

Maa'n/Ensemble

...a MCM program initiated in the wake of the Syrian refugee crises that aims to facilitate integration of all newcomers whatever their origin through concrete projects and inter-cultural partnerships.

Celebration of Light

Our annual inter-cultural/faith *Celebration of Light* is fast becoming a tradition. For a third year in a row we were hosted by Samir Elniz and Imam Mahdi Terkawi at the Al Rawadah Community Centre in Ville St-Laurent to celebrate Hannukah, Christmas and the Muslim feast of Almaghrib Alnabawi. We were pleased to welcome rabbis Boris Dolin and Lisa Grushcow along with friends from Dorshei Emet Synagogue and Temple Emmanu-el Beth Sholom, as well as a group of students from the Concordia Multi-Faith Spirituality Center accompanied by Rev. Ellie Hummel. Also for the first time, the meal was catered by WWD/Vers un souffle nouveau.



Women Weaving Their Dreams Vers un souffle nouveau

WWD/Vers un souffle nouveau made important strides this past year. A catering pilot project has been set up and WWD already catered 5 events in 2018. As requests pour in for their delicious food, we are researching the optimum structure that will allow job and language training along with the possibility of earning additional income. We also received a generous donation of 9 sewing machines, sewing implements and cloth from Mountain-side United Church that will allow us to begin a sewing project in 2019. The first item on our agenda will be quilts! As always, fun weekend outings for the whole family keep this community tightly knit!



Gathering at the Table

In spring 2018, we gathered at the Dorshei Emet Synagogue to break the Ramadan fast with an Iftar meal. Food, music and heart felt connections brought us closer together as one community. Many thanks to Rabbi Boris Dolin, Ronit Yarosky and their congregation for the warm welcome!



Blue Metropolis

MCM was honoured to be part of the 20th anniversary celebration of this iconic Montreal literary festival in 2018. Photos and testimonies from newcomer members of the MCM community grace the pages and the cover of the anniversary book. We launched the book with a panel discussion at St. James United presenting four Montreal authors who reflected on the challenges and joys of moving into a new community. A delicious buffet was served by WWD.



MCM on the International Stage

The MCM SAGE model of inter-cultural work: service, advocacy, gatherings, eunoia (planting seeds of friendship), was presented at an international conference on forced migration in Greece last summer. Members from MCM board, staff and youth group focused on our work with children and adolescents through diverse projects, including Camp Cosmos.



MCM Honoured

MCM was the proud recipient of the *Montreal Community Cares Foundation* annual award for our work welcoming newcomers to Canada since 1910.

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... since 1910



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A United Church of Canada Community Ministry



In this Annual Report you will discover compelling stories of courage, unique responses to emerging needs and a dedicated team of staff, students and volunteers. Since 1910, Montreal City Mission has been helping newcomers put down roots and feel at home. Standing proudly on the shoulders of those past generations, the MCM community of friends continues to grow. Together we are writing an exciting new chapter in our shared story of compassion, hospitality and justice. Join us!

Rev. Paula Kline
Executive Director

Annual Report 2018

... disponible en français

Youth Programs

Camp Cosmos experienced another incredible year of growth in 2018, reaching almost 160 campers! Indeed, this historic program of MCM, which first opened its doors in the early 1970s, has more than tripled its capacity in the past four years. The addition of a second site on the West Island in 2015 in the wake of the Syrian refugee crises, and the subsequent expansion of both camps, have allowed us to welcome an increasing number of local and newcomer children. We also launched a new age group of 12-13 year olds who were introduced to volunteerism at local agencies such as the NDG Food Depot and the SPCA. With 26 languages spoken in 2018, we can truly say Camp Cosmos reflects the diversity of our larger community.

Cosmos by the Numbers

	2014	2016	2018
Campers	55	106	158
Counsellors	6	10	15
Shadows	4	5	10
Counsellors-in-Training	8	5	6
Shadows-in-Training	0	3	4
Campers with Disabilities	8	11	16
Languages Spoken	15	17	26



The young campers and their counsellors

- ★ Delved into indigenous culture through the *Red Urban Project*
- ★ Moved their bodies and stilled their minds through yoga, hip-hop dancing, rock climbing and swimming
- ★ Shared their stories through stop-motion films and live radio broadcasts at local station CKUT
- ★ Placed care of the environment at the center of all of their activities through recycling and composting and learning how to pitch a tent, build a safe fire and track wild animals with Parks Canada



No Name

Music, theatre, dance and discovering Montreal were top on the agenda for our *No Name* youth group in 2018.

Joining with their peers from Ottawa, they danced together and then set out for a Ferris Wheel ride in Old Montreal.

An Evening at the theatre to see the play 'In the Between' was a first for many. The discussion after the performance between the audience and the actors was just as enthralling as the play itself, providing a safe forum to debate the challenges facing high school students around racism, white supremacy, islamophobia and simply fitting in.

Our latest *Song Craft* project is providing a space for teens and younger musicians to discover the adventure of composition, practice a musical instrument, and record and perform their own song in public. Stay tuned!

Just Solutions

Statistics JS 2018

	2017	2018
Total Cases	351	436
No. of consultations	4681	3555

The number of individuals served increased in 2018 while the number of consultations decreased, indicating a quicker resolution of several cases.

Vulnerability factors

	%
Health issues (physical or mental)	33,5
Victims of domestique violence	25
Single Parent families	16,5
Homelessness	4
Sexual minority	3,5



The Just Solutions Clinic is pleased to announce a new partnership with the *Maison Flora Tristan* to better serve women, victims of violence, in need of temporary shelter.

We thank the municipal office of BINAM «Bureau d'intégration des nouveaux arrivants de Montréal» for their support.

Thanks to the efforts of our stellar team at the Just Solutions Legal Clinic and the courage of one determined mother, this happy family spent last Christmas together! Clinic coordinator Olga Houde, along with the student interns, had been working on this family reunification file for over a year. The two daughters who were living in a refugee camp finally arrived in Montreal just before the holidays!

Roger Snelling Clinic

Statistics RS 2018

	2017	2018
Ongoing cases	56	88
New cases	38	74
Consultations	1235	505

Principal regions of origin

	%
Sub-Saharan Africa (mainly Cameroun)	22.5
North America (mainly Canada)	18.75
Caribbean (mainly Haiti)	12.5
Central America (mainly Mexico)	10
Middle East (mainly Iran)	7.5
North Africa (mainly Morrocco & Algeria)	6.25
Europe (mainly Hungary)	5
Russia	3.75

Status

Canadian citizen	23.37
No status	18.18
Permanent Resident	16.88
Refused refugee claimant	14.28
Accepted refugee	9
Tourist visa	9
Request from abroad	9

We thank the *United Church Good Samaritan Fund* for ongoing support.



Coming to Canada from Cameroun as a refugee in 2004, P. went on to become a Canadian citizen in 2009. Thinking her troubles were behind her, tragedy struck in 2012 with the death of her eldest daughter still residing in Cameroun. P. decided to sponsor her 5 grand-children who were left orphans and in 2016 was able to bring 4 of them to Canada. The eldest was 19 at that time, so she was not eligible for sponsorship according to *Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada* criteria. After the heartbreak of losing her mother and then taking care of her siblings when she was just a child herself, P.'s eldest grand-daughter was forced to live another traumatic separation. P. turned to the *Roger Snelling Clinic* in 2018 for help in bringing her to Canada. Although the procedures are still underway, the first step of the application was accepted in January 2019, giving renewed hope to P. and her grandchildren that they will soon be reunited as one family.

Student leadership

Every year students bring their enthusiasm, thirst for learning and expertise to the work of MCM. 2018 was no exception with an impressive number of 19 interns

The front-line experience with vulnerable migrants at our legal clinics and through different MCM programs makes an invaluable contribution to their education. The students in turn contribute to solving cases, providing moral support and energizing the entire organization.

McGill Law	7
McGill Social Work Bachelor	4
McGill Social Work Masters	1
McGill Educational Psychology Masters	1
Université de Montréal Social Work Bachelor	3
United Theological College	1
McGill Political Science	1
Université de Montréal Medicine	1
Total	19



My placement at the Roger Snelling Clinic has been the highlight of my time at law school. Working with the clinic's clients has given me an incredible opportunity to put a human face on the law and to use my skills to help some of Montreal's most marginalized people obtain more secure immigration status. Working alongside social work students and the clinic's staff has given me a new perspective about how to serve the legal needs of seniors while being attentive also to the full range of their experience.

Simcha Walfish, McGill Law



Being an intern at the Just Solutions Legal Clinic has been an eye-opening experience! The indispensable tools I am developing are allowing me to conduct efficient advocacy on the level of legal immigration procedures as well as psycho-social needs. Most important are the men and women at the center of all our work and their stories of courage and resilience.

Jacqueline Ohayon, McGill Law