



A United Church of Canada Community Ministry

* disponible en français



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...turning downtown montreal
into a kid friendly zone each summer

Camp Cosmos offers six weeks of exploration, learning and fun to children from diverse backgrounds, including First Nations, and job training/experience to adolescents and young adults.

2015 season:

- 76 campers
- 9 with special needs
- 6 counsellors, 4 shadows
- 8 counsellors-in-training (including 3 shadows-in-training)

Highlights of the Summer:

- Activities with local environmental communities
- Our Eco-Tree, filled with coloured ribbons for recycling and compost
- Scientific experiments with air, water and electricity
- Sports activities with the Quebec Games team
- Visits to vegetable and dairy farms
- Creation workshop at local art gallery

From Athletics Coordinator to Camp Director, I have been on an incredible journey of learning at Camp Cosmos. What priceless training for my future career as a teacher! I'm proud to say I've worked with the most amazing team I've seen at a summer camp - professional, attentive and caring.

It's a joy to see friendships blossom between the children. Whether taking one another's hand on an outing, or helping with a science project, kindness abounds.

Camp Cosmos is preparing a better future. It opens young hearts to the gifts of diversity, the thrill of nature, the exhilaration of movement and the joy of discovering their inner artist!

I'm honoured to work with such an organization and I look forward to Camp next summer!

Philippe Besner, Camp Director 2015

View our new video at: [YouTube](#) (CampCosmos)



... providing access to justice for refugees and vulnerable immigrants since 2004



Ange was forced to flee his country following a period of imprisonment and torture. Once his refugee claim was accepted, he only had one wish - to be reunited with his two nieces and build a safe life for the family in Canada. Just Solutions assisted and supported Ange throughout this process. Last June, the dream became reality when Ange and his nieces were finally reunited. The future holds new promise for this happy family.

Unique in Quebec, Just Solutions is the last port of call for refugees and vulnerable migrants in desperate situations:

- Women, men and children victim of violence and negligence
- Children with special needs
- Families seeking to reunite
- Individuals with mental and physical health challenges & lack of access to health care
- Individuals facing life threatening situations if deported



*Mylène Barrière,
Associate Lawyer*

Our team of lawyers, social workers, students and volunteers provide free legal information, referrals and representation to those with no other recourse.

*Sam Bick,
Law Volunteer*



MCM welcomes two new talented staffers

After completing a degree in Psychology and a Masters in Social Work, I became involved with the Migrant Project at Médecins du Monde. Joining Just Solutions last February has allowed me to continue that vocation of working with a courageous and admirable population as part of a dynamic and dedicated team. A true privilege!

Marianne Leane-Welt, Coordinator, Just Solutions



It's a huge privilege to work at the Roger Snelling Clinic, assisting some of the most vulnerable seniors in our community. They impress me every day with their wisdom and courage! The passionate MCM team also fuels my motivation and confirms that we should never give up hope!

Olga Houde, Coordinator, Roger Snelling Seniors' Clinic



(Olga holds a Masters in International Studies (Law and Institutions), and previously worked at the International Bureau for Children's Rights)

Roger Snelling Clinic

A free and unique mobile legal service for seniors that specializes in immigration and administrative law.

Created in 2012, the Clinic provides access to justice and social services through legal information, workshops, accompaniment, representation and various other services to vulnerable seniors aged 55+:

- Refugee Claim Process
- Family Sponsorship
- Humanitarian & Compassionate Applications
- Access to Health Care
- Provincial & Federal Pensions
- Access to grandchildren
- Legal Capacity (Power of Attorney)



...through visits to the clinic and home appointments

Thanks to its partnerships with lawyers, health care professionals, social workers, students, volunteers and other community colleagues, the Roger Snelling Clinic finds creative solutions to the issues faced by elderly immigrants and Canadian seniors.

I had my first contact with the Seniors' Clinic at MCM in 2013. They have been my main support for many difficult situations that I had to overcome related to immigration and housing. I can always rely on their assistance, sincerity and professionalism. Wishing good health to all the MCM staff, grateful for their help and kindness, it is with great pleasure that I will draw upon my experience to become a volunteer for the Snelling Seniors' Clinic.

Reza K.



When the moratorium on deportations to Haiti was lifted last spring, staff from both clinics sprang into action, helping past and new clients to regularize their immigration status. Likewise with the Syrian refugee crises, extra efforts are being deployed to assist refugees in Canada and those wishing to sponsor family members.



Student Leadership ...training student interns and volunteers in front line work

Law students are not prepared if all they can bring is legal knowledge. Helping vulnerable populations navigate the justice system goes far beyond technical rules. At the Snelling Clinic, I learned to listen closely and sensitively to personal narratives and appreciate they are not simply facts but valuable stories told by real people. It was truly an empowering and humbling experience!

Gabriella Utretas Sandoval,
Law



It's awesome to be here! I find it really inspiring to be surrounded by the MCM team and all the important work that they do. They truly make a difference in so many ways. I feel very lucky to be a student at Just Solutions this year!

Leah Woolner, MSW



It's such a great opportunity seeing up front how important MCM is to people of all ages and walks of life. We feel privileged to put into action our business knowledge and hope we can further all the important initiatives here so that MCM continues to empower the Montreal community.

- Sen Li & Kieran Rankin, MBA interns,
John Molson School of Business, Concordia



I am so excited to be interning with the Just Solutions Legal Clinic! The staff and volunteers are incredibly dedicated and passionate which makes JS an ideal place to work and learn. Being part of this incredible team as we make a difference in people's lives is both an honour and a privilege.

Sarah Dodsworth, MSW



What does it mean to be a contemporary church? Why are you helping those people when we can't even help our own? What does our faith tell us when it comes to money, mission and God? Ok - Truth & Reconciliation Commission - now what? Exhilarating, difficult and life-giving questions that I am exploring, challenging and sitting with. From refugees to technology to vulnerable seniors, I could not have imagined a better field placement. Thank you for this AWESOME opportunity!

Lisa Byer-de Wever
Diaconal intern



Claire Boychuk, Law



2015 MCM Student Interns / volunteers

- 10 Law (McGill, Udm)
- 4 Social Work (McGill)
- 2 MBA (Concordia)
- 1 Social Science (Concordia)
- 1 Diaconal (Centre for Christian Studies, Winnipeg)

The Roger Snelling Clinic Launch!

The Seniors Mobile Legal Clinic was renamed last June in honour of our beloved former director, Roger Snelling. Roger's widow Sheila made the trip from Ottawa to cut the ribbon and take part in the commemorative ceremony. Roger was an exceptional and unique individual who impressed all he met with his integrity and authenticity. Roger not only left a generous bequest, but a legacy of compassion and justice that lives on in our hearts.



Riding for MCM!

Under a glorious autumn sky in early October, the MCM community pedalled, walked and jogged to raise 7K+ at the annual Bike-a-Thon Ride for Refuge. Many thanks to those valiant athletes and of course to all of our generous sponsors. A special shout out to MCM board member Mary Sweeny, husband Jean-Marc and son Xavier - the Township Travellers Team - who drove 2 hours to join the fun. What spirit! And a special thanks to Cedar Park and St. James United who supported the ride as well. See you all next year!



In the Public Eye!

The print and electronic media were in force last September as MCM staff, students and volunteers hit the St. James Square in support of Syrian refugees and to gather signatures on a petition to Ottawa. The passers-by were more than happy to sign on and express their concern for those men, women and children facing untold danger as they flee their homes.



In times of shrinking budgets, it is easy to lose sight of the many gifts we have to offer and receive. Celebrating those gifts unleashes an infectious energy that nourishes our spirit and enlivens our vision: the presence of Sheila Snelling and our faithful supporters at the Snelling Clinic launch; the enthusiastic testimonies from our new student interns; the compassion expressed for refugees by Montrealers on the St. James Square; a former client who wishes to become a volunteer... The gifts are many, the energy palpable and the potential for creating a life-giving community stronger than ever!

Rev. Paula Kline, Executive Director