

Maa'n/Ensemble...



Diverse Voices - One Community

For a second year in a row we joined hands with our inter-faith friends as well as the larger Montreal community to celebrate Hannukah, Christmas and Almagid Alnabawi. A delicious Syrian dinner was enjoyed by our guests at the Al Rawadah Community Centre. We then lit candles for peace... sang Christmas carols... enjoyed Muslim songs... held the space for a blessing on the Menorah and danced a First Nations round dance led by a young Mohawk artist from Kahnawake.

Women Weaving their Dreams - Vers un souffle nouveau

The approach of this new project is holistic - placing the emphases on building confidence, a sense of belonging and a positive attitude - all of which will facilitate language learning and ensure a successful integration process. The first cohort began in 2017 at a community centre in Ville St-Laurent with a series of workshops on loss/grief/healing. An informal network of mutual support and sharing via *What's Up* was quickly formed by the women. Cohort 1 has moved on to job training and exploring volunteer and employment opportunities while Cohort 2 - a second group meeting at St. James United in downtown Montreal - is now beginning the process.



...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.

Gathering at the Table

Our wider community gathered last April at St. James United for Passover, Easter and Esra Walmiraj. Over 100 guests from a wide variety of backgrounds learned about different Jewish, Christian and Muslim customs celebrated at this time of year.



Conversations with Muslims

Partnering with McGill University, this initiative in 2017 brought together local Montrealers and those of the Islam faith to raise awareness and build bridges.

With that same goal, we invited Imam Terkawi to address the St. James and MCM communities following the Quebec City Mosque massacre in January. In light of ongoing hate crimes and integration challenges, our inter-faith network is showing the way forward in solidarity, compassion and love.

Blue Metropolis Literary Festival

The MCM community of friends is overflowing with talent. And one of the fastest ways to integrate a new society is to be offered a space to give back and feel appreciated. To that end we have established an exciting partnership with the iconic *Montreal Blue Met Literary Festival* and in 2017 were able to showcase refugee rappers, poets, dancers and a Syrian calligrapher.



... since 1910



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A United Church of Canada Community Ministry



Annual Report 2017

On a hot summer day last June, we took a break from camp staff training on the steps of St. James United. The smiling faces you see in the photo reflect the joie de vivre of the Camp counsellors that is transmitted to the campers throughout their six weeks together... having fun, making friends and growing up with confidence. With locations in downtown Montreal and Roxboro on the West Island, Camp Cosmos continues to expand as do other innovative MCM projects as well as our essential legal services, the highlights of which you will read about in this report.

Our new SAGE mission model guides all our endeavours through Service, Advocacy, Gathering and Eunoia - establishing the seeds of friendship. And it is that growing MCM community of friends that demonstrate what is possible when we put our resources to work assisting the most vulnerable while creating the space for celebrating gifts, talents and spirit.

Rev. Paula Kline, Director

... disponible en français

Youth Programs

Camp Cosmos

The numbers speak for themselves. Camp Cosmos - MCM's oldest running program founded in 1972 - has the wind in its sails. After establishing a second site on Montreal's West Island in 2016, our two locations continued to grow and flourish in 2017. Newly arrived refugee children as well as those from local families get to know one another's cultures through play, science, music and art - forming friendships that well may last a lifetime. Closer links with other MCM programs as well as an easy access on-line registration form are making this unique summer experience available to an increasingly wider public. Go! Cosmos! Go!



By the Numbers	2015	2016	2017
Campers	73	106	121
Counselors	6	10	18
Shadows	4	5	8
Counselors in training	6	5	7
Shadows in training	3	3	3
Campers with special needs	9	11	14
Syrian refugees	0	23	28
Refugees from US Border	0	0	12
Campers attending free of charge	0	23	40
Languages spoken	15	17	27

Kid Zone

Launched in 2016, this new initiative hit its cruising speed in 2017 with a series of structured activities providing weekend fun for kids and families from Camp Cosmos, Women Weaving their Dreams as well as MCM's larger community of friends.

Outings included:

- Montreal's Fine Art Museum (portraiture workshop)
- Biodome
- Botanical Gardens 2X (Chinese Lanterns Light Show & Butterflies)
- Fête des neiges (skating)
- Montreal Science Centre
- Snowshoeing



Every Kid Jam

The purpose of EKJ is to provide a space for local and refugee youth to connect, play music, dance, and plan activities together. With minimum participation on the part of MCM staff, this informal network has taken root and now the adolescents organize their own activities as well. A mixture of English, French, Korean, Spanish and Arabic is spoken as this multi-cultural group discovers Montreal and each other. And that's not all! - some of the youth volunteer at MCM events and also now work at Camp Cosmos as counsellors-in-training.

Zone Ado

A new partnership was established in 2017 with *École Louis Joseph Papineau* in the St - Michel burrough to provide hip hop workshops (break dancing, beat boxing and rap) to 30 new students in the welcome classes (classes d'accueil).

Just Solutions

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



Clara Michelle's journey to safety and a life with hope has been long and arduous. She arrived in Montreal at the age of 13 but five years later her family was deported although the JS team had already begun work on a Humanitarian and Compassionate application. That application was accepted in 2015. Unfortunately a religious community that was housing Clara in Mexico withdrew their support and she risked becoming homeless. Thanks to the generosity of our network, we were able to send a monthly stipend to keep her afloat. In May 2017, Clara returned to Montreal to build a new life in a safe environment as a transgender woman.

Roger Snelling Clinic Mobile Legal Service for Seniors

Daniel arrived in Canada in 2009. He immediately began integrating Canadian life through obtaining employment as well as volunteering at a seniors' residence. We submitted a humanitarian application in 2015 and continued to support Daniel for the following 2 years. The good news arrived in 2017 that he had been accepted as a permanent resident. He will now be able to visit his daughter and grand-daughter who live close by in the U.S.



Wagner also hails from Haiti. In 1974 he was granted permanent resident status but failed to apply for Canadian citizenship. He fell on hard times and experienced a 10 year period of homelessness. He came to the Roger Snelling Clinic in 2011 and we submitted a Humanitarian application on his behalf in 2012. The thought of being separated from his children and grand-children and returning to Haiti after a lifetime in Canada caused him enormous stress. Thanks to the cooperation of a worker at the Canadian Border Service Agency, we were able to straighten out his file and in July 2017 Wagner was finally accepted as a permanent resident. He is thrilled to be able to remain in Canada surrounded by his family.

Statistics JS 2017

Comparison 2016-2017	2016	2017
No. of consultations	3502	4681
New clients	327	319
Total clients	365	351

Total number served: 351 (211 women, 127 men, 3 transgender, 10 unknown)
Total of new clients: 319 (193 women, 114 men, 2 transgender, 10 unknown)

Improving Community Response to Vulnerable Migrants
(Former aujourd'hui pour mieux aider demain: Renforcement de capacités des intervenants sociaux travaillant auprès des migrants vulnérables)
16 workshops were organized by the JS team for **102 front line workers** in **21 community agencies** on: Health and Immigration & Sponsorship and Domestic Violence. In light of the success of this project, 2 additional workshops will be offered in 2018.
We thank the Quebec Minister of Justice (Bureau du Fonds Accès justice) for their support.

Statistics RS 2017

Number of consultations: 1235 (vs 1200 in 2016)
 Number of persons served: 56
 New clients: 38
 Individuals with a severe health problem (physical or mental): 8
 Student interns: 16
 7 social work, 8 law, 1 Theology & 5 student volunteers
 Academic Institutions: McGill University, Université de Montréal, Centre for Christian Studies (Winnipeg)

Workshops with Seniors in the wider community

Date	Place	Theme	Ind #
Jan 5	Loonies Seniors, Beaconsfield	Grieving - Myths and Realities	19
Feb 4	Trinity & East End Churches	Celebrate Past, Present & Future	33
Feb 25	Northlea/Rosemere	Loss & Living	25
Mar 8	OWLS, Lennoxville	Loss & Living	23
Mar 18	Ste Genneviève UCC	Loss & Living	20
Nov 6	Saint Columba House	Loss & Living	10
Dec 6	Saint Columba House	Perte et Vivre	3

