

Our Story

Spiritual care

A new vision



An extraordinary project, a project of faith



Sister Madeleine St-Michel never doubted that people have spiritual needs. However, her many years of experience led her to the conclusion that, in the field of home care, recognizing spiritual needs was a something new and ground breaking.

She further came to realize the need that exists for volunteers who could recognize the importance of being committed to spiritual accompaniment and to an integrated approach to caregiving.

In 1992, the very first beginnings of SASMAD/Pastoral Home Care, Madame Thérèse St-Onge, a member of Saint Jude parish, visited 20 sick persons in the Ahuntsic area. Madame St-Onge died on January 12, 2018.





The parish priest of St. Jude, Father Claude Fournier, was the first to support this emerging work in his parish.

Sanctuary of
St. Jude, Ahuntsic



All the while, Sister Madeleine was visiting more and more pastors in the diocese to initiate and train dedicated teams of volunteers for each sector. Slowly but surely, one parish after another, volunteers began to connect with this extraordinary project and to undertake visits to the sick in their neighbourhoods.

These volunteers were pioneers, and they laboured hard. Particularly at the outset of SASMAD/PHC, the volunteer base was made up mostly of retired professionals from the health and education fields. Growth was rapid, attesting more and more clearly to the need for spiritual accompaniment in the individuals' homes. It didn't take long to realize that the parishes' needs were growing and that it would be necessary to support and assist them in their responsibilities towards the sick and elderly...while working hand in hand with government health services and local social and community centres.