

OUR VALUES:

- Customer satisfaction
- Respect
- Pursuit of excellence
- Transparency
- Integrity
- Loyalty
- Privacy

IN THIS ISSUE :

- 35 years: the story of the great adventure 1
- Creation of Fondation Emergo 2
- News from General Management 3
- Honour Roll 5
- The Board of Directors and the committees 6
- Meet the Emergo team 7
- Emergo in pictures 8
- Annual meeting and lecture by Yves Claveau 10
- Financing: the greatest challenge of Emergo 11
- Being the parent of an autistic child means... 12
- Golf and TV appearances 13
- Anouk's story 14
- Goodbye guilt, Thank You Emergo! 15

A word from our Chairperson

Dear friends,

This year Emergo is 35 years old! In 1976, parents of autistic children, wanting to help other parents like them, decided to create the very first summer camp for autistic individuals in Quebec.

This wonderful mission lives on. In 1997, after 20 years of operation and growth, Camp Emergo becomes an autonomous legal entity with the status of charitable organization: Emergo Respite Services, Autism and Other PDDs. Since then, a Board of Directors of 15 individuals, always helmed by a significant majority of parents, keeps the mission of Emergo alive. In 2011, Fondation Emergo was created to ensure the continuity of

its services. With all these years of growth, our financial needs have become more substantial but, as



Andrée Robert

with other community organizations, government help -- although still important -- does not grow according to our needs.

Emergo is...

35 years of mutual aid between parents.

35 years of dedication from par-

ents, the counselors and the personnel,

35 years of catering to autistic children, teenagers and adults, by providing them with moments of relaxation and joy,

35 years of many smiles, anecdotes, and friendships,

35 years of giving autistic children the right to be autistic...

35 years of providing respite to families, allowing them to breathe a little and have a little break.

We hope that Emergo will be here for many years to come and that other parents will take on the torch!

35 years serving families... Parents helping parents The story of the great Emergo adventure

By Manon Carle Dagenais

Because we have developed, through the years, an expertise recognized by different governmental, academic and social entities,

Because our services answer the most crying needs of families living with an autistic person or a person having another pervasive developmental disorder,

Because we believe the development of our programs is a beautiful example

of solidarity led by the parents who decided to take things into their own hands,

Because students of almost every regions of Quebec come to Emergo to look for an unforgettable experience and become the ambassadors of autism in their respective region,

Because Emergo has been for 35 years an essential resource for the families who every day must take up the challenge of autism,

We are convinced that Emergo makes a big and positive difference in today's society and deserves to be supported and encouraged in the pursuit of its mission. A leader in its field, Emergo is the only province-wide residential respite service offered specifically to families living with an autistic person or a person having another pervasive developmental disorder in Quebec.

(Continued on page 2)



Celebrity Wine Specialist Robert Parker during his visit in Montreal for the Fondation Emergo Fundraiser.

*"Emergo is...
A place where we
can safely send our
special children to
spend some time
away from home,
and a well
deserved break for
the parents."*



Creation of Fondation Emergo

The existence of an organization such as Emergo is mostly due to its ability to get the necessary financing for its activities. Part of this financing comes from subsidies granted by various government agencies of all levels, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to rely on them since most subsidies have been constantly decreasing over the last ten years. The survival of Emergo is also largely tied to private financial contributions, whether corporate or individual, and to the organization of various activities revolving around an annual fundraiser.

For several years now, Emergo had surrounded itself with a honorary committee including several personalities from all walks of life, whether finance, the business world or the arts. Every year, this committee works hard to seek and urge its partners and its business relations for financial contribution to further Emergo's mission. This year, driven by the desire and the need to guarantee the future of the organization by creating a reserve fund sufficiently robust to make up for the lack of money in more difficult times, the honorary committee recommended the creation of a foundation.

Incorporated last May 25, the goal of Fondation Emergo is to ensure the continuity and the development of services, and to improve infrastructures. The Fondation will be responsible for the organization of fundraising activities, including its annual golf tournament, and see that Emergo Respite Services is provided with the funds required for its operation.

A first activity was organized on June 20, allowing us to raise \$200,000. On October 26, the Fondation held its first Board meeting, under the chairmanship of Jacques Chartrand.

The story of the great Emergo adventure

(Continued from page 1)

Emergo offers four programs that evolve with the specific needs of its clients and this on two campuses chosen according to the specific goals of each program: socialization, security, integration and autonomy. In order for our participants to fully benefit from their stay with us, we ensure an optimal and exceptional support ratio going from one participant for one counselor to one counselor for three participants.

The return rate of our counselors, which is around 40 %, guarantees a better follow-up. This continuance reassures the parents and allows reducing the level of anxiety in our participants, who have a hard time dealing with changes.

Finally, we are recognized for the dynamism of our team, the quality

of our services, the hands-on training we offer to the future interveners in autism and our contribution to the integration of autistic persons in our society.

Here is the story of a great adventure named Emergo.

The beginning of the adventure

In 1976, sitting around a kitchen table, **Gisèle Lamontagne, Louise Linschoten, Nicole Favreau, Betty Rhind** and other parents created the Association des enfants autistiques du Québec, Quebec Association for Autistic Children (today the Fédération québécoise de l'autisme). In 1977, with the will to help other parents, they establish the first summer camp in Quebec equipped to welcome autistic people.

From regional to provincial camp

Through the years, this young

regional camp becomes province-wide and develops an expertise recognized by parents, professionals in autism and the different concerned government authorities. Initially established in a summer camp in Saint-Donat, Emergo then shared installations with various other camps (VVeredale, Bruchési, Papillon, Colonie des Grèves, then back to Papillon) until 2004.

Creation of the school respite

Emergo first offers a summer respite service to the families living with an autistic person. Then, in 1992, at the families' request, counselors such as **Charles Prud'Homme** et **Rachid Gayati**, touched by the exhaustion of the parents, decide to offer them respite during the weekends and school year holidays. The "school respite" is born.

(Continued on page 4)

A word from our General Manager



It is with much pride that I take a moment to talk about my third child. Emergo has been part of my daily life ever since I got involved with autism in 1977. All the challenges met through these years have been a great fuel to keep alive the flame burning in my heart for autism.

While reading this article, you will notice the importance that the families we serve occupy in our lives and you will understand the true sense of the Latin word “Emergo” : I emerge.

For 35 years, former Managers, administrative staff, field teams as well as members of the Board of Directors have all devoted their energies to ensure services of a very high quality and nationally recognized. These services offered by Emergo:

- ◆ Seek to satisfy the particular needs of families living with an autistic person or a person having another pervasive developmental disorder;
- ◆ Follow the evolution of the different educational approaches used with this clientele;
- ◆ Are harmonized with the different government policies such as the policy regarding “home support services for the handicapped person”.

The arrival of a child in a family brings immense changes, joy and difficulties of which I can personally testify from my life as the mother of my dear son, Martin. The birth or adoption of an autistic child is shattering. The family and relatives have needs that must be considered throughout the growth of the child to adulthood. Supporting the family is funda-

mental in order for the parents to also assume their other responsibilities.

Our services are inspired by the following principle: “preserving the existence of a harmonious dynamic in the family and maintaining the autistic child with his loved ones presumes that the family is accompanied and supported”.

The family as a whole – the parents, the autistic person, the brothers and sisters – needs to be supported occasionally or more intensively in particular circumstances. This is where Emergo plays an essential role. To intervene with the autistic child and his family, and support their growth is a measure of first importance that will influence the autistic child’s adult life, his integration in society and the security of the parents and siblings.

Helping the child to maintain and/or improve his acquisitions during critical periods such as summer time, when there is a shortage of services and support, and ensure quality of life for the couple and loved ones are elements that contribute to support them and encourage family and social integration. Throughout the years, the family balance can be threatened or broken for diverse reasons; services are then necessary to deal with these periods of discouragement, of burnout and intense fatigue. The family must be able to count on the availability of resources like ours and on an environment that answers the specific needs of its child.

To ensure that the specific needs of each participant that has recourse to our services are adequately answered, we regularly re-evaluate our programs. This interrogation is based on the importance to bring the child to live with and among others in order to develop his ability to interact socially in leisure activities and games.

For Emergo, “autistic persons of all ages

also need to learn, to be independent, to have fun and to feel pleasure...” To learn to live, basically: enjoy themselves, make choices, eat correctly, live with peers, etc. is the base of the development of social aptitudes. By offering a context favourable to communication, leisure activities and camp life encourage real socialization. It is the role that we play with these children who are different.

In order to help the autistic child develop his capabilities to the fullest, professionals in autism must surround him beginning at an early age until adulthood, while respecting actual or emerging skills. As leisure professionals, we must be a “continuation of the actions” already in place in the family, at school, at the day centre or the workshop. With games, we try to maintain, and, if possible, improve skills, but our services remain primarily recreational.

Throughout the years, Emergo Respite Services management has made it a duty to include in its schedule time to reflect on the evolution of its services, on the level of satisfaction of the parents and the impact of the services on the quality of life of the families and of autistic persons.

Long live my third child, Emergo! May it keep on striving for the well-being and the stability of all families who brush up with autism daily. And to succeed in fulfilling this goal, we need new blood to keep on going!

*Manon Carle Dagenais
Acting General Manager*



French Behavioral Psychologist Christine Hayer, Manon and Patricia Trinquesse

The story of the Emergo adventure

(Continued from page 2)



"Emergo is ...
Another world where
everything evolves,
changes and gathers more
value. Is it a different
reality that makes us
change our perspective
on the world, on people
and on the concepts of
normality and happiness.
(...) It is a place where we
learn to overcome new
challenges involving
others or ourselves on
many aspects."

A counselor



At first, the school respite welcomed from 4 to 6 participants one weekend every month and was considered a sort of continuation of the summer respite. The resource, little by little, developed itself to answer in a better way the needs for respite of the parents and to stay in contact with the summer respite participants.

The 1990s

With the increasing number of applications, we were forced to re-evaluate the program, the frequency and our accommodation capacities. Today, the school respite welcomes around forty participants per month and must constantly increase its resources to respond in the best way possible to the growing demand.

In 1994, Camp Emergo is recognized by Health Canada through its Community Action Program for Children (PACE) - Canada Public Health Agency that has since then kept renewing Emergo's mandate.

1997 the year of incorporation

In 1997, Emergo becomes a non-profit autonomous organization. Four years later, it adopts a new corporate name: Emergo Respite Services - Autism and Other Pervasive Developmental Disorders, develops a partnership with the Quebec Society for Disabled Children and puts together a strategic plan for its development.

In 1999, Emergo earned an honorable mention in the Family Support Category of the Persillier-Lachapelle Prize awarded each year by

the Ministère de la Santé et des services sociaux du Québec as a tribute to the impact of its summer camp on the quality of life of autistic children and their families.

The 2000s

In the summer of 2002, Emergo creates two new programs:

The "**Un rêve à réaliser**" program (a dream to fulfill) offered on our Val-des-Lacs satellite campus, in the Laurentians, allows high level autistic persons or persons presenting Asperger Syndrome to evolve in a more normalizing environment, and thus take up many new challenges adapted to their capabilities. The name of this program says it all. It illustrates the dream of the participants, the parents and the Emergo team: a group of "friends" spending a vacation together in a large lakefront cottage, a big and beautiful adventure resembling what "normal" young adults and adults experience at that age.

The **Adaptatou** program in partnership with Camp Mariste in Rawdon welcomes our children from 6 to 14 years old with higher socialization abilities in order to integrate them to a regular group of campers. Just like the **Un rêve à réaliser** program, the **Adaptatou** program entails a social objective. If we want to change the world, we must begin early, with the youngest, and sensitize them to differences.

In 2005, Emergo renews its partnership with the Quebec Society for Disabled Children. The **Emergence** program, putting together participants of all ages with a lower autonomy level and difficulties socializing, is set up on the site of the Co-

lonie les Bosquets Albert Hudon with a long-term lease.

The following summer, to meet the particular needs of autistic people who, because of important behavioral problems, require an even tighter support, Emergo creates the iDÉFlx program on the site of the Colonie les Bosquets. As its name indicates, iDÉFlx offers very many positive challenges for all who participate and reminds us why we are here (or our "*idée fixe*", our *fixed idea*): parents helping parents. We therefore welcome each year a growing number of participants of which about a dozen presenting severe behavioral disorders, such as aggressiveness and auto-mutilation.

This clientele does not find its place with other resources available in the community. Doors are constantly closed at the face of these families often bringing discouragement. Our mission does not allow for letting them down and this is why we have adapted our services to keep these participants who pose a threat to the safety of others or their own in the large Emergo family.

In 2010, the "**Un rêve à réaliser**" program moved from its former location in the Laurentians to the site of the Colony Les Bosquets Albert Hudon, allowing for a highly beneficial change for our young participants who can now take part in activities measuring up to their integration capabilities.

(Continued on page 5)

The story of the great Emergo adventure *(Continued from page 4)*



Today, Emergo offers its services to more than 300 families living with an autistic person or a person having another pervasive developmental disorder. We serve families from everywhere in Quebec and

our clientele reflects Quebec society in the sense that it brings together people who come from all levels of society and different cultural background. We can welcome participants in the two official languages.

— **“Experiencing a communication problem is one thing; not understanding the other person’s language is catastrophic.”**

Through the years, I cannot account for all youngsters – camp directors, teams on the field, counselors – who came in and out of my

life... they are over 2,000. Some of them stayed with us for over 8 years!!! Others, in the midst of their regular career, have come back only for the trip of renewing with our clientele. Others, brothers and sisters, come to share their personal experience. All this evolution would not have been possible without their involvement. I can only salute them and raise my hat for they really deserve the highest respect.

Manon Carle Dagenais

“Emergo is...

**A moment when
our son can spend
some quality time
with people just
like him and with
counselors who
do understand
him.”**

A parent

Emergo’s Honour Roll

Many people have helped Emergo become the nationally recognized resource it is now. Although it is impossible to name each and every person who was involved during these 35 years, a few names stand over the crowd and are worth a place in our Honour Roll.

A very special salute to:

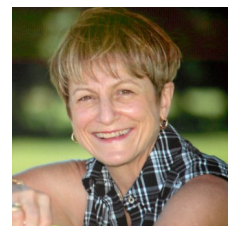
◆ **Betty Rhind**
◆ **Gisèle Lamontagne**
◆ **Nicole Favreau**
◆ **Louise Linschoten**
◆ **Dick Key**
◆ **Margo Zeron**
◆ **Aline Locas**
◆ **Dominique Egré**

◆ **Daniel Ladouceur**
◆ **Guy Beauséjour**
◆ **Claude Lauzon**
◆ **Marc Meunier**
◆ **Louise Riel**

And last but not the least, our devoted and dear Chairperson:
Andrée Robert



Marc Meunier



Louise Riel

Visitors from France!

For many years now, a special friendship has been continuously growing between Patricia Trinquesse, French mother of an autistic young man, and Emergo. Dreaming of setting up a resource similar to Emergo in her own region, where support for parents of autistic children or children with other P.D.D. is hard to find, Patricia had been planning her trip to Quebec for a long time. The original journey was set to take place in 2001 but was cancelled at the last minute because of the 9-11 events. She finally visited us last October.

During her trip to Montreal, Patricia was joined by two psychologists from her region, Axelle Bauduin, specialized in ABA intervention and Christine Hayer, Behavioral Specialist, and by her son Sandy who got the chance to experiment a respite weekend. This was a very special moment for both, mother and son, as they were parting for the first time ever! Their visit also led to very productive exchanges on autism between parents and professionals.



Patricia Trinquesse, her son Sandy and Axelle Bauduin, French Psychologist specialized in ABA, upon their arrival at the Montreal Airport

Autism gives no respite... Emergo does!
Serving families living with an autistic person for 35 years

The 2011-2012 Board of Directors

The 2011-2012 Board of Directors is composed of the following persons:

- ◆ Andrée Robert, Chairperson
- ◆ Marie-Claire Michoud, Vice Chairperson
- ◆ Henriette Angers, Treasurer
- ◆ Michelle Lizotte, Secretary
- ◆ Natalie Hamel-Roy, Administrator
- ◆ André Beaulieu
- ◆ Sylvie Cataford Blais
- ◆ Philippe Dagenais
- ◆ Louise Morin
- ◆ Pierre Morin
- ◆ Valérie LeBlanc
- ◆ Louise Riel
- ◆ Doug Mitchell
- ◆ Richard Ménard
- ◆ One vacant seat



Emergo Chairperson Andrée Robert, with Natalie Hamel-Roy and Valérie LeBlanc during the last Board of Directors' meeting.

Fifteen persons sit on the Board, of which a vast majority are parents. Other members on the Board are designated representatives from the community whom are called "cooptés". The Board meets every second month, for a total of approximately six meetings a year. The Executive Committee also sits every second month. It has the responsibility to prepare the files and recommendations that need to be studied and approved by the Board.

The Committees

"Emergo is...

A privileged time that we can devote to our other child while our autistic son has the opportunity to live his own privileged moments. When I look at his smile when he leaves for camp, when I see him smiling while looking at his camp pictures, I know that he is happy there, and besides, our whole family can enjoy happy summer vacations!"

A parent

The Programming Committee

- ◆ Has the mandate to evaluate the achievement of objectives pursued within the framework of the school and summer respites and the actual program according to the needs of the clientele, review and update the general and specific objectives of the various programs, analyze the summer and school respite reports and ensure the follow-up of the recommendations, evaluate the structure and the services offered and submit its recommendations to the Executive Committee .

The Partnership Committee

- ◆ Manages and ensures the follow-up of the agreements signed with the Quebec Society for the Disabled Children [Société pour les enfants handicapés du Québec]: office space, rent of the site les Bosquets, exchange of services, etc.

The Strategic Plan Committee

- ◆ Its mandate is to establish priorities with respect to customer base, programming, financing and operational structure in order to prepare a plan that reflects these priorities. The committee also ensures the fol-

low-up of the plan after it has been adopted by members at the Annual Meeting.

The Finance Committee

- ◆ Has the mandate to ensure the financial support of Emergo Respite Services by creating and maintaining lasting connections with various partners from the business world and governmental bodies, and developing the concept of sponsorship. It leads a dynamic and diversified annual fundraiser supported by the members of the Honorary Committee, high profile individuals from the business world, the arts and communication fields.

◆ The Communications Committee

The goal of the committee is to provide Emergo with a distinct public identity and ensure adequate communication with its target audience (autistic individuals, parents, students, teachers, business people, government body representatives and general public), so as to generate a perception favoring the organization's development.

This committee oversees the publication of various communication items, such as the annual report published after the annual meeting and the EmergInfo newsletter published at fall. It also oversees the update of the Emergo Website.

A stroll on the site of the Bosquets during a nice summer day!

Picture by:
Mélanie Durand



Meet the Emergo team



Johanne, Anh, Marcelle, Manon and Eric

Although it is impossible to ensure respite services without a strong field team, the contribution of the administrative staff is equally essential to the continuation of Emergo's activities. The organization cannot survive without the commitment and the dedication of these persons.

On maternity leave after giving birth to two children within a year, General Manager **Josée Filion** has accumulated several years of experience for Emergo, starting on the field as counselor, then on to coordinator, program manager and, finally occupying the helm of the organization since 2009. Presently filling out for her is one of the pioneers of Emergo who has helped the organization for 35 years,

Manon Carle Dagenais; she has accepted to take back the reins of the organization and ensure the interim duties.

Since 2009, **Eric Andrade**, also known under the pseudonym of Io, is the Operations Manager. He also has seven years of experience as counselor for Emergo and a good expertise of autism, which he acquired as a community worker with autistic individuals. He oversees the hiring and training of the field team, the coordination of the work schedules and the allocation process.

Holding a Bachelor Degree in Accountancy, **Anh Pham** has been working for Emergo for the last nine years as an Accountant, an essential position in an organization such as ours. She supervises all accounting operations and book-keeping, receipt inpayment, payment of suppliers, as well as preparation of the personnel's payroll.

Welcoming parents, issuing renewal notices, processing respite registrations are mostly the responsibility of the Administrative Assistant, **Marcelle Grand-Pierre**. Em-

ployed by Emergo for two and a half years, she is remarkably efficient, with great skills that she developed thanks to her significant experience in the banking industry.

Freshly hired as Communications and Financing Manager, **Johanne Houde** is a recent retiree from the municipal sphere who joined us first as a parent of an autistic child elected on the Board of Directors. She has a history of 30 years in communications that she will put to good use in helping Emergo flourish and ensure its financial survival.



Josée Filion

Soukkie and Tweety



"I would say that Emergo is a magnificent organization that strives to help parents of autistic children as much as possible. I would also add that the happiness of their children is something that we really take at heart".

A counselor

The 2011 team on the field

Under the direction of the Operations Manager, the 2011 team included:

- ◆ The Émergence Programme Manager, **Stéphanie Bouchard** (Tweety) – her team consisted of three Émergence Coordinators, **Isabelle Boivin** (Bebop), **Élise Guérin-Bouchard** (Laitue) and **Annick Moreau** (Cédille), one iDÉFlx Coordinator, **Véronique Pépin** (Litchi), one Activities Coordinator, **Valérie Coombs** (Playa), 42 counselors, night watchers and leaders.

- ◆ An Adaptatou Programme Manager, **Élise Ménard** (Scotch), who managed a team comprising an assistant leader, **Dominic Beauchamp** (Djembé) and seven counselors.

- ◆ One "Un rêve à réaliser" Programme Manager, **Andréanne O'Brien** (Banzaï), who supervised five counselors.

- ◆ Two nursing Managers, **Isabelle Lemire-Renaud** (Soya) and **Amélie Simard Duchesneau** (Soukkie).

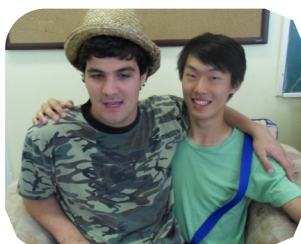
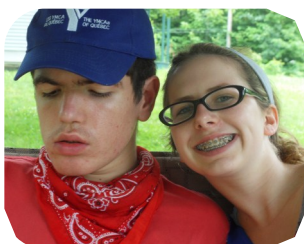


The 2011 summer team!

Emergo in pictures

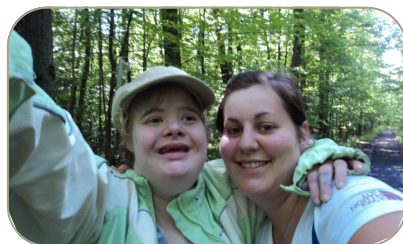


The camp welcomed a very special visitor last summer!



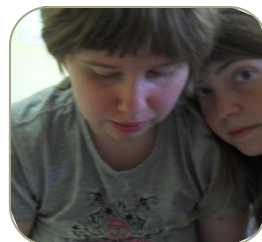
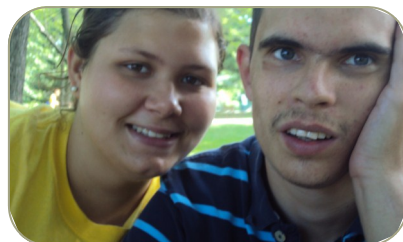
*"Emergo is...
An organization
that gives a good
break to the parents
while providing a
very good time to
their children who
can enjoy a fun and
stimulating
environment.
A counselor*

**Rouky
and one
participant
during the
summer
respite**



A busy summer!

The summer camp, the Golf Tournament, the Wine Tasting Event featuring Robert Parker and our participation in the TV Game Show "L'Union fait la force" sure kept us busy last summer!



**Autism gives no respite... Emergo does!
Serving families living with an autistic person for 35 years**

Emergo in pictures

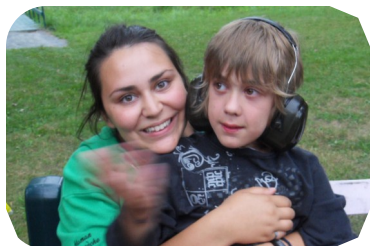
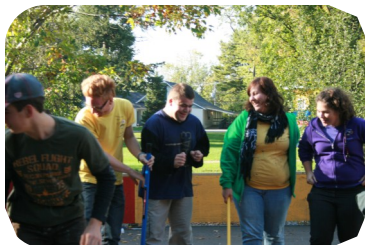
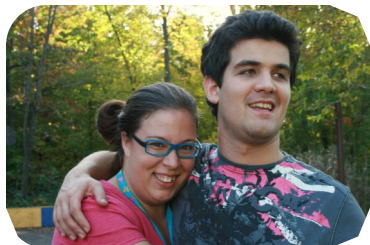


Left : the new play-ground system offered by the Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation



"Emergo is... Having the right to enjoy a few days of tranquillity while having the certitude that my child is in good hands".

A mom



The camp offers children an opportunity to interact with animals.



"Emergo is very important for our family because it gives us the chance to reconnect with our other children, with our life as a couple and with the rest of our relatives. Most of all, it gives us the chance to take our breathe!"

A parent

The weather was just awesome during the school period respite held on Thanksgiving Weekend!

Autism gives no respite... Emergo does!
Serving families living with an autistic person for 35 years

June 8 Annual Meeting



Manon Carle Dagenais and Philippe Dagenais during the election of the 2011-2012 Board of Directors.

*"Emergo is...
An outstanding
adventure. I have learned
to live a wonderful
summer with a bunch of
genial persons, as well as
to appreciate all my
campers. Each and
everyone of them
possessed a little
invaluable and extremely
rewarding something."*

A counselor

Clinical Sexologist Yves Claveau made a presentation the sexuality of autistic individuals



Each year, the month of June brings back the annual meeting that reunites all members of Emergo Respite Services.

The annual meeting is the opportunity for the Board of Directors to review Emergo's financial situation and present to those in attendance the highlights of last year's activities and to report on the ex-

isting programs and services.

It is also the occasion for the members to exercise their democratic rights, first by electing the officers that will sit on the Board of Directors and will represent them in the next year, then by expressing their needs, their expectations and the priorities that they believe the Board of

Directors should put forward for the future.

The general meeting is a good opportunity for parents to exchange with other parents on their mutual interests and worries and to share a moment of friendship over a light meal and a glass of wine.

We hope that many of you will show up in 2012!

Lecture by Clinical Sexologist Yves Claveau on the sexuality of autistic individuals

This year's guest speaker at the annual meeting was clinical sexologist Yves Claveau. He made a presentation on the sexuality of individuals living with an intellectual deficiency or a P.D.D.

From the outset, Mr. Claveau acknowledges these individuals' absolute right to an emotional and private life. However, he points out that their needs are too often denied or downplayed and that fostering false beliefs and stereotypes in this respect, as well as multiples vulnerability factors found in these individuals can favour the emergence of inappropriate sexual behaviour or serious sexual disorders.

The various factors that foster vulnerability in the individuals coping with intellectual deficiency or a P.D.D. can be of a wide range (biomedical, psychological and socio-environmental) or

are related to their limitations in the development of moral judgement, social skills and sexual urge control, which in many cases lead to inappropriate or even deviant sexual behaviours. This deviance reflects the lack of intimacy, knowledge, socio-sexual skills and opportunities for experiencing sexual activities that are appropriate, egalitarian, between consenting and respectful partners that may be found in the person coping with intellectual deficiency.

It is of the utmost importance to channel these manifestations of sexuality in individuals with intellectual disability or a form of P.D.D., so as to avoid the risk of eventually finding themselves in situations representing a threat for their own health and safety and of others, or leading potentially to the commission of illegal acts. He has insisted on the importance to eliminate any behaviour or any use of an object having a link with childhood (toy, plush, etc.) during

the sexual activities of these individuals since, unable to judge adequately of the rectitude of the time and place where these behaviours are expressed, they are susceptible to perpetrate potentially serious crimes.

Yves Claveau is a member of the Association des sexologues du Québec [Quebec Association of Sexologists] and of the Regroupement des intervenants en matière d'agression sexuelle [Group of community workers on sexual assault]. Holding a license in psychology, a bachelor's in sexology and a master's in clinical sexology, he has developed an expertise in understanding sexual delinquency and then progressively oriented his focus on clients with special needs (intellectual deficiency and autism). Since 2004, he has been acting as a specialized consultant for various centres de réadaptation en déficience intellectuelle et en troubles envahissants du développement [centers for intellectual deficiency and pervasive developmental disorder rehabilitation]. In addition to his private practice in sexology, he is also psychotherapist, educator and conference speaker.

Contact info: (514) 246-3743
<http://yvesclaveau.com>

Financing: the greatest challenge that Emergo has faced for 35 years



The organization of services such as the ones we offer requires solid and recurrent financing to maintain and develop this resource that has become, throughout the years, a **lifesaver for many families**. Our ability to answer to the substantial increase of respite requests is **OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE** for the future. To face it, we organize a dynamic annual fund-raising campaign, develop effective partnerships and plead with conviction for the cause of our families to the concerned ministries, companies and general public.

Our operating budget has increased from 40,000 dollars in 1997 to near one million dollars today. We make it our duty to manage these funds in a responsible manner to make the most of each dollar.

Emergo's financing bears many aspects:

Governmental subsidies

Federal

- ◆ CSJ (Canada Summer Jobs)
- ◆ CAPC (Community Action Program for Children)

Provincial

- ◆ SOC (Support for community organizations)
- ◆ Ministry of Health and Social Services
- ◆ Ministry of Education, Sport and Leisure

Regional

- ◆ Health and Social Service Regional Agency (Agence régionale de la Santé et des Services sociaux) – Montréal centre
- ◆ Health and Social Service Centers (CSSS - Centre de la Santé et des Services sociaux)
- ◆ Local Community Services Centers (CLSC - Centres locaux de santé communautaire)
- ◆ Rehabilitation Centers—Intellectual Disabilities and Pervasive Development Disorders (CRDI-TED - Centres de réadaptation en déficience intellectuelle et en trouble envahissant du développement)

Fundraising campaign

- ◆ Companies
- ◆ Foundations
- ◆ General Public
- ◆ Emergo Parents

Donations

- ◆ Individual donations
- ◆ Donations in memory of a deceased person
- ◆ Donations to commemorate an event or to honour a person
- ◆ Donations of equipment, games or non-perishable food
- ◆ Donations to support families
- ◆ Donations for integration activities
- ◆ Planned donations (will, insurance, pension, trust, securities)

Fundraising events

- ◆ Annual Golf Tournament
- ◆ Lotomatique

Parent participation

- ◆ Membership or registration

We never refuse a child because of financial difficulties.

Thanks to our collaborators

- ◆ Henriette Angers, parent and volunteer
- ◆ Philippe Angers, administrator
- ◆ André Beaulieu, parent and volunteer
- ◆ Luc Bertrand, Banque Nationale du Canada
- ◆ Jacques Chartrand, Selexia
- ◆ Roger Carle, Bombardier Inc.
- ◆ Sylvie Cataford Blais, Galerie Simon Blais
- ◆ Jennifer Damiani, La Brasserie Labatt du Canada
- ◆ Steven W. Foley, Banque Royale du Canada
- ◆ Patrick Gagnon, GMP
- ◆ Natalie Hamel Roy, parent and volunteer
- ◆ Claude Lockhead, Aon Hewitt
- ◆ Josée Massicotte, jm Communications
- ◆ Andrée Robert, parent and volunteer

These persons have displayed, and will continue to do so, I am sure, a high degree of loyalty and devotion towards the Emergo cause.

Finally, 2011 is my last year as Financing Manager. I now pass on the flame to my new colleague, Johanne Houde who, with all her passion, I am convinced, will succeed in taking up this big challenge that is Emergo.

It has been an honour to work closely with so many persons who bear such humanity and give their time with so much generosity!

I am staying as Acting General Manager and will keep being involved in fundraising events, such as the Golf Tournament and our new Bike Event.

Manon Carle Dagenais
Financing 2011

Highlights of the Annual Fundraiser

2011

Thanks to our Honorary Committee, to our Financing Committee and to our generous donors and sponsors, \$307,109 gross were raised:

◆ Golf Tournament	\$88,000
◆ Regular Donations	\$136,278
◆ Donations - Purchase of equipment	\$35,540
◆ Donations - Programs	\$30,596
◆ Donations - Family support	\$16,600
◆ Net Total	\$287,739



"Being a parent of an autistic child means... grieving over the fact that you will never have the child and life that you had expected and dreamed about. But it also means... keeping a hunger for life since, despite the price to pay, an autistic child give his parents tremendous joy. It is a simple portrait of a true reality..."

Being the parent of an autistic child means...

Observing bizarre attitudes in your child even at the early stages;

Touring the various specialists to allay your concerns;

Hearing conflicting comments and feeling powerless;

To enter a state of shock when hearing the "diagnosis";

Feeling guilty and suffering anguish;

Having to deal with increased responsibilities and duties;

Living adjustments and ongoing tensions because of the unpredictable behavior of the child;

To soon be confronted with isolation: the compassion displayed by family and friends quickly reaches its limits;

To feel physically exhausted because of the frequent insomnia of the child;

To give up the urge to become a "Superman or a Superwoman" and confess your nervousness, stress, exhaustion and depression;

To agree to ask for help and take steps to get it;

Explaining to your other children that you do love them as much as their autistic brother or sister although he or she consumes all your energy;

To deploy "tons" of educational ingenuity to support the child in the most basic actions: hygiene, dressing, feeding, sleep, etc.;

To supplement, by accepting additional burden, to the non-accessibility to necessary services: home, work, recreation, maintenance etc.;

To recognize that the family environment cannot by itself cater adequately to the needs for autonomy, socialization and experimentation of the autistic teen or young adult;

To painfully realize that "placed" children have a priority in access to the existing intermediate resources;

Thinking that it would have been better to "place" your child in the early age for his or her own good and to ensure he has access to a group home, a community residence and a work adapted to adulthood;

To suffer anguish at the thought of not being able to take care for our child in case of disease, death, etc.;

Taking a job that can adjust to the realities of autism: part time, flexible timetable, absenteeism tolerated, denial of promotion, etc.;

To accept to subordinate your marital life to the situation of the autistic child;

To perform countless steps to obtain the services needed;

Having to become a specialist of the whole Health and Social Services network, of all community organizations, school system and law agencies to

supplement the lack of support and coordination mechanisms;

To become an expert Manager and an Accountant to predict the present and future needs of the child and the ways to cater to these needs;

Accepting to become a traveller and go from door to door, from one organization to the other, to seek services;

To become a good advocate to plead the integration of your child in school, summer camps, leisure and recreational services, etc.;

To achieve a Degree in psychology, education and intervention;

To obtain as a financial retribution for your many educational exploits a meager family allowance supplement, a "differential" grant from the CLSC or a tax credit;

To find, in the organizations advocating for the defence of the rights of autistic persons, a light of hope, a place for sharing, the solidarity and energy that are so much needed to pursue your claims.

This is why it is so important that decision makers address this question, make this combat their own and act out!

Excerpt from:

Recherche sur les besoins en répit des familles vivant avec une personne autiste (Research on the needs for respite of families living with an autistic person)
André Lebon, 1990

Chronology of a registration!

2:50 p.m., Thursday: mail arrives. Stay-at-home Mom finds the registration form for Emergo Camp in the mail.

Stay-at-home Mom leaves behind all her duties (preparation of exams) to fill out the form.

3:10 p.m.: The form is ready. Devoted Stay-at-home Mom goes out in a freezing cold to mail the form.

3:20 p.m.: The form is filed on the post office counter.

Morality...

What would we not do so that our children can go to Emergo camp!

Thanks to Marie-Claire Michoud Fraser for sharing this story.

News from the Golf Tournament



The third Golf Tournament organized by Emergo Respite Services was held on June 15, at the Saint-Jean Golf Club. Even though the course was down two holes due to flooding on the banks of the Richelieu River, the tournament took place on a very

shiny day and in very high spirits.

About 140 golfers took part in this event which has allowed us to raise almost \$88,000. The traditional auction that is part of the dinner, which included again this year choice items such as jewels, artworks, bottles of wine, show tickets, and more, courtesy of our benevolent sponsors, has raised \$16,000.

Again, the tournament was a success thanks to the generous contribution of several friends of

Emergo, including our loyal supporters Groupe Lassonde and Transport Robert.

Emergo's Friend and Honorary Patron Charles Lafortune hosted the dinner in a very dynamic and spirited fashion.



JUNE 2012

13

WEDNESDAY

4th Golf
Tournament
Saint-Jean
Golf Club

Emergo on Television!

During the previous year, Emergo has been featured twice on television game shows. While it was an opportunity to earn money to support our activities, these participations to television game shows raised awareness of Emergo Respite Services by introducing the organization and its services on a national level.

"Le Cercle" on the TVA network

For Volunteer Week, in the month of March, our Chairperson Andrée Robert was a contestant in the game show Le Cercle, broadcast on French channel TVA. Although her performance was commendable, she was not able to reach the famous "\$5,000" announced by the host of the game, **Charles Lafortune**. Nevertheless, it was an interesting experience that has brought the name of Emergo into light on a bigger stage.

"L'Union fait la force" on the CBC network (Radio-Canada)

Chance was on the side of the team who stood for Emergo during the game show "L'union fait la force", hosted by **Patrice Lécuyer** and broadcast on the French CBC during the week of September 26. Our three candidates for that venue – Chairperson **Andrée Robert**, Operations Manager **Eric Andrade**, and parent and volunteer **Jean Robillard** – have joined their efforts, allowing them to reap a respectable \$5,000. Helped by comedian and TV show host **Chantal Lamarre**, who gave quite a performance, Emergo representatives won a brilliant victory of 5-0 against the opposite team, **Solidarité Famille Duberger-Les Saules**, who were supported by Actor and Director **Yves Desgagnés**.

The four Emergo team members have all been fervent contributors to this great success, proving without a doubt that "with unity comes strength"!

*With five victories,
the Emergo Team
earned \$5,000
participating in the
television quiz
"L'Union fait la
force".*



Andrée Robert and
Chantal Lamarre



Emergo Chairperson Andrée Robert as a contestant in TV Quiz "Le Cercle"

A 10-year love story with Emergo: Anouk's story (Elissa)



Anouk (Elissa) with her children

"The Emergo experience can then be seen not only as a priceless work experience but as a Life Long Journey in our hearts, minds and spirit."

Anouk

Emergo... ten years later! As I was flipping through my 2011 calendar on a very cold Vermont winter morning, I was hit by a strong wave of Nostalgia... not only would this Nostalgia bring back unforgettable memories but this Nostalgia would bring me back to the Summer of 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004... My Emergo years!

It was June of 2001. Pulling into the Papillon camp site in St-Alphonse de Rodriguez, I thought to myself "What am I doing here again?" As a student in Special care counseling at Vanier College I thought I was there to gain work experience in the field of Autism... which I equated with Rainman... and incredible memories, genius tendencies and an affinity with numbers. If it didn't work out, maybe I could head to Vegas and win lots of money like Tom Cruise did with Dustin Hoffman....

As our group of counselors were being introduced to the subject of Autism by Groseille, Bloo, Pete, Grenouille and Panda, I would get a glimpse of the social, communication and behavioral facets of Autism. To this day I remember the training in the gym where they blasted radios, talked in what seemed like alien talk, patted my arms and legs with sand paper and even inserted

some ice cubes in my shoes...To make us understand what it might be like for someone living on the Autism Spectrum to navigate the world...These ten minutes would be the best training I would experience including a Special Care Counseling and Bachelor's degree. After this training camp, we were sent off and instructed to come back weeks later to start working. What I did not know was that in the next four years, not only would the Emergo experience shape me into the Special Care Counselor I would become but would change My Life... Forever.

A new Elissa emerged. As Anouk, I became kinder, a driven real problem solver and for the first time, ever, dedicated to the wellbeing of others: first to my campers as a counselor, then to my campers and staff as a coordinator. My passion for Autism was fueled by the families we served. The committed and oh! so indestructible force these families exhibit in their daily lives! It was an honor to allow these sometimes 24-hour working families a weekend, a week or two weeks a year to take... a break.

On a personal level, lifelong friendships would emerge. Little did I know that first summer of 2001, that two future

bridesmaids for my 2004 nuptials were present... that these friendships would last, even with bumps on the road for ten years. Graduations, weddings, big moves, babies, success, disappointments and much, much more...

After taking out my Emergo scrapbook and gazing through the most incredible four years of my life, I logged into Facebook and decided to organize a ten year reunion with Groseille and Bottine. Like ten years ago, I was prepared for an event. And like ten years ago, it was nothing but just an event...

To say reuniting with my old Emergo pals would be inspiring, emotional, and a general laugh fest would not do it justice.

Groseille, Skippy, Bottine, Golfy, Gernium, Abeille, Smile, Ringolo, Pollux, Pinson, Daisy, Yogi, Demetane.... and perhaps the most special guests: Emergo babies. Although only one of Groseille and Skippy's three daughters was present, Yogi and Demetane brought some pictures of their little one and Celcius and Bloo now have 3 Emergo babies of their own...

See you at the 15 year reunion!

Anouk

A mom speaks about Emergo's impact on her family

8-year old Tommy during last summer respite

(Picture by: Mélanie Durand)



Your summer respite service offers, in my view, the opportunity for our young champions to become more autonomous, to be more confident. To live magical and unforgettable experiences without their parents! Your service injects a touch of happiness in their hearts. Moreover,

nature is the heart of life and you help them to get in touch with it.

My son went to your camp only once, for a period of four days. He had never been separated from me for such a long time before. He loved the experience even if the last day was welcome as he needed to hug mommy in his arms. The experience was extraordinary and we will definitely renew it next summer.

Cheers to all of you! Please keep on the good work to bring smiles on their faces. There are so few people who accept them as they are.

Thank you!

Mélanie Durand
Mother of Tommy Morin (P.D.D. not otherwise specified, severe dysphasia, and A.D.H.D.)

Goodbye Guilt, Thank You Emergo!



When we finally decided to have Alexis join the activities at Emergo, it was only for a weekend, six years ago. For several years, we put our shoulder to the wheel in the fundraiser held at the Blue Bonnets in Montreal. Every time, Manon Carle Dagenais, being the good Emergo ambassador, sat at our table for a chat. She would never miss an opportunity to ask us when Alexis would join the camp... Every season, she sent us the documents for registration, but we always had a reason to forget about it. See, we both worked so hard we never had time to fill out those damned papers... Let's say it was the easy excuse...

On a fine day of 2006, we finally "had time" to sign up Alexis for a weekend of school respite. That Friday afternoon, when we drove him to the Emergo offices on René-Lévesque boulevard in Montreal, where was the departure, we were both devastated despite a warm and reassuring welcome from Io, the counselor in charge of Alexis. We left the site in tears and we cried our hearts out for a long time afterwards. We had planned to spend the weekend at our country house and hoped to accomplish several projects during those few hours of freedom... well, not counting the fact that daddy would feel so guilty and worried and that he would have such a hard time with this separation that he would get sick all weekend! What a coincidence, he started to get better Sunday around 1 p.m. – just an hour short of our return in Montreal where we would get Alexis

back, at 4 p.m.!

We learned through Io that Alexis had spent a wonderful weekend and that he had a lot of fun at camp. Wow! We got worried for nothing! During the subsequent weekend respites, we still got to cry when we dropped off Alexis, and each time the tears dried up a bit faster. Alexis seemed genuinely happy to leave and he quickly got on the bus. Instead of being sick or worried, we began to appreciate these few hours where we could plan for activities that we had sidelined for a long time. Believe it or not, one of our guilty pleasures when Alexis is at camp is disarmingly simple: we go shopping together and end the day at the restaurant! This can sound insignificant to most people, but for my husband and me, it is as if we are on a holiday!

Then came the time for the first summer camp. Getting separated from Alexis for too long was out of the question, so we signed him up for a half stay. Contrary to the school respites, parents must drive their children directly to the site of Colonie Les Bosquets for the summer camp. That was more difficult for our family, because Alexis, not experiencing the excitement of the bus trip, seemed worried and sad to see us leaving. So we left quietly, almost hiding, while he was going to an inflatable module with his counselor. We felt like bad parents and that we were abandoning him.

Again, once camp was over, we learned that Alexis had appreciated his stay and had lots of fun. Other worries were gone! Seeing Alexis going to camp and coming back from it happy, our last apprehensions melted away like snow on a warm sunny day. The following year, we signed up Alexis for a full summer respite. When we drove him to camp, he seemed a little reluc-

tant to let us go, but in the end he looked resigned. We can still see his little tense face looking at us from behind the fence surrounding the swimming pool where his counselor had brought him to keep him busy! It was like he was behind bars! How hard it was on our parental hearts! But, after that stay was over, we were once more reassured: Alexis had a real good time at camp!

The following year, Alexis discovered trampoline, and it quickly became his favorite activity. For two summers now, as soon as we arrive at the camp, he goes straight for the trampoline with his counselor, and firmly pushes us away. The little worried boy has completely disappeared, giving way to a pre-teen happy to be back to camp without his parents in the way...

This summer, our confidence level and our ability to give some space to our son were so high that we even were bold enough to go away on a trip. After brushing with the pleasure of sleeping an entire night, eating at a restaurant, going out just the two of us, and playing golf again, we allowed ourselves the ultimate joy of going on a romantic trip to Paris. And, you know what? We are already looking forward to next year!

Goodbye guilt! Thank you Emergo!

Thank you, Manon, for nagging us a few years back! Thank you, Io, for giving us this first weekend which boosted our confidence 6 years ago! Thanks to Be-Bop, Shak, Spatule, Fourchette, Élastique and other counselors who have successively taken care of Alexis to allow us to live these moments of guilt-free mercy! Lastly, thank you to all donors, private or corporate, who, thanks to their financial contribution, help further the – **oh! so essential** – mission of Emergo!

*Johanne Houde, Alexis' mommy and
Communications and Financing-
Manager*

Services de
répit



**Emergo Respite Services - Autism
and other P.D.D.**

2300 boulevard René-Lévesque Ouest

Montréal (Québec) H3H 2R5

☎ 514 931-2882

Fax: 514 931-2397

info.emergo@bell.net

EmergoInfo is published and distributed once a year by Emergo Respite Services - Autism and P.D.D.

Articles published in EmergoInfo may be reproduced, provided the source is credited. Authors are entirely responsible for their writings. All texts submitted for publication must bear the name, address and phone number of its author.



EmergoInfo

Design

Johanne Houde

Edition

Johanne Houde, Manon Carle Dagenais

Proofreading

Louise Riel, Pierre Morin

Translation

Éric Plourde, Johanne Houde

Contributors

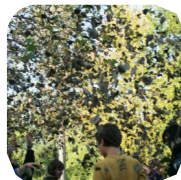
*Andrée Robert, Éric Andrade,
Elissa Gratton, Mélanie Durand*

Circulation

750 copies (French)

120 copies (English)

Legal Deposit : ISSN : 1703-1893



Join us online:
www.servicesderepitemergo.com



All members of the
Emergo - Autism and P.D.D. team
wish you a very Merry Christmas
and a magnificent Year 2012.

May this new year brings you
a bundle of joy and happiness!

In Memoriam

*Diane Viau
Odette Legris Hubar*

The year 2011 was marked sadly by the death of two persons very dear to Emergo, both of them being the mothers of an autistic child.

First, on May 13, at the age of 51, Diane Viau, wife of Marcel Arbour, passed away after a long illness. Diane was a member of Emergo's Board of Directors from 2006 to 2008.

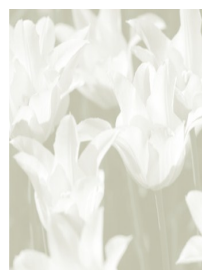
Then, on August 25, Odette Legris Hubar passed away suddenly at the age of 68. Greatly involved and dedicated to the development of services for autistic persons, Odette was a member of the first Board of Directors of Emergo Respite Services.

Both deceased much too young, these great women of heart and commitment will remain forever in our memory!

Our most sincere condolences to the families!



Diane Viau



Odette Legris Hubar

Autism gives no respite... Emergo does! Serving families living with an autistic person for 35 years!