

# Ten years of growing together



▯▯ As I pass the torch and set my sights on new challenges, I now have an even greater appreciation for everything that we've accomplished. ▯▯



**Nancy Lee**  
Outgoing Executive Director of the Desjardins Foundation

## Putting generosity into action for 10 years and counting

This year is an important milestone for the Desjardins Foundation—it's the 10th anniversary of the Desjardins Philanthropic Funds. For 10 years now, we've been supporting people for whom generosity isn't just a gesture, it's a deeply held value. For 10 years, we've been turning sincere intentions into tangible, long-lasting and meaningful action.

Philanthropic Funds are grounded in a strong belief: giving back creates lasting, positive change. New opportunities emerge when you take the time to build philanthropy into your overall wealth management, tax and estate planning. What once seemed abstract or reserved for a select few becomes accessible, structured and aligned with your values.

Over the years, we've seen just how much pooling resources can do to extend the reach of a single act. When they're combined, donations become a collective force. They support organizations for the long term, which eases the pressure to look for new funding year after year and allows organizations to concentrate on what's important: their mission. This multiplier effect makes philanthropic funds very powerful. It's also a great example of the power of our cooperative model: Together, we can multiply the benefits.

We've come a long way in the past 10 years! As I pass the torch and set my sights on new challenges, I now have an even greater appreciation for everything that we've accomplished.

It has been an immense privilege to work with generous people who seek to provide long-term support for the causes they care about. My sincere thanks to everyone who has been part of this movement, and to everyone who will continue carrying it forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Lee".

**Nancy Lee**

# Carrying our work forward

Giving through a philanthropic fund is meaningful. It shows that the donor is passionate about building a fairer, more sustainable world.

As I step into the role of Executive Director of the Desjardins Foundation, I'm acutely aware of the significance of this responsibility and of our donors' aspirations. I'm full of gratitude as I take over from Nancy. Her inspiring leadership has helped lay a strong foundation for the Desjardins Philanthropic Funds.

▮▮ **I'm especially proud of the offer we've built over the years. It's a simple, flexible and people-first solution that meets the real needs of our members and clients.** ▮▮



**Anick Charbonneau**  
Executive Director of the Desjardins Foundation

## Truly excellent support

Our integrated approach is based on a relationship built on trust and attentive listening. Supporting people whose values run deep, helping them shape their philanthropic journey and maximizing the concrete impact of their generosity are responsibilities we approach with diligence and humanity. The personalized guidance we provide is central to our unique approach.

## Helping build strong communities

Ten years on, one thing still holds true: generosity inspires hope. Every fund, every donation and every project that receives support is a reminder that we can change our world when we work together.

In 2025, thanks to the commitment of hundreds of dedicated people, \$2.5 million was donated to 337 organizations, helping meet essential needs in our communities. Since 2015, \$16.5 million has been distributed, and \$174 million in philanthropic assets is now being administered to benefit the common good. These achievements show the power of solidarity and the sustainable growth we're building together, year after year.

Thank you to everyone for your commitment to shaping a stronger, more united society that's firmly focused on the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anick Charbonneau', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Anick Charbonneau**

# 2025 Highlights

**353**  
funds

**337**  
beneficiary  
organizations

**Total assets**  
**\$174 million**

Total amount  
donated to organizations

**\$2.5 million** in 2025

**\$16.5 million** since 2015

Arts and culture  
7%

Children and youth  
10%

Religion and spirituality  
6%

Healthcare  
34%

Fighting homelessness,  
poverty and  
social inequality  
20%

Diversity and inclusion  
3%

Education  
10%

Protecting the environment,  
flora and fauna  
3%

International  
humanitarian aid  
7%

# An alliance to help students succeed

▯▯ Paul and Danielle have become part of the family. ▯▯

## Alisha Wissanji

Executive Director of Foundation W. and founder of the School of the Greats

**Fonds Hamelys** was created by Danielle Lysaught and Paul Hamelin to support initiatives in education, health, the arts and the community.

“We learned about the philanthropic funds during a conversation with our Desjardins advisor. We liked the idea, because the funds are so simple and flexible. Both of us have worked in tech, so the first thing we did was create scholarships for young people looking to pursue careers in science. Then we set out to find projects that really resonated with us,” they said.

Among the many causes they support, **the School of the Greats, an initiative of the Foundation W.**, holds a special place. Founded by Alisha Wissanji and her brother Hussein, this unique program stands out for a number of reasons:

- **Homework help and science exploration:** The program offers free support to elementary-school children from disadvantaged communities and those who are experiencing difficulties in school.
- **Student mentoring:** Guidance is offered by volunteer college and university students from participating institutions.
- **Rigorous impact measurement:** The organization has a unique scientific, data-driven approach. Each year, it measures the program’s impact on personal and academic success, both for the children who are mentored and the students who mentor them.

## The importance of long-term commitment

For donors, sustained support over time is key to achieving meaningful change.

**Danielle Lysaught, Fonds Hamelys:** “We realized that it’s important for us to commit for the long term. We rarely make one-time donations. Being in it for the long term allows us to build relationships and see the results for the organizations. And they’re able to implement more targeted projects.”

**Paul Hamelin, Fonds Hamelys:** “Making a long-term commitment can really be a game changer. Showing that we trust the projects we support can make it easier for those organizations to secure corporate or institutional funding.”

**Alisha Wissanji, School of the Greats:** “The School of the Greats is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. What I’m most grateful for—and what became the cornerstone of our growth during that period—was Paul and Danielle’s gift. It allowed us to put our vision into action and gave us the resources to achieve our ambitions.”

“We’re currently active in 70% of Quebec’s administrative regions, and in Ontario too. Our objective is to help 100,000 children each year in Quebec. Then we want to expand throughout Canada.”





Danielle Lysaught (left) and Paul Hamelin (right) from Fonds Hamelys with Alisha Wissanji (centre).

## Data is a key ally

The School of the Greats is known for its data-driven approach, which immediately resonated with Fonds Hamelys.

**Danielle Lysaught, Fonds Hamelys:** "Alisha is a scientist, so she wanted to start measuring the impact from the very beginning. They use control groups, and the data is collected by education researchers. You can clearly see improvements in academic performance, along with gains in motivation and perseverance. That level of scientific rigour was really impressive."

**Alisha Wissanji, the School of the Greats:** "Every year, we're very serious about measuring our quantitative impact. I think that's one of the things that really spoke to Paul and Danielle—because they love to geek out on data just as much as I do."

## A personal connection

But beyond the hard data, the donors have a deep, personal connection to the cause.

**Paul Hamelin, Fonds Hamelys:** "We're not involved in management, but we appreciate when the organizations we support share their vision with us. The School of the Greats really stood out to us because it addresses poverty right from childhood. It really has the potential to make a difference."

**Danielle Lysaught, Fonds Hamelys:** "Our first exposure to Alisha was a radio interview. We were struck by her approach and wanted to meet her. After that first conversation, it was kind of love at first sight."

**Alisha Wissanji, School of the Greats:** "Paul and Danielle have become part of the family. They're truly inspiring people!"

# Investing in the next generation to help save the planet

Big changes in the world are often spearheaded by young people.

**Éric Bouchard**

Let's save our beautiful planet Fund

For **Éric Bouchard**, giving young people a future means leaving them a healthy planet. That's what inspired him to create the **Let's save our beautiful planet Fund**. "I've always cared deeply about the environment. If we don't have a planet, nothing else matters. And once you have children, you're not only thinking about your own life, you're thinking about what you'll leave them down the road," he said.

This line of thinking prompted him to support multiple environmental organizations and to get his children involved in his philanthropic efforts: "I wanted to share my values with them, so my daughters take part in some of the activities too."

His passion for nature and sports also led him to **Fondation Aléo**. Every year, it supports hundreds of student athletes in all areas of their lives. The organization:

- **Offers financial support** through scholarships
- **Offers support services** to help young people prepare for life after professional sports
- **Fosters academic success** by making sure athletes balance their athletic ambitions with their work in the classroom

Éric Bouchard has combined his environmental values with his desire to support young athletes by backing ones who study in environment-related fields or who are active on environmental issues. In doing so, he discovered an organization and a genuine partner who shares his vision: **Patricia Demers**, Executive Director of Fondation Aléo.

## Sharing in the athletes' journey

Éric Bouchard's commitment goes beyond financial support—he really gets behind the athletes he supports.

**Patricia Demers, Fondation Aléo:** "Éric is currently supporting Marion Thénault, an Olympic medalist in freestyle skiing who cares deeply about environmental issues. For example, she's pledged that all her travel over the course of her career will be carbon neutral. When Marion met Éric and his partner, they really hit it off!"

**Éric Bouchard, Let's save our beautiful planet Fund:** "I do my best to mentor the athletes I'm supporting and help them in their lives, because that's part of the foundation's mission. Naturally, there's an age gap, but I can support them with my experience and contacts, while they share their deep convictions and youthful energy! Together, we can achieve something even bigger. We get to share in the ups and downs, follow their competitions closely, support them in their promising careers and work together to help the planet. It's truly exciting."

## Genuine, heartfelt exchange

Working with young people is important to Éric Bouchard because the future of the planet is in their hands.

**Éric Bouchard, Let's save our beautiful planet Fund:** "We have so much to learn from young people. Big, world-shaking changes don't typically come from people over 50. They're driven by young people. I find the younger generation truly inspiring. That's why I always say that Fondation Aléo has given me far more than I've given it."

**Patricia Demers, Fondation Aléo:** "We want to become a go-to resource for student athletes. Éric's support is key: he's deeply involved and incredibly generous with his time."



**Éric Bouchard**  
Let's save our beautiful planet Fund

## Paying it forward

Giving back creates a loop—people who receive help often feel inspired to be generous themselves.

**Patricia Demers, Fondation Aléo:** "We launched a program that allows former recipients to give back to the foundation. It's been warmly received because they're so excited about giving back. We're like one big family!"

**Éric Bouchard, Let's save our beautiful planet Fund:** "Whatever your passion may be, it's important to get involved. For me, it's the environment. If you believe in a cause and it speaks to you personally, get involved, because it really does make a difference. Mobilizing people is tough these days. Every little bit helps, and at the end of the day, you'll get back even more than you give."

Freestyle skier and Olympic medalist  
**Marion Thénault** with **Patricia Demers**, Executive Director of Fondation Aléo



# TRULY EXCELLENT SUPPORT

## Meet our team

Our team works tirelessly behind the scenes of each and every philanthropic project. We're a group of passionate individuals who make sure every act of generosity is handled with rigour and care. Our approach is rooted in a relationship based on trust, listening and collaboration.

Supporting people with deeply held values and helping them maximize the impact of their generosity is a responsibility we take very seriously. We work with Desjardins wealth management professionals to offer leading-edge expertise with a singular goal in mind: serving your ambitions for the community.

Meet the people who drive our mission forward each day.

### Donor support

Éric, Maxime and Rosalie—three dedicated experts—work with donors as they reflect on their intentions, build their personalized funds and develop them in keeping with their goals. Their mission is to provide clear guidance and personalized advice at every step so your generosity can achieve its full potential.



▮▮ **What strikes me most is witnessing the real impact philanthropic funds have in our communities, and seeing our donors' eyes light up when they launch a project that truly reflects their values.** ▮▮

**Maxime Cossette**  
Senior Philanthropic Advisor

▮▮ **I'm proud to see how philanthropy is gaining ground in society. I feel a real enthusiasm from donors who want to integrate philanthropy into their financial planning, and that's something we didn't see in the past.** ▮▮



**Éric Grondin, F.Pl., MFA-P**  
Senior Philanthropic Advisor



▮▮ **Every philanthropic project has a unique story. I take the time to listen, understand and provide guidance so every fund genuinely reflects the vision and values of the person behind it.** ▮▮

**Rosalie Hudon**  
Philanthropic Advisor

## Development and strategic planning

As we work to enhance our support offer and deliver services that truly meet your needs, Catherine helps shape the Foundation's key strategic directions and makes sure they reinforce the quality, consistency and relevance of the support we offer.

▮▮ I'm passionate about nurturing a vision that truly reflects the donors we support. Every decision is intended to provide support that amplifies the impact for our members, our clients and the organizations they contribute to. ▮▮



**Catherine Mudie, MSc**  
Senior Advisor – Member of the Canadian Association of Gift Planners' Donor-Advised Funds Committee

## Fund management

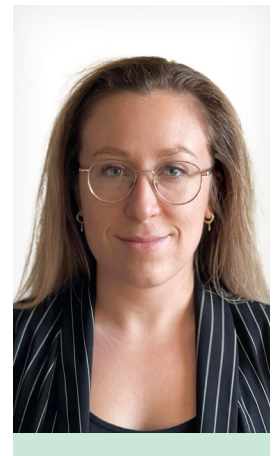
From administrative and regulatory tasks to tracking financial operations, producing personalized reports and issuing disbursements to beneficiary organizations, Caroline and Daphnée ensure transparency and compliance every step of the way.



**Caroline Beaupré, MSc, CFA**  
Senior Financial Advisor

▮▮ Every donation comes with financial, tax and administrative considerations. We manage all of it so fund creators can stay focused on what matters most: the impact of their generosity. ▮▮

▮▮ My mission is to give donors total peace of mind. Every transaction is monitored, every piece of data is verified and every report is clear and detailed. ▮▮



**Daphnée Robert**  
Operations Support Agent

# Ten years of growing together

**Contact the Desjardins Philanthropic Funds team**

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