REVITALED
REINTEGRATION
SERVICES

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT







Celebrating 5 years of community-centered service

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LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

Five years ago, Revitaled was founded with a simple but ambitious vision: to create spaces where people feel seen, heard, and empowered to thrive. What began as a grassroots initiative focused on addressing community gaps has grown into an organization that is helping reimagine what community safety, education, and well-being can look like for all individuals.



Jasmyne Julien
Founder, President, and CEO
Revitaled Reintegration Services

As we celebrate our five-year anniversary, I find myself reflecting not only on how far we've come, but on the people who made this journey possible Every youth who trusted us with their story, every community partner who believed in our vision, every volunteer who gave their time, and every supporter who championed our work has helped shape Revitaled into the organization it is today.

This has undoubtedly been our biggest year yet.

The launch of LawLantis marked a defining milestone for our organization. What started as an idea to make legal education more accessible evolved into an innovative, community-informed, and built learning experience. Watching the project come to life and seeing educators, community leaders, government representatives, and young people gather to celebrate its launch was a powerful reminder of what becomes possible when communities are invited to co-create solutions.
At the same time, our Your Story Matters program continued to demonstrate that storytelling has the power to transform lives. Young people courageously shared stories, reminding us that when youth are given the opportunity to tell their own stories, they build confidence and inspire change within their families, schools, and communities.

While these accomplishments are worth celebrating, what excites me most is what they represent. Over the past five years, Revitaled has evolved alongside the communities we serve. We've learned that lasting impact requires more than programs. This change requires partnerships, innovation, research, and a willingness to challenge traditional approaches to education and community development. Those lessons are shaping the next chapter of our work.

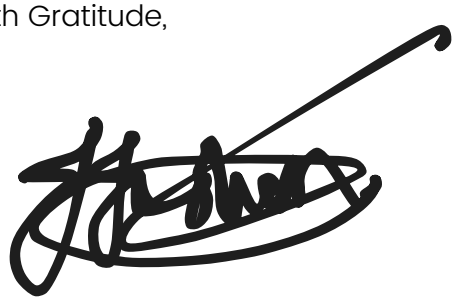
As we look ahead, we are focused on expanding innovative educational tools like LawLantis, strengthening community-based programming, and creating new opportunities that empower youth to make informed decisions, build confidence, and access greater opportunities. We are also laying the foundation for a refreshed organizational identity that reflects who we have become and where we are headed.

None of this would be possible without our incredible staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, funders, partners, and the communities that continue to place their trust in us. Thank you for believing in our mission and for walking alongside us over the past five years.

This anniversary is not simply a celebration of where we've been. It is a celebration of where we're going.

The future of Revitaled has never been brighter, and I look forward to continuing this journey together.

With Gratitude,



Jasmyne Julien, B.A (Hons.)
Founder, President, and CEO
Revitaled Reintegration Services

COMPANY OVERVIEW



Revitaled Reintegration Services launched in August 2021 with the intention of dismantling systemic barriers that individuals face upon release from correctional institutions, in an effort to reduce recidivism rates and build safer communities.

In Fall 2024, Revitaled embarked on a significant transformation, redirecting our focus to address the pressing gaps in wellness services for all individuals, with a particular emphasis on systemically racially marginalized populations, particularly Black communities. This strategic shift was rooted in extensive research and insights gathered from our client intake processes, which have illuminated critical needs within the Durham Region, and made in partnership with Ontario Tech University.

Our organizational pillars revolve around the eight dimensions of wellness: emotional, environmental, financial, intellectual, occupational, physical, social, and spiritual. By adopting a holistic, collaborative, and culturally informed approach, we aim to create a supportive framework that addresses the multifaceted needs of the individuals we serve.

COMPANY OVERVIEW

We aim to incorporate Afrocentric practices to "empower the Diaspora within our world".

As a Black-led organization, we believe that Black-serving organizations are underrepresented in the Durham Region and that Afrocentric ways of being are proven to be beneficial to all individuals, regardless of cultural background. We desire to utilize these teachings to help improve the security, health, and wellness of our clients and community. We aim to improve community safety and support the well-being of marginalized groups in various sectors, such as justice, healthcare, and education.

Through these efforts, we aspire to not only provide immediate support but also to empower individuals and communities to make change and thrive in the face of adversity, fostering a sense of belonging and well-being that resonates far beyond our services. At Revitaled, we believe that healing and resilience are possible, and we are dedicated to walking alongside each person on their unique journey toward a brighter future.



Since our mission statement will be determined upon completion of our strategic redevelopment process, our vision statement is shared below. By reflecting on and grounding our work in this statement, we are committed to delivering community support that aligns with this vision.

VISION

At Revitaled, our focus is to empower individuals and communities by promoting community safety and wellbeing, guided by Afrocentric values. We are dedicated to providing inclusive, culturally resonant services that support the full spectrum of wellness (emotional, physical, social, financial, intellectual, environmental, occupational, and spiritual) for all people, with a particular focus on systemically marginalized populations, especially Black communities. We are committed to tackling the structural conditions and systemic barriers that hinder marginalized individuals from thriving in their wellness journeys across societal institutions. By integrating Afrocentric teachings into our new service delivery model, we aim to dismantle these barriers, promote healing and resilience, and create spaces where every individual, regardless of background, can experience a sense of belonging, well-being, and personal growth. Through this work, we strive to build stronger, healthier communities where all people can reach their fullest potential.



OUR GOALS

Reimagine Community Safety Through Care and Collaboration	Promote safety not through punishment or surveillance, but through investment in prevention, community care, conflict resolution, culturally responsive supports, and opportunities that address the root causes of harm.
Promote Holistic Wellness Across All Dimensions	Provide comprehensive support that addresses the emotional, physical, social, financial, intellectual, environmental, occupational, and spiritual well-being of individuals, with an emphasis on cultural relevance and inclusivity.
Dismantle Systemic Barriers to Wellness	Identify and challenge the structural and societal barriers that disproportionately impact marginalized populations, particularly Black communities, to ensure equitable access to wellness resources and opportunities.
Incorporate Afrocentric Practices into Service Delivery	Integrate Afrocentric practices, traditions, and cultural practices into our service model to empower all individuals, promote healing, and honour cultural identity as central to the wellness journey.
Build Stronger, Resilient Communities	Foster community engagement, peer support, and collective resilience by creating spaces for individuals to connect, grow, and thrive, promoting a sense of belonging and shared well-being.



OUR OBJECTIVES



Promote community safety and well-being



Expand access to wellness resources



Create culturally relevant and inclusive programs and resources



Advocate for systemic change and social justice



Foster community resilience and empowerment



Measure impact for continuous improvement

CORE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Revitaled offers a holistic suite of programs and services designed to promote community safety, wellness, and empowerment for Black and racialized youth across the Durham Region. Grounded in Afrocentric values and trauma-informed care, our work weaves together creative expression, culturally responsive education, and community engagement to address the root causes of harm and foster collective healing.

- **Wellness Programs:** Through initiatives like Your Story Matters, we provide youth with platforms to explore identity, mental health, and lived experience through different mediums, including art, writing, and performance. These programs offer soft-entry points for peer counselling and self-reflection while building spaces of trust and cultural affirmation.
  - Creative expression circles rooted in the Afrocentric principles of Kujichagulia (self-determination) and Kuumba (creativity)



- **Community-Centered Justice Education & Advocacy**: Projects like LawLantis reflect our commitment to accessible justice education that is community-informed and equity-driven. These programs support youth in building legal literacy and engaging in broader systems change, all while affirming their power to advocate for themselves and their communities.
  - Justice learning rooted in the principles of Ma'at (truth, balance, justice) and Umoja (unity)
- **Community Outreach & Peer Engagement**: We meet youth and families where they are, offering peer-led support, mentorship, and opportunities to connect with culturally relevant services. Our peer counsellingship program is designed to foster belonging and mutual care.
  - Outreach and peer engagement rooted in Ubuntu ("I am because we are"), as well as Nia (purpose) and Ujima (collective work and responsibility)

CORE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Resource & Curriculum Development: Revitaled creates accessible resources and tools for youth, caregivers, and service providers. Whether it's wellness journal prompts, a resource guides, or an educator toolkit, everything we develop is grounded in lived experience and community co-creation.
  - Knowledge sharing rooted in Sankofa (looking back to move forward) and Imani (faith in our people and future)

Together, these programs and services not only address immediate needs but also support deeper transformation, cultivating safe, connected, and well communities, built on the foundation of collective care.



WHAT MAKES REVITALED UNIQUE

What distinguishes Revitaled Reintegration Services is our holistic and culturally grounded approach to community safety and wellness. At a time when safety is often framed through institutional or punitive responses, we offer an alternative rooted in Afrocentric values, collective care, and creative expression. Wellness is not a separate pillar of our work; it is woven into everything we do. From arts-based programs to youth-led storytelling initiatives, we prioritize mental, emotional, and cultural well-being as essential components of safety and prevention. Our programs center the voices and experiences of Black and racialized youth, creating spaces where they can explore identity, build resilience, and cultivate a sense of belonging. As one of the few organizations in the region bridging wellness, identity, and justice, we are not just responding to harm. We are actively reimagining what it means to be well and safe in the community.

2021-2025

5 YEARS OF IMPACT

As we celebrate five years of service, we reflect on our journey, accomplishments, and the invaluable support of our community. All of these factors have fueled our progress and purpose, inspiring us to strive for even greater heights in the years to come.



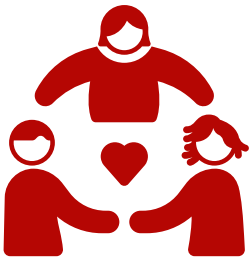
15+

community programs, workshops, presentations, and events delivered.



70%

of youth program participants reported improved mental health and well-being after participating in our programs.



5

listening and wellness circles delivered in partnership with community organizations, creating responsive spaces for healing and connection.



700+

youth and community members gained direct access to services and culturally relevant education on wellbeing, justice, and community safety.



10,00+

youth and community members utilized our digital tools to support their justice and well-being journeys.

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

What We Did (2024–2025)

Empowering Youth Through Storytelling: Your Story Matters 2025



This year, Revitaled continued to invest in the power of youth voice through the second cohort of Your Story Matters (YSM), our culturally grounded, trauma-informed storytelling and comic-creation program for racialized youth across the Durham Region. Designed to explore the connection between storytelling, mental wellness, identity, and community belonging, YSM provided youth with a creative platform to share their experiences, perspectives, and aspirations.

The 2025 cohort welcomed 14 participants, with 8 youth successfully completing the program. Over three weeks and nine sessions, participants worked alongside professional comic artist Kelvin Nyeusi-Mawazo of Black Sun Comics to develop original characters, write personal narratives, and transform their ideas into published comics. Youth explored themes including racism, bullying, identity, resilience, friendship, and overcoming adversity. Through these stories, participants demonstrated that storytelling can be a powerful tool for improving mental wellness, building confidence, strengthening communication skills, and fostering community connection. The final publication featured 8 youth-created stories, doubling the number published during the inaugural 2024 cohort and representing a 100% increase in youth-led content.

The impact of the program extended beyond the pages of the comics themselves. Youth reported increased confidence, stronger self-expression skills, and a greater sense of pride in their experiences and perspectives. The program achieved an average participant rating of 4.5 out of 5, with 75% of surveyed youth reporting that they discovered new ways to express themselves. Parents also observed positive outcomes, with half reporting noticeable improvements in their children's communication skills and confidence.

The program concluded with a celebration event where youth shared their completed work, reflected on their growth, and connected with community members. A spoken word performance by Elle De Lyon further reinforced the importance of storytelling as a vehicle for healing, empowerment, and social change. Community interest in the project also continued to grow, leading to new relationships with organizations, including MLSE Launchpad.

More than a creative arts initiative, Your Story Matters has become a platform for elevating youth voices that are too often overlooked. By creating opportunities for racialized youth to lead, create, and be celebrated, the program continues to demonstrate how arts-based approaches can contribute to mental wellness, advocacy, and long-term social change.

Transforming Legal Education Through Innovation: LawLantis







This year also marked the successful development and launch of LawLantis, an innovative educational video game sponsored by Laidlaw Foundation and the Law Foundation of Ontario. LawLantis is designed to improve legal literacy among youth and make youth justice education more accessible, engaging, and relevant.

LawLantis was built on a foundation of extensive community engagement and research. Over the course of development, Revitaled conducted more than 50 hours of interviews and consultations with youth, youth-serving professionals, justice workers, lawyers, and community stakeholders. These conversations helped identify critical knowledge gaps, misconceptions, and barriers that many young people face when navigating legal systems. The insights gathered directly informed the design, storyline, learning objectives, and decision-making pathways embedded within the game.

The game follows the story of Sheamus, a 15-year-old navigating the youth justice system after becoming involved in a shoplifting incident. Throughout the experience, players make decisions, interact with justice system professionals, learn about their rights and responsibilities, and explore pathways related to diversion, accountability, community supports, and long-term outcomes. By placing youth in the driver's seat of realistic scenarios, LawLantis transforms complex legal concepts into interactive learning experiences that build confidence and understanding.

The official launch of LawLantis brought together more than 80 community members, youth, educators, justice professionals, and stakeholders. The event featured an interactive keynote workshop, a spoken word performance, live demonstrations of the game, and remarks from Member of Parliament Jennifer McKelvie and Ajax Deputy Mayor Sterling Lee, both of whom emphasized the importance of innovative approaches to youth engagement and legal education.

Beyond the game itself, Revitaled facilitated a series of educational workshops connected to the LawLantis project. These sessions explored youth rights, decision-making, legal literacy, and pathways to positive outcomes, helping participants strengthen their understanding of systems that affect their lives. These workshops directly support Revitaled's broader commitment to community education, capacity-building, and empowering individuals with the knowledge needed to advocate for themselves and create meaningful change.

Together, the development of LawLantis and the delivery of associated workshops represent an important step toward reimagining how legal education is delivered to youth. By combining research, lived experience, technology, and community knowledge, the project demonstrates how innovative educational tools can make complex systems more accessible and empower young people to make informed decisions



Click to play LawLantis here

72% of players

said LawLantis helped them increase their understanding of the justice system.

Here's what else they had to say about LawLantis.



I think the game is amazing and it's a great way to engage the youth and teach them about the system.



Overall, this is an excellent, engaging, and youth centered teaching and learning tool. Well done! I look forward to sharing this with my colleagues and clients.



I like that it places you in a youth's shoes, so getting that perspective is super important.

What We're Doing (2026)

Building on the success of LawLantis, Revitaled is now focused on scaling the project and expanding its reach across Ontario. We are actively working with Durham District School Board (DDSB) educators, administrators, and trustees to explore opportunities for integrating LawLantis into secondary school classrooms and educational programming.

This work is important because many young people receive little to no practical education about their legal rights, responsibilities, and the systems that affect them. By bringing LawLantis into schools, we hope to create accessible and engaging opportunities for students to strengthen their legal literacy before they encounter real-world situations. Our goal is not only to increase knowledge, but also to build critical thinking skills, improve decision-making, and help youth better understand the consequences and opportunities associated with different choices.

Alongside implementation efforts, we are continuing to gather feedback from students, educators, and community partners to strengthen the game's educational value and long-term impact. By the end of the year, we aim to produce a comprehensive project report that documents key findings, learning outcomes, participant feedback, and implementation insights. We hope this resource will contribute to broader conversations about youth legal literacy and provide practical guidance for organizations interested in using innovative educational tools to engage young people.

What's Next (2026–2027)

As Revitaled continues to grow, we remain committed to developing innovative approaches that strengthen community safety, youth well-being, and educational outcomes.

Over the coming year, we will continue exploring opportunities to expand LawLantis through additional educational modules, new partnerships with Ontario school boards, and pilot implementations within schools and community organizations. These efforts will allow us to test, refine, and strengthen the platform while reaching more youth across the province.

Building on the research, relationships, and lessons generated through LawLantis, we are also exploring new community education initiatives that utilize arts-based, experiential, and non-traditional learning approaches. We believe that education is most effective when it is engaging, culturally relevant, and grounded in the lived realities of participants.

A particular focus for the coming year will be identifying and developing interventions that support Black youth community safety, reduce vulnerability to negative outcomes, and empower young people to make informed decisions that increase access to opportunities. Drawing from our LawLantis research and community consultations, we aim to release a new educational resource that will support organizations, educators, and community leaders working to advance these goals.

Internally, we are investing in the long-term sustainability of our organization through staff and board development, equity-centred professional learning, and continued exploration of a new organizational name and brand identity that better reflects our evolving mission and vision.

\Finally, we are laying the foundation for Revitaled's first formal strategic plan. This roadmap will help guide our priorities, partnerships, programs, and organizational growth over the coming years, ensuring that our work continues to create meaningful impact for the communities we serve.

As we look ahead, we remain grounded in a simple belief: communities are strongest when people have the knowledge, opportunities, and support they need to thrive. Through education, innovation, storytelling, and community partnership, Revitaled will continue working toward a future where every young person has the tools and opportunities to realize their full potential.

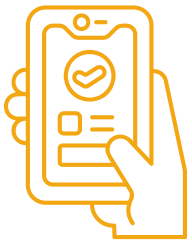


2025-2026 IMPACT



2,976

people engaged with our work including as clients, resource users, program participants, and event attendees



8,775

community members engaged with us online through social media and digital platforms.



55

volunteers loaned their time and experience to our projects and initiatives over the past year



84%

LawLantis satisfaction rate



3

organizations reported incorporating LawLantis into their youth programming



75%

of Your Story Matters participants say that the program helped them to feel more comfortable using their voice and sharing their story

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

The following list shows the names of individuals and partners who volunteer and who have made valuable contributions to Revitaled Reintegration Services, through donations, time, or service.

- Kent Larsson
- Lisa Rickards
- Nordia Smith
- Norma Nicholson
- Ontario Tech University
- Dan Walters
- Kevin Thomas
- Black Sun Comics
- Maximum Onus
- Sinthura Thuraisingam
- Shreya Lekhi
- Priya Puran
- Trey J.
- Jacob Bunting
- Daniel De La Parra
- Mohit Patel
- Crystal Libert
- Shevani Patel
- Breanna Chanel Therapeutic Services
- Kelly Miller
- R. Sullivan
- MLSE Launchpad
- MLSE Foundation
- 880 Cities
- The Balsam Foundation
- Durham District School Board
- Ontario Community Changemakers Program
- West Scarborough Neighborhood Community Center
- Laidlaw Foundation
- Law Foundation of Ontario
- And all of our LawLantis design interviewees



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THANK YOU

for your ongoing support and championship of our mission to advance community safety and wellbeing. Five years down, many more to come!

Sincerely,
The Revitaled Reintegration Services' Board of Directors and Staff

