octopusgardenyoga
  @partial.gallery
  @sedated\_sloth
  @sheabdnaturals
- @studioeratoronto
  @swampdog\_ceramics
  @sweetclouds.cottoncandy
  @torontotattoohaus
  @roxistabs
  @rsn.customs
  @villagejuicery



### Financial Statements

AMADEUSZ Statement of Financial Position		
As at December 31	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	352,030	151,480
Amounts receivable (Note 3) Prepaid expenses	7,911 3,232	175,987
	363,173	327,467
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 4)	32,527	8,608
Deferred contributions (Note 5)	189,896	194,618
	222,423	203,226
		200,220
Net assets General fund - unrestricted		
Reserve fund - internally restricted	140,750	- 124,241
-	140,750	124,241
	363,173	327,467

See accompanying notes

Approved on behalf of the board:

Director

Ayman Barr

Director

Aysha<sup>®</sup>J. Watson

### Financial Statements

#### AMADEUSZ Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

For the year ended December 31	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Pavanua		
Revenue Contributions - Sparks	322,104	47,939
Contributions - Scale	236,668	47,939
Contributions - Vanier	10,073	21,847
Contributions - Access - ONCAT	20,525	21,047
Contributions - Access - Corporations & Banks	86,066	24,007
Administration fee	12,117	19,146
Grants - United Way	50,000	
Donation - K2	93,854	-
Wage subsidy		51,586
	831,407	265,952
Expenditures		
Salaries and benefits	502,792	124,874
Program related expenses	221,384	46,929
Office and general	33,487	1,080
Professional fees	35,632	7,672
Rent	13,720	14,418
Telephone	2,997	-
Insurance	2,628	-
Advertising and promotion	1,663	421
Fundraising expenses	525	2,844
Bank charges	70	232
	814,898	198,470
Excess of revenue over expenditures	16,509	67,482

See accompanying notes

## Circle of Support

Amadeusz extends its sincere appreciation to our 2022 funders for their generous support. We are equally grateful to our donors, partners, and advocates who believe in our programs, services, and the individuals we serve. Last but not least, our deepest thanks go to our participants, who remain the heart and driving force of our work.

CATAPULT

CITY OF TORONTO

HUMBER COLLEGE, APPLIED RESEARCH & INNOVATION

LAIDLAW FOUNDATION

MINISTRY OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL

SCOTIABANK

TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH

THE CATHERINE AND MAXWELL MEIGHEN FOUNDATION

UNITED WAY OF GREATER TORONTO









M TORONTO Public Health







