

## GATHERING

MCM's community of friends seeks to gather regularly to advance the work of the Mission and to build a sense of eunoia. These gatherings bring together newcomers, Canadians, staff, students, volunteers and MCM supporters for activities in house and in the wider community.

### Blue met

In celebration of its 20th anniversary, the Blue Metropolis Literary Festival organized a series of photography and poetry workshops with newcomers from the MCM community. The moving testimonies and captivating photos were published, along with stories from community groups across Canada, in a special anniversary book. We launched the book and presented a panel discussion in April with local authors and poets discussing the challenges of «pulling up and putting down roots». A delicious buffet was served by the Women Weaving Their Dreams Collective.



### Gathering at the Table

An inter-faith celebration brought Jews, Christians and Muslims together at the Dorshei Emet Synagogue last May for an 'Iftar' to break the Ramadan fast at sunset. Good food, music and meaningful exchanges allowed us to strengthen ties and build new relationships.



### Apple picking

An invitation was extended to the larger community this year to experience apple picking with newcomer families. We filled 3 school buses with 180 participants, young and old alike! Members of our No Name youth group who have been organizing activities together for the past year, took a turn at playing hosts – welcoming new friends who had recently arrived in Canada.



### Youth connections

MCM's No Name youth group connected with their peers from Emmanuel United (Ottawa) this year to make friends, dance and explore Montreal together.



### McGill Students run for MCM!

Congratulations to former MCM political science intern Céline Renaud-Bryce and the McGill Student Running Club for organizing a run for refugees this year! The proceeds from the run (\$900!!) will go to the Just Solutions Clinic and our work with vulnerable migrants.



Organizing this race has been a real pleasure for me, and I was so happy to be able to contribute to MCM in any way. My internship this past summer at the Just Solutions Legal Clinic was incredibly enriching and fulfilling.  
Céline Renaud-Bryce

## EUNIOA

We are choosing to name the resulting spirit or culture of the SAGE Mission with the ancient Greek word eunoia, translated variously as "beautiful thinking," "being of good mind about others," and "the beginnings of friendship." This is our understanding of the life affirming and enriching potential of participation in a SAGE Mission.

Camp Cosmos is amazing in numerous ways. The most beautiful thing I have witnessed over the past couple of years there has got to be the refugee children who, even after escaping war zones, were able to create friendships, quickly learn new languages and simply enjoy their childhood by just being kids.

Kanaan Shaath, CC West Island Youth Director, Medical Student at Laval University



Most of our legal cases take months and even years to resolve. A mutual bond of trust and respect develops during that time that far surpasses the simple 'client-worker' relation – it is a bond that deepens our mutual humanity.

Louise Olivier, Legal Clinic caseworker



Camp Cosmos Team

After 8 harrowing years of trying to obtain my residency, I was losing all hope until I was referred to the Just Solutions Clinic. There I met a team of angels who changed my life - they believed in me when I no longer believed in myself; they remained by my side, helped me heal my wounds, and restore my confidence. They built a strong humanitarian application and in March 2018, I became a permanent resident of Canada! Thank you Louise and Olga for your support, your passion and especially for having listened to me! S.

MCM is giving me an incredible opportunity to be of service while developing life-giving relationships - not only with colleagues, but also with the men and women who walk through our door in need of assistance. Much more than an internship or a workplace, the mission is becoming a home away from home where caring, support and celebration are a daily experience.

Norane Osman, Educational Psychology Masters Student



Zone Ado

I like the definition of eunoia as "beautiful thinking", MCM has such a beautiful vision for our city as a place that celebrates diversity and connecting across boundaries. The staff is passionately committed to this idea in all the work they do. They see human connection, friendship, as such a powerful tool for social good.

Selina Mullins, student at the United Theological College.

**La Mission communautaire de Montréal**  
**Montreal City Mission**

A United Church of Canada Community Ministry

**TRANSMISSION**  
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# SAGE

**Montreal City Mission** is currently developing a new **SAGE** model of social action and presence that is creating a ripple effect in our own community of friends and beyond. **SAGE stands for 'service', 'advocacy', 'gathering' and 'eunioa'** with all of our programs and projects echoing these different elements as we endeavour to....

- Provide excellent, professional, client-focused **services** to the people who seek our assistance;
- Challenge ourselves to give witness publicly to unjust structures and situations experienced by the people with whom we work through independent and networked **advocacy**;
- Develop a growing array of opportunities for our staff, volunteers, supporters and service recipients to enjoy inter-cultural and inter-generational **gatherings** as a community dedicated to service and advocacy in the cause of justice;
- Experience **eunioia**, that is, the “good regard” that members of a **SAGE** mission and those who are served by it feel for one another, or, as Aristotle used the Greek word eunioia, the “seeds of friendship”



Photo: Brian Bronfman and Marcia Wetherup, MCM staffers Anwar Alhjojo, Paula Kline, Olga Houde, Louise Oliver and MCM board member Dr. Heather McShane

**Montreal City Mission** was a proud recipient of the **2018 Community Organization Award** at the annual spring gala sponsored by the **Montreal Community Cares Foundation**. **MCM's** work welcoming newcomers to Quebec for over one hundred years was highlighted at the celebration.



## Current MCM programs:

**Camp Cosmos (since 1972):** inter-cultural summer day camp in downtown Montreal & West Island; 158 children welcomed in 2018!

**Just Solutions Legal Clinic (since 2004):** access to justice for refugees and vulnerable migrants

**Roger Snelling Clinic (since 2012):** mobile legal service & activities for refugee, immigrant and Canadian born seniors

**Maa'n/Ensemble (since 2015):** integration and community building through concrete projects and inter-cultural partnerships (Women Weaving Their Dreams, Kid Zone, Zone Ado, No Name Youth Group, Gathering at the Table, Celebration of Light)

**Student Leadership:** front line experience for 15 interns annually (law, social work, theology, political science, business and health sciences) from francophone and anglophone universities

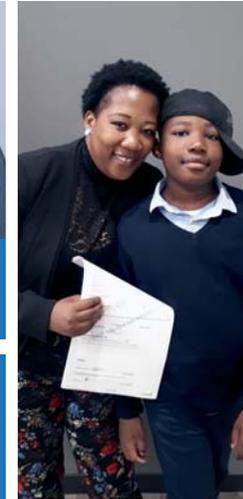
# Service

*We undertake to create opportunities for service that are characterized by respect, understanding, excellence, and inclusion as well as opportunities for inter-cultural and inter-generational relationships*

Fleeing violence in her native Ukraine, Olena came to Canada in 2012. When her humanitarian application was refused, she turned to the Just Solutions Legal Clinic. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the JS team, and with the support of local federal MP Marc Miller, we were able to submit a new humanitarian application. That request was accepted in principle in January 2018. Finally in June 2018, Olena became a permanent resident! We continue to accompany her in her bid to be reunited with her two children whom she has not seen in 6 years.



Olena with MCM Legal Coordinator Olga Houde



P. and her son became permanent residents of Canada after 6 long years of procedure. Congratulations and all the best to this happy family!



Accepted as a refugee in 2016, J was desperate to bring her two young daughters to Canada. We were able to include them in her permanent residency application and accelerate the procedure. In collaboration with our partners at the Canadian Council for Refugees, we obtained permanent residency status for J in March 2018. We continue to accompany this family in their quest to be reunited - the two daughters are currently living in a refugee camp. We hope they will all be together in their new home in Canada very soon.

J with student intern Lorena

## Elders-in-residence

This project emerged from our Roger Snelling Seniors Clinic and aims to tap into the wisdom, knowledge and presence of elders in our community. We are delighted to welcome our first two elders, Renate Sutherland and Robert Verrall. Renate and Robert recently met with students and friends from MCM and the larger community at our fall student lunch – fostering inter-generational connections and sharing.



*There are not enough opportunities to engage seniors and to hear those voices from different cultural communities. As a new MCM elder-in-residence, I look forward with excitement to conversations across generational and cultural boundaries that will no doubt enrich all involved.*

Renate Sutherland



# Advocacy

*We see advocacy as an essential part of what we do ... bearing public witness to the injustices and struggles of the people we serve*

## Sharing stories at the Canadian Senate

Participants in our *Women Weaving Their Dreams Collective* were invited to visit the Canadian Senate and meet with Senator Mark Gold in March 2018 to discuss the challenges they face as newcomers to Canada. The women were welcomed in the Senate Chamber and MCM was invited to return to address the 'House of Commons Committee on Integration' in 2019 on our SAGE Mission model.



## Role of Research

*A partnership with McGill School of Social Work, ICAN McGill (International Community Action Network) and the Canadian Youth and Refugee Research Coalition (CYRRC) based in Dalhousie University in Halifax, is allowing MCM to document and publicize our front line work with vulnerable migrants.*

A research project is currently underway with our academic partners to explore how the experience of Camp Cosmos has shaped a sense of belonging for refugee children, youth, and parents. Interviews with these individuals pre and post camping season, are providing useful information on social integration as well as the kind of tools we need to develop to deal with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The study will be published in 2019.



## MCM presents at refugee conference in Greece



*MCM staff, board and two youth members were invited to the International Association of Studies on Forced Migration for their annual conference in Thessaloniki, Greece this past July. We presented on the Canadian sponsorship process and the integration of refugee and newcomer children in Montreal through MCM's Camp Cosmos, Zone Ado and Kid Zone.*