



At 40 years old, Camp Cosmos is one of MCM's longest running programs. Today the camp brings together children and youth from multi-cultural and First Nations backgrounds, including those with special needs, for a summer of fun and discovery. From harvesting organic vegetables to admiring contemporary art, visiting mummies and dinosaur skeletons to gazing at the wonders of the cosmos, from baking vegan pizzas to doing yoga, our campers are given the opportunity to explore some of the most exciting summer activities that Montreal has to offer.

Camp Cosmos keeps growing and building on strong foundations of compassion, inclusion and access for all. This past summer, I was struck by the dedication of our staff, and by the kindness that campers showed to one another. Camp Cosmos continued into the fall and winter of 2013 with a new self-esteem program for our young counsellors-in-training (14-17). I am proud of the role Camp Cosmos plays in our world.

Vanessa Fernando, Camp Coordinator



organic gardening
self esteem fun
inclusion
athletics
music
art discovery
job training



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Summer 2013 in Numbers

Campers	_____	50
Native languages:	_____	10
<i>(Arabic, Bengali, Creole, English, French, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Russian, Spanish)</i>		
Campers with special needs:	_____	6
Counselors in Training:	_____	5
Ratio staff: camper:	_____	1:3
Leadership workshops	_____	12
Recycling bins filled per week:	_____	5
Compost buckets filled per week:	_____	5

www.campcosmos.org

A United Church of Canada Community Ministry

We're all riding for MCM, and you ??



Annual Report 2013

Heart matters...

...in more ways than one for the MCM Community. On October 5th 2013, we gathered on Île Bizard for an invigorating bike ride at the annual Ride for Refuge. Under a beautiful blue sky, we also pedaled for compassion, hospitality and justice in our city, turning calories and kilometers into dollars for the many MCM projects and programs. You too can be part of this exciting adventure next October 4th by joining us on the ride, or by sponsoring one of our teams. See you there!

Rev. Paula Kline, Executive Director



"My children wake up singing and we have to tell them to stop singing when it's bedtime. They just never stop singing!"
Sara Wunsch Williams (mom of Laney and Emmy and choir volunteer)

The Every Kid /Every Singers Choir is a joint project of St. James United and Montreal City Mission, supported by a dedicated group of volunteers. Rehearsals take place every Sunday at St. James: 12:30 with the kids and 1:30 with the adults. All are welcome!

Making music across cultural and generational lines is truly something magical - a rebirth in harmony for singers and listeners alike! Marie Beauséjour, volunteer choir coordinator

FUNDING THE VISION

The MCM community rallies when support is needed for ongoing work and special projects. In 2013, we held a *benefit supper* at *Chez Boris*, participated in *Ping Posh III* - a charity ping pong tournament, and greased our wheels for the annual *Ride for Refuge*. What better way to fund the vision than through exercise, fun and good food. Many thanks to one and all for making these activities a smashing success!

We'd love to have you join us. Give us a call or drop us an email!



Since 1910, Montreal City Mission has been extending the hand of hospitality and compassion to newcomers and those who are excluded. You can help us create a welcoming community for all through a donation today:

Credit Card

www.canadahelps.org online for a one time or monthly donation

Check

To Montreal City Mission

PAR

Monthly deductions by pre-authorized remittance (call 514-844-9128), an effective way to support us year around



... disponible en français

Just Solutions

At any given moment, somewhere in our world, a refugee is saying goodbye to a child, home, and country they may never see again. At any given moment, a refugee is embarking on a journey fraught with fear, hardship and uncertainty.

At Just Solutions, we strive to help men, women and children as they regain their *humanity* after living through inhumane conditions, their *safety* after surviving dangerous situations, and the *love and support* they so desperately need from long-lost children, spouses and parents.

The road to success is long and presents many challenges. And that's why Just Solutions exists. As the only non profit legal clinic of its kind in Quebec, we take pride in providing expert and accessible legal support. Our clients tell us this assistance and encouragement help them enormously as they endeavour to survive the immigration waiting game.

Though we must work diligently and with patience for the arrival of success stories, when they do arrive, it is cause for much celebration! When a family is reunited after years of separation, or a single mother regains hope that she and her children will live in safety - it is well worth the wait!

Andrea Dawes, coordinator

JS Stats

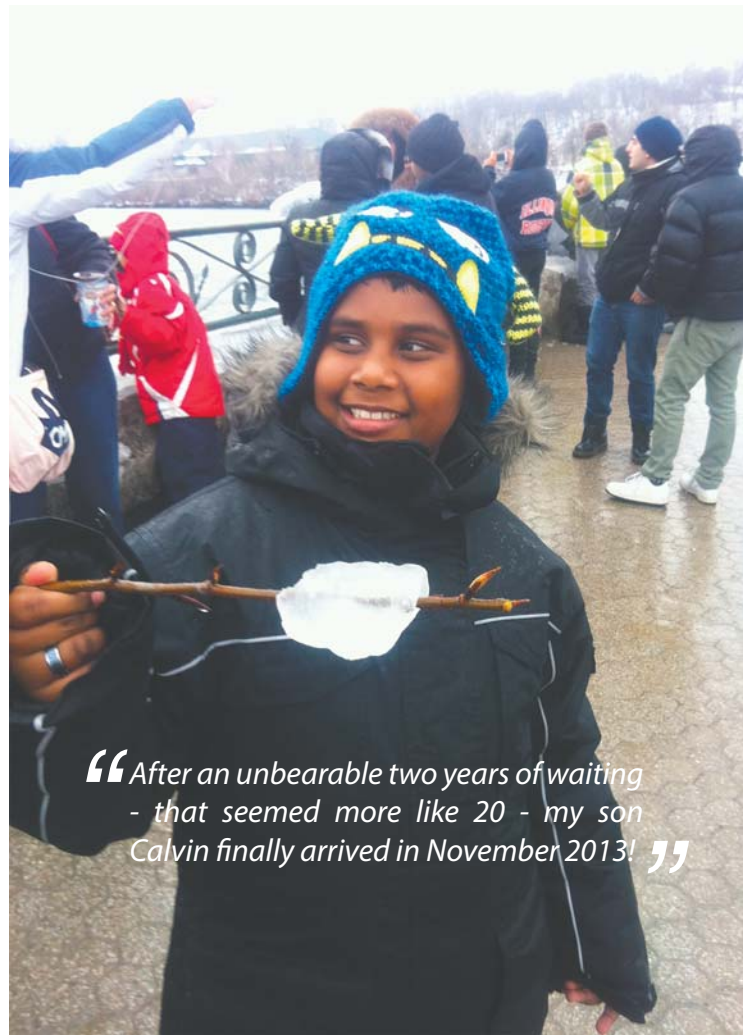
- 298 new clients
- 3072 consultations

Top 10 source countries for new clients:

Mexico, Haiti, St. Vincent, Algeria, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Morocco, Guatemala, Burundi, Colombia

Among our new clients:

- 13 have children with special needs
- 24 are single mothers
- 31 are domestic violence survivors
- 35 face mental or physical health challenges



“After an unbearable two years of waiting - that seemed more like 20 - my son Calvin finally arrived in November 2013!”

My family reunification file had hit a brick wall and I fell into despair. Then Just Solutions took over my case with dedication and patience. I began to sleep more peacefully. After an unbearable two years of waiting - that seemed more like 20 - my son Calvin finally arrived in November 2013! Yolaine and her team will always be in my prayers and memory forever. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart.

Ravanesa

Seniors' Mobile Legal Clinic

Growing old in a foreign country is not easy. In addition to all the usual challenges of aging, senior immigrants are confronted by an unfamiliar language and culture.

The mandate of the **Seniors' Mobile Legal Clinic** is to reach out to those seniors and help them through difficult situations. We fill out forms, we solve bureaucratic imbroglios, we cut through red tape and we do home visits. Together we have found solutions to problems, large and small. Perhaps, even more importantly, we are getting to know one another through sharing stories and wisdom: young and old, native born and immigrant.

The clinic is a handful of volunteers, student interns and staff, that are committed to giving a voice to the often silent immigrant senior. Bit by bit, a rich tapestry is being woven and a circle is being formed to embrace us all.

Clémence Duprés-Lévesque
Project Manager

Montreal City Mission is my family ... I just can't say that enough. Family is more than blood and last names ... it is feeling at home and knowing somebody cares, really cares.

Alone, facing all the challenges of being in a new country, MCM has been there for me all along the way. I don't know where I would be without their support.

The image that comes to mind is that of a deep well ...I know that I need to climb up but I need help to find the stepping stones and follow the light. You can't imagine what it means to have someone walking by your side, going the extra mile with you with such generosity and care. My life isn't easy, but there is no help wanting.

My heart is full of gratitude and yes even joy. It is a journey of faith and I know God is with me. Thank you, Montreal City Mission!

Luis



Andrea helped me painstakingly go through my case for hours at a time - I thought I had met an angel. She made all my worries melt away and assured me that she would always be there to help along the way.

When I was not well, I was so touched that Andrea offered to send someone to my house.

Rick has been like a brother to me - he and Yolaine are kindness personified. When I come to Montreal City Mission, I feel like I'm coming home.

Kiran



MCM Volunteer Sister Lorraine Costello & Luis

Training Leaders



Spending time with clients at Just Solutions has been the best part of my placement. I am grateful for the countless stories shared, for the trust, and for the many displays of courage I have witnessed. Exploring new areas of immigration law has given me a much greater appreciation of the long wait times, bureaucratic hurdles, and how policy changes impact people and their families. I have also come to see how vital legal assistance is to a successful immigration application. Working at Just Solutions has certainly been a personal success and growth experience for me.

Jessica Walsh, law intern



This internship has been the most important experience in my law studies and an invaluable opportunity to get hands-on legal experience.

Mere words cannot express how privileged and grateful I feel to have worked at Montreal City Mission. The cases at the two Clinics are very diverse and interesting; my colleagues and supervisors have always been helpful and accessible.

Inhong Kim, law intern



My field placement opened my eyes to the many layers of inequality and vulnerability faced by clients at Just Solutions and the Seniors' Mobile Legal Clinic. But I was also moved by their strength and resiliency.

I admire the staff at MCM, because of the kindness and support they offer the students and each other.

It is deeply fulfilling to work for an organization whose mission you believe in. Working here has been a source of strength and direction in my own life, and will inform the rest of my studies and my future career.

Stephanie Hewson, social work intern



Coordinating MCM's Youth Programs has been life changing. Over the past two years, I have developed skills in so many different areas. Perhaps, most of all, my heart has 'grown' in compassion and kindness, as I witnessed those traits in others. Thanks to my experience at MCM, I have decided to go back to school in social work in my native B.C. And so, I begin the next chapter of my life with confidence, determination and a strong commitment to the values of compassion, hospitality and justice!

Vanessa Fernando, Youth Programs Coordinator 2012-2013