



Celebrating 10 years of access to justice for vulnerable migrants

In the early 2000s, men, women and children were falling through the cracks of our refugee system due to poor or no legal assistance. MCM responded by establishing the *Just Solutions Legal Clinic* to provide accessible, quality legal services as well as moral support and accompaniment. Ten years later, *Just Solutions* remains the only specialized community legal service in Quebec.

**A few stats....**

- Since 2009
- 16,031 consultations
- 1,516 new clients
- Since 2010
- 138 single mothers
- 89 survivors of domestic violence

Many thanks to the corporate sponsors of our 10th anniversary celebration, as well as our individual donors, the Charity Alive Foundation and the Congregation of Notre Dame, who keep the *Just Solutions* door open to those in need all year around.

*The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Canada congratulates the Just Solutions Legal Clinic on its 10th anniversary for the precious services its skilled staff offers to the most vulnerable and marginalized immigrants and refugees.*

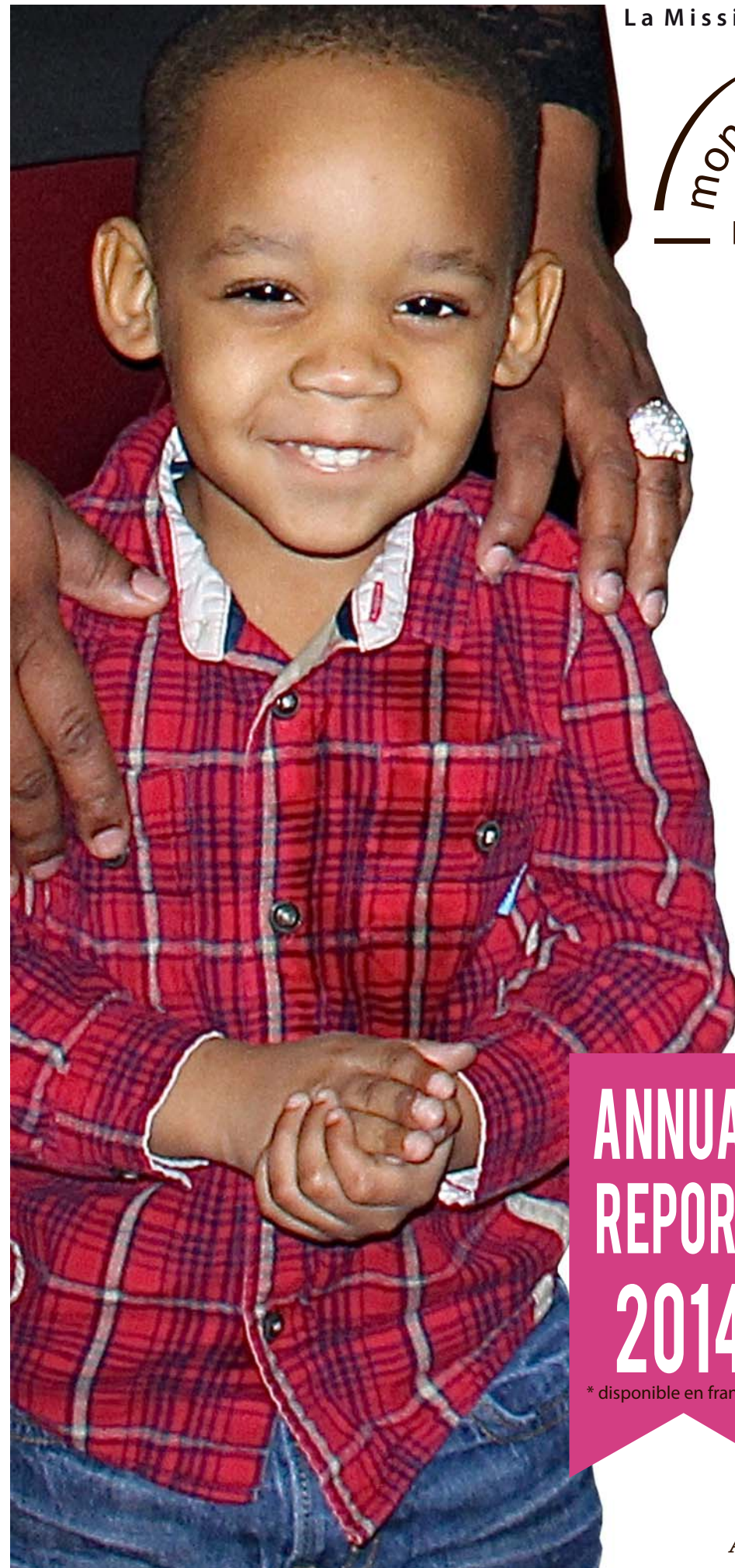
*Furio de Angelis, UNHCR representative in Canada*



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## good news!

*...is celebrated at Montreal City Mission every time a family is reunited, a child accepted despite her difference, a senior drawn into a circle of support. The good news stories in these pages are the fruit of a collective effort, one that bridges generations, cultures and beliefs. We transform the world - and ourselves - when we work together so that no one is excluded.*

*Rev. Paula Kline, Director*

**ANNUAL REPORT 2014**  
\* disponible en français



Summer 2014 was another exciting season for this unique day camp in the heart of the city. Well into its 5th decade, Camp Cosmos continues to innovate and adapt to evolving needs. We launched a water protection project - *Au fil de l'eau* - to sensitize children and their families about this precious natural resource. A shadow-in-training pilot project was also begun to train young adolescents in the accompaniment of children with special needs.

### Some highlights

- Creation of a 'compliment sharing tree'
- Building a friendship chain
- Growing organic vegetables
- Learning about bullying prevention
- Doing scientific experiments with water

The **Montreal Canadians Children Fund** has played a major role in supporting Camp Cosmos from 2012 - 2014. Go! Habs! Go!

## Student Leadership

Student Interns and volunteers provide invaluable human resources to MCM programs. In exchange, they get what many call the experience of a lifetime. A win-win situation!

*I was drawn to MCM for the opportunity to directly and tangibly impact individual lives. The hands-on experience and mentorship have been tremendous. Martha Cherkow, McGill Law 2014*

### Student Interns & Volunteers

- 7 Law (McGill, Université de Montréal)
- 1 Social Work (McGill)
- 2 Social Sciences (Concordia)
- 1 Peace Studies (Saint Paul University, Ottawa)

### Presentations to Academia

- McGill School of Nursing
- McGill School of Social Work
- United Theological College
- Boston University School of Theology



### Some stats 2014

- 55 campers
- 8 with special needs
- fees waived or reduced for 6 families
- 6 counsellors, 4 shadows
- 8 counsellors-in-training
- 6 recycling bins filled every week
- 6 compost buckets filled every week
- 12 languages spoken (French, English, Chinese, Creole, Italian, Persian, Portuguese, Tamil, Vietnamese, Bengalese)

## MCM Kindness App

Thanks to the kindness and hard work of our two IT volunteers Meng Jia and Kwaku Zigah throughout 2014, the MCM Kindness App has made its debut on the international App scene.

- *The MCM Kindness App is a way to put more kindness into our lives simply by being more aware of its impact on the people around us - and on ourselves too!*
- *It's a simple app that brings a daily quote about compassion and kindness and helps us set aside some regular meditation/reflection/prayer time on kindness in our life.*
- *Available for iOS and Android smart phones and tablets, the MCM Kindness App can help build a bigger space for kindness and its practice.*
- *And it's free - just like kindness!*

Many thanks to the United Church Erskine & American Fund and Kelly Trust Fund in Montreal for supporting this innovative project.



## JUST SOLUTIONS LEGAL CLINIC

*The path to safety for vulnerable migrants is full of stumbling blocks. It can take the JS team months and even years of painstaking work to advance files. Equally important is our presence with those awaiting answers: holding hands, quelling fears and rekindling hope. In 2014, despair gave way to celebration for several members of our community.*

### Good News in 2014!

Wilfredo's application for asylum was accepted in 2011 but his children were refused. Terrified, he turned to Just Solutions for help. In 2014, the children became permanent residents.

*Montreal City Mission came to my rescue... I owe it to them that the terrible nightmare of losing my children is over. I also want to thank Immigration Canada and let them know they will be proud of the way they treat people like me and my family. Wilfredo*

Janelle, a young single mom who had fled domestic violence in her country of origin became a permanent resident in 2014. Just Solutions had been working with her towards this goal since 2009.

*After so many years I feel like I can finally breathe! I'm so excited to see what the future holds, and will be forever grateful to Just Solutions for the compassion and support they have shown me. Janelle*

Delcie endured a painful separation from her son for several years. Just Solutions finally succeeded in having her humanitarian and sponsorship application accepted in December 2014.

*I could never have imagined it would take so many years before seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. I would never have gotten there without Just Solutions... they fight for families who have few opportunities but many dreams. Delcie*

## Seniors' Mobile Legal Clinic

*Created as a pilot project in 2012 to respond to the needs of immigrant and Canadian seniors, the Seniors' Mobile Clinic became a permanent program in 2014.*

The clinic provides information and support to seniors dealing with all levels of government in a wide variety of legal fields, particularly in matters of income security.

Home visits by clinic staff and students provide house bound seniors with the assistance and support they require in a comfortable, familiar setting.

### Some Stats: 2012-2014

- 155 seniors
- 55 countries
- 3,024 consultations

### VIP - Visitation Integration Project

Established in 2014 by MCM and the St. James Grey Matters Think Tank, VIP volunteers carry out friendly visits to isolated seniors - connecting them with MCM and their local neighbourhoods.

### Après-midis juridiques

In 2014, the 'Law in the Afternoon' workshop series was launched to bring information on seniors' rights to a larger audience:

- Seniors residences
- CLSCs
- Aids Community Center
- United Church Congregations



**Many thanks for invaluable support of the Seniors' Clinic in 2014 to our individual donors and to:**

*The Good Samaritan Fund (United Church of Canada Foundation)*

*Le Ministère de la justice (gouvernement du Québec)*

*Fondation Carmand Normand*

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

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