

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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# Executive Summary

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

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

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

## Staff

Joyce Chua, Director of Operations

Megan MacDonald, Director of Education

Sheena Blake Brown, Director of Prosper

Harsha Momi, Education Case Worker

Jenny Ma, Education Case Worker

Sade Hastings, Education Case Worker

Erin Hussul, Education Case Worker

Shaneka Raynor, Prosper Case Worker

Lorraine Lam, Prosper Case Worker

Kamoy Williams, Community Reintegration Planning Table Coordinator

## Board of Directors

Ayman Barr, Board Chair

Annie Ayn, Secretary & Policy Development

Aysha Watson, Human Resources

Ricardo Dawson, Outreach & Partnership Development

# A message from the Director of Operations & Board Chair

As I look back on 2024, I'm filled with deep gratitude and pride for all that Amadeusz has accomplished. Our strength comes from the dedication of our staff, the resilience of our participants, and the unwavering support of our community partners. This year was one of growth and connection - we strengthened our systems, built new partnerships, and were proud to see our collective impact recognized. With this strong foundation, our programs continued to open doors, create opportunities, and transform lives.

Our Education Program supported over 1,000 individuals, helped 67 participants achieve their Ontario Secondary School Diplomas, and facilitated six graduation ceremonies across two institutions. We expanded post-secondary opportunities through Mohawk College's City School, participated in national knowledge-sharing sessions, and built new partnerships to advance equitable education. The evaluation report by The Students Commission of Canada further highlights the depth of our impact.

Through the Prosper Program, 88 participants received individualized reintegration support - addressing needs ranging from housing and employment to mental health and legal advocacy. Our team walked alongside participants as they reconnected with family, accessed new opportunities, and achieved meaningful milestones in their reintegration journey. We also strengthened partnerships with Human Services & Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC) and Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Ontario, and the Sankofa Legacy Project, and continued to play an active role in advancing collaborative reintegration efforts by co-chairing the Toronto Community Re-integration Planning Table.

In 2024, Amadeusz also contributed to the research landscape with the publication of "Amadeusz's Prosper: Effective Reintegration of Adults Facing Firearm-Related Charges in Ontario, Canada" in the *Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal* (Vol. 11, No. 5, pp. 272-289), further amplifying our commitment to evidence-based practice and knowledge sharing.

As we reflect on these accomplishments, I'm reminded that none of this would be possible without the incredible people who make up the Amadeusz community. Most importantly, it's the voices of our participants that remind us why we do this work - the joy of achieving a goal, the gratitude of a family member, and the hope that opens the door to new possibilities. To our incredible team, especially Megan MacDonald and Sheena Blake Brown, thank you for your vision and heart. To our Board of Directors and Grace Kosir, thank you for your leadership and stewardship.

As we step into a new year, we remain deeply committed to supporting operational excellence that fuels transformation. We're deeply grateful to our team, partners, funders, and participants for your trust, your partnership, and belief in what we can achieve together.

*Joyce Chua*  
Director of Operations

*Ayman Barr*  
Board Chair

# 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.

### ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA COMPLETION

The OSSD programming stream provides 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, In Community

### HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY COMPLETION

The high school equivalency programming stream supports participants in preparing to write the Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC) assessment and obtain their Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate. Amadeusz works in collaboration with TVO ILC to offer this program stream.

Location: Toronto South Detention Centre, Toronto East Detention Centre, In Community

### 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, In Community

### **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 engaged in research initiatives that are closely aligned with our mission and vision. You can explore our research publications by visiting our website at [www.amadeusz.ca/research/](http://www.amadeusz.ca/research/).

# Impact Overview

## Community Recognition, Partnerships & Research

In 2024, Amadeusz continued to strengthen its presence and partnerships across the community. We joined other Social Justice Fund Repertoire Fund grantees at Warner Music Canada, following a generous \$7,500 USD grant from the Warner Music Group/Blavatnik Family Foundation Social Justice Fund. The opportunity allowed us to highlight the impact of our work and uplift the voices of young people connected to our programs.



Amadeusz was honoured to be nominated as a Gem of Etobicoke–Lakeshore in the category of Favourite Non-Profit Organization, reflecting strong community recognition of our work.

In partnership with the Ware Malcomb team in Vaughan, winter warmth kits were assembled and distributed to individuals returning to the community after incarceration. These kits included hats, gloves, hand warmers, gift cards, and other essentials.



Amadeusz also published a peer-reviewed research article titled “Amadeusz’s Prosper: Effective Reintegration of Adults Facing Firearm-Related Charges in Ontario, Canada” by Eizadirad, A., Chambers, T.N., & Brown, S.B. in the *Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal*. The publication was presented at the City of Toronto’s SafeTO Conference under Justice Innovation. The full article and a summary of findings are publicly available on our website. Visit [www.amadeusz.ca/research/](http://www.amadeusz.ca/research/) to read all of our publications.

## High School Courses Registered

354

## High School Courses Completed

269

## PLAR Credits Completed

1153

## OSSDs Completed

67

## Post-Secondary Courses Registered

134

## Post-Secondary Courses Completed

92

## Post-Secondary Programs Completed

9

## Total Participants

276

## Total Additional People Served

757

## Total Served

1033

## Impact Overview

# Education Program

## Graduation Highlights

Across six ceremonies at the Toronto South and Toronto East Detention Centres, 52 participants celebrated educational achievements, including OSSD completions, Centennial College certifications, and Business Management-Marketing certificates. A separate celebration was also held at Collins Bay Institution for another Centennial College graduate.

## Post-Secondary Pathways

Through a partnership with Mohawk College's City School, 13 participants accessed free college credit courses.

## Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing

The team also attended the Rideau Hall Foundation Conference in Halifax, building national connections and sharing insights.

## Learn More

Full program and evaluation reports are available on the Amadeusz website.

"It would be insane if you choose to continue living without giving your education another shot. This is your opportunity to see how much you've grown and how smart you really are, even if you don't think you are. You owe it to yourself, believe in yourself, sign up."

Education Program Participant

## Impact Overview

# Prosper

As of December 31st, 2024, the Prosper Program supported **88 participants**, with **57 actively engaged** on our caseload. Every participant received emotional support, and those with specific needs were connected to a wide range of services and resources.

Throughout the year, Prosper provided:

### Family & Emotional Support

- 100% of participants received emotional support.
- All who needed family-related support received calls, check-ins, and referrals.

### Basic Needs

- **Food Security:** 32 participants received grocery or food gift cards, including support for family members.
- **Housing:** 11 participants were supported with rent assistance, housing connections, and applications.
- **Identification:** 7 participants secured IDs such as Ontario IDs, passports, birth certificates, PR cards, and citizenship documents.

### Health Supports

- **Mental Health:** 11 participants connected with mental health professionals.
- **Physical Health:** 4 participants accessed gym memberships, equipment (e.g., bikes), or health-related supports.

### Sankofa Partnership

Amadeusz expanded mental health supports through a partnership with the Sankofa Legacy Project. Through this collaboration, trained psychotherapists provided culturally grounded, trauma-informed mental health support to Prosper participants, ensuring access to care that reflects their lived experiences and cultural identities.

“I just wanna say thanks again for everything you’ve done for me since the day we’ve met, including not giving up on me. You and the Amadeusz team.”

Prosper Participant

### Education & Employment

- **Education:** 18 participants received support with high school, college, or university pathways.
- **Employment:** 15 participants received resume support, job search assistance, and employment connections.
- **Licences:** 5 participants obtained work-related licences (e.g., forklift, AZ licence).
- **Driving School:** 2 participants were supported with driver training programs.
- **Capacity-Building Achievement:** One Prosper participant served as a guest lecturer at Toronto Metropolitan University.

### Legal & Justice Supports

- **Legal Navigation:** 24 participants were supported in connecting with lawyers, parole, or probation.
- **Support Letters:** 19 participants received letters for court.

### Stability, Organization & Daily Living

- **Technology:** 16 participants obtained phones or computers.
- **Transportation:** 17 participants received support through Presto funds, Uber/gas gift cards, flights, and other travel assistance.
- **Organization:** 25 participants received planners and organizational tools to support daily structure.
- **Program Connections:** 16 participants were linked to external programs and services.
- **Financial Literacy:** 1 participant opened a TFSA with staff support.

### Reintegration Planning Table

Amadeusz partnered with the Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC) and the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Ontario to co-chair, alongside the John Howard Society of Toronto, a regional community reintegration planning table.

# Impact Overview

"Amadeusz has helped me by giving me the chance to create a better future for myself and build a stronger foundation for my life."

Education Program Participant

"Amadeusz has been a tremendous blessing in my life as well as my family's. I feel so supported and loved by them while my partner is incarcerated. I'm so appreciative of everything they do and I'm truly grateful to know Sheena and the Amadeusz team."

Prosper Participant's Wife

"It has been truly a pleasure to work with an organization such as Amadeusz. They have proven themselves to be dedicated to working with the Black community to address systemic and institutionalized racism that perpetuates trauma. We at SPCG look forward to continued aligned partnership and collaboration with Amadeusz to support and service Black individuals impacted by the traumatic experiences embedded within the Criminal Justice System. To many more projects and initiatives that foster the healing within the Black community!"

Community Partner

"First day [AZ License Training]. I really appreciate and love you guys at Amadeusz. Thank you for this opportunity."

Prosper Participant

"It would be insane if you choose to continue living without giving your education another shot. This is your opportunity to see how much you've grown and how smart you really are, even if you don't think you are. You owe it to yourself, believe in yourself, sign up."

Education Program Participant

"Prosper has helped me in many ways such as work and connecting me with the right contacts who actually really help find job opportunities for you and call you on a daily with updates it has also helped me when there wasn't any work available and my mental state started to turn me back to the streets to stay on course because my life has more value then a jail cell I wasn't able to eat or travel to work consistently which I've also received help with and most of all when I needed some one to make me feel like I was worth living life prosper help me through some extremely dark and low points in my life and I'm forever grateful for them I could never begin to show them how much I really appreciate them."

Prosper Participant

"This program is a well needed program in this institution. Amadeusz provides the support and guidance to salvage us through these times of hardship which is very well appreciated."

Education Program Participant

"There's nothing more enriching, nothing more creative and nothing more useful one can do with their time than to participate in this program. It's benefits are invaluable."

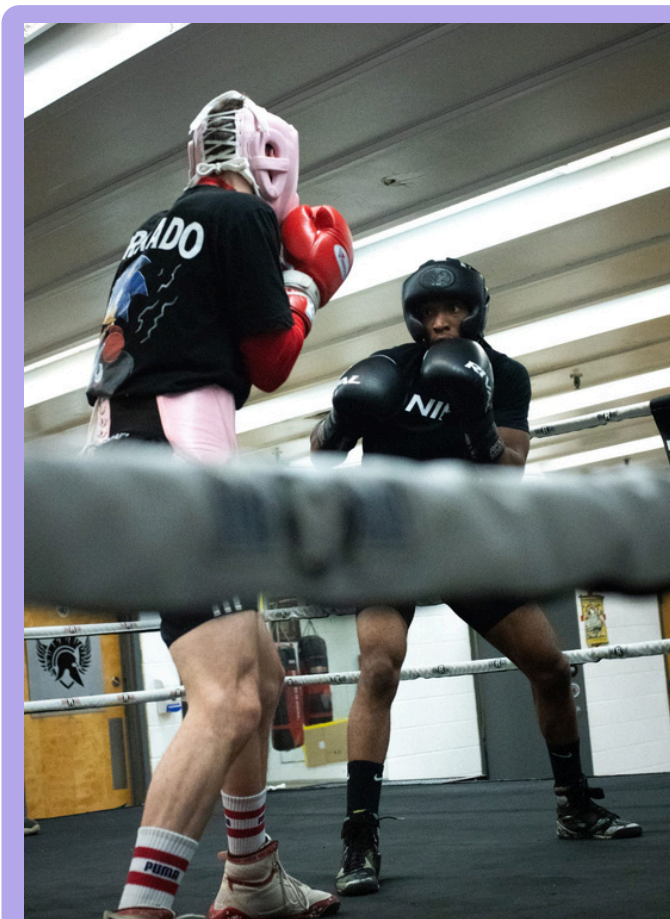
Education Program Participant

# Michael

## Prosper Participant

Hi my name is Michael i was incarcerated from 2019-2024. During my time behind bars I had a cellmate who would get visits from two lovely respectable ladies. I would ask him what the visits are for and then he informed me about Amadeusz. As time went on i would have small talk and get information about the program and they were nice enough to give me pencil eraser etc, i eventually got signed up and got accepted from since then i gained more sisters yes well i would say parent sisters that held me and keeps me accountable, i can talk to them about whatever and i wont get judged, I would receive advice the best advice. I gained support mentally, financially, i received gift cards for living expenses, groceries etc and im gladly really appreciated even well being locked up my kids received some support as well. Amadeusz gave me hope through counseling and conversations and the help I received and for ever thankful that I will forever and will always have sisters that support me, that want the best for me and will help me accomplish my goal.

Now fast forward im free now still with Amadeusz still receiving my support still conversation with my sisters. I'm working , taking care of my mental, physical health, staying faithful to my religion, being a family man, a dad, a son, a brother protector, provider. My life goal is to raise my family under my own roof and teach my children how to do things the right and just teach them trade skills survival skills and just be a family man raise my children with in a two parent home otherwise then that GOD BLESS STAY POSITIVE STAY PUSHING P!!!



# Audited Financial Statements

## AMADEUSZ

### Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	785,472	486,767
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	27,847	8,725
Prepaid expenses	5,083	4,981
	<u>818,402</u>	<u>500,473</u>
Property, plant and equipment (Note 4)	6,361	-
	<u>824,763</u>	<u>500,473</u>

### Liabilities and Net Assets

<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 5)	33,585	39,384
Deferred contributions (Note 6)	603,759	315,391
	<u>637,344</u>	<u>354,775</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		
General fund - unrestricted	-	-
Reserve fund - internally restricted	187,419	145,698
	<u>187,419</u>	<u>145,698</u>
	<u>824,763</u>	<u>500,473</u>

See accompanying notes

Approved on behalf of the board:

 Director

 Director

# Audited Financial Statements

## AMADEUSZ

### Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

For the year ended December 31	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Municipal	277,917	297,203
Provincial	2,171	18,432
United Way	110,478	139,180
Foundations	379,636	272,371
Corporations and banks	123,268	102,124
Donation and fundraising	8,899	6,623
Other agencies	24,334	-
Interest income	9,601	-
Membership fees	-	20
	<u>936,304</u>	<u>835,953</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Salaries and benefits	575,008	553,865
Program related expenses	221,563	195,232
Professional fees	49,444	36,243
Office and general	22,765	25,413
Rent	14,344	12,700
Insurance	5,882	5,579
Telephone	2,618	1,781
Bank charges	968	66
Advertising and promotion	401	126
Amortization of property, plant and equipment	1,590	-
	<u>894,583</u>	<u>831,005</u>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenditures</b>	<b>41,721</b>	<b>4,948</b>

See accompanying notes

# Circle of Support

Amadeusz extends its sincere gratitude to our 2024 funders for their generous support, which has been instrumental in advancing our mission. We also deeply appreciate our donors, partners, and advocates, whose belief in our programs and services enables us to continue making a meaningful impact. Most importantly, we thank the individuals we serve, our participants, who remain the heart and driving force behind all that we do.



### **How to Contribute**

All donations go towards Amadeusz programs which provides opportunities, resources and supports to young people creating positive change in their lives.

If you are interested in contributing to our organization, please visit our website at [amadeusz.ca/support/donate](https://amadeusz.ca/support/donate) or email us at [info@amadeusz.ca](mailto:info@amadeusz.ca) for more ways on how you can support us

### **Contact Information**

Website: [www.amadeusz.ca](https://www.amadeusz.ca)

Email: [info@amadeusz.ca](mailto:info@amadeusz.ca)

Phone: (416) 251-0685

Address: 117-208 Evans Avenue, Etobicoke, Ontario, M8Z 1J7

Social Media: @AmadeuszTO