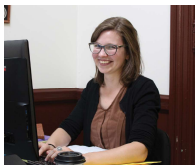


Student Leadership ...training student interns and volunteers in front line work

What an opportunity for a young lawyer! Following my international internships in Latin America and Europe, I realized I needed experience on my home turf. Volunteering at Just Solutions is providing me with the opportunity to help people in Montreal navigate our complex legal immigration system. These brave men and women are often faced with seemingly insurmountable barriers (legal, social, financial, language etc.) and have often exhausted all of their resources. Assisting them as they work towards a new, safe life in Canada is extremely rewarding, both as a professional and as a human being. Thank you Montreal City Mission!

Genevieve Binette, volunteer lawyer



What an eye opener! As a legal intern at Just Solutions, I am beginning to see the complexities and intricacies of immigrating to Canada. From refugee claims to sponsorship to deportation – there is always an exception to the rule! This in turn keeps me on my toes as there is never a standard answer to provide. I am particularly happy that I get to experience the human side of law here at the clinic. Meeting with clients enables me to get a thorough understanding of their situation and the immensity of what is at risk. Each client has a different story and being part of their journey is both humbling and fulfilling.

Alizeh Ladak, McGill University, Law



I am a young passionate person, I aim to be an international social worker, I adore helping people, so I thought Montreal City Mission (MCM) would be a good place to start nourishing my passion and growing it! I love this place, love everyone's kindness and generosity as they teach and provide the best possible training. Now that my internship is over, I hope to stay on as a volunteer, Maybe in the future, MCM will accept me as a member of its wonderful staff family!

Rameh Shirazi, volunteer



From my first day at MCM, I was greeted with warmth and enthusiasm from the staff and interns. I saw quickly how MCM's strength comes from the passion, dedication and respect that staff show for all people. When approaching complex situations, the team works with the client to find the best solution. At the two clinics, I was presented with situations that pushed me out of my comfort zone as challenges were re-framed into opportunities for growth and learning. It has been a privilege to witness the positive impact that the MCM team has on the lives of so many people every day!

Paul Vincent, University of Manitoba, Social Work



Working at MCM in my last hectic semester of studies was stress relieving. The welcoming, multicultural and altruistic ambience here is what every one of us desires to see in the world. This opportunity was an eye-opening experience for me to understand the miseries innocent and displaced people face in order to reach a safe land. As a communication student, I am inspired to make a difference and as an immigrant, the experience has taught me to be more patient, forgiving and grateful.

Hoda Toudeshki (left in photo), Concordia University, Communications

MCM News



MCM staffers represented both the Christian and Muslim traditions as part of an inter-faith panel at the annual Martin Luther King Day Breakfast held during Black History Month in February at City Hall.



MCM partnered with colleagues at Action Refugee Montreal and the UNHRC to organize World Refugee Day 2016. The annual walk on June 18th was followed on June 20th by a gathering at City Hall. Kudos to MCM staffer Olga Houde and her colleagues for a job well done!



In March, MCM organized two film projections of the documentary 'The Oka Legacy: 25 years after' at McGill University and St. Lambert United Church. Producer Sonia Bonsplille-Boileau was joined by First Nations leaders in a panel discussion following the screenings to explore how the 1990 Oka Crisis transformed contemporary Indigenous identity in Canada.

In the News!

The media was out in full force at the first inter-faith public Iftar on St. James Square in June. Interviews with the United Church Moderator, Rev. Arlen Bonnar and MCM staff appeared on TV, in the newspaper and online, in both English and French. At the event, a joint prayer for peace was offered by Moderator Cantwell and Imam Mahdi Terkawi. Over 200 Montrealers then joined in the celebratory fast breaking with dates, milk and other delicacies – taking a small but important step towards inter-cultural harmony.



For over a century Montreal City Mission has been a place that welcomes the stranger – a place where 'God is at once guest, host and home.' That ministry of hospitality deepened this past year. From our core legal services to refugees and seniors, we are developing new ways of engaging individuals and families to become part of the wider community: wisdom shared by a senior as she mentors her peers; joy expressed by a young Syrian camper who has found love and not hate; pride of an artist whose creation is celebrated. The word *renaissance* comes to mind as partnerships grounded in concrete actions are indeed fostering opportunities, excitement and a new vision for all involved.

Rev. Paula Kline, Executive Director

La Mission communautaire de Montréal
Montreal City Mission

A United Church of Canada Community Ministry

1435 rue City Councillors
Montréal, Québec H3A 2E4
Téléphone (514) 844 9128
Fax (514) 844 0067
www.montrealcitymission.org
montrealcitymission.blogspot.ca
www.facebook.com/montrealcitymission
@MtCI_Mission

* disponible en français

Camp Cosmos *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.



*"There is no hate here ... everyone loves!"
Salem, 11 years old*



Building bridges across culture and language in the West Island

This year we expanded **Camp Cosmos** into the West Island and welcomed 30 newly arrived Syrian refugee children, with a total of more than 100 campers between both locations.

Partnering with...

MAC (Muslim Association of Canada)

First Nations

West Island Black Community Association
other cultural communities....

....Camp Cosmos continues to be an eco-friendly, multilingual, multicultural day camp...where friendships are formed & memories made!



Salem has spent the last 2 years living in camps from Syria and Jordan to Lebanon. When asked to name the biggest difference for him here in Canada, he replied with a grin "traffic lights with red, yellow and green." He then proceeded to share his second thought. As he struggled to find the words in French, he said "there is no hate here, everyone loves!"

JUST SOLUTIONS LEGAL CLINIC

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

Conflicts raging around the globe often lead to mass displacement and long-term family separation. An important part of our mandate is to reunite families.



This past Mother's Day was one of celebration for Sandra and her daughter Chabbi – together after years of agonizing separation, thanks to the hard work of MCM staffer Rick Goldman and former staffer Yolaine Williams (shown with her own daughter Anna). This story is also an eloquent testimony to the power of hope, perseverance and parental love in the context of family separation.

A family includes different generations but not under Canadian immigration law. There is currently no automatic right for reunification of extended families. In this case former Just Solutions staffer Andrea Dawes helped "Granny" Ines (left) to sponsor her daughter Kirna (right) and granddaughter Zoe (centre), based on humanitarian and compassionate considerations. Kirna and Zoe arrived in Montreal from Gabon in June.



Roger Snelling CLINIC

Mobile legal service & programs for refugee, immigrant and Canadian born seniors



After repeated harassment and violence, Cecile was forced to flee her home country of Burundi in 2011, leaving her husband and family behind.

Her refugee claim was accepted in Canada in 2012. Sadly her husband died in 2014 before they could be reunited. The Snelling Clinic is working with Cecile on a humanitarian and compassionate application to enable her eldest daughter to come to Canada.

LIFE GIVING CONVERSATIONS

Safe Proofing One's Home



*"Gathering together in community allows us to share and celebrate knowledge, experiences and wisdom."
Lisa Byer de Wever*

Today people are living well into their 80s, 90s and beyond. By making changes to our surroundings, the number of falls among seniors can be greatly reduced. Sharing together easy tips and tricks to maintaining independence and freedom was the focus of our conversation at Northlea United in Laval last spring.

Coping with Grief and Loss

In May, new MCM staffer Evelyn Miller led a series of conversations at the Manoir St-François in Lennoxville entitled:

"Learning to Dance in the Rain-Living with Loss".

The 6 sessions centered on the many challenges participants faced, from difficult decisions regarding their loved ones to limitations imposed by chronic illness, as well as individual strategies for maintaining an affirming way of life.

The initial group, ranging in age from 80 to 93, now wants to act as mentors for the next group!

"I was struck by the burden of ongoing sorrow these folks were shouldering alone and how quickly they found relief in opening up to peers in a safe and supportive environment."

Evelyn Miller

Maa'n / Ensemble is a new initiative developed in the wake of the Syrian refugee crises that aims to facilitate integration through concrete projects and inter-cultural partnerships

Child Friendly Space



...where we gather together Syrian refugee children with new friends through play and educational games at the Al Rawdah Community Center in Ville St-Laurent

National Social Innovation Challenge



...where we presented our AKA project (Al Ma'un/Kindness App) that will bring together refugee and First Nations youth to map and post acts of kindness in Montreal

Montreal International Restaurant Day

...where we sold Middle Eastern delicacies to raise money for Camp Cosmos



Blue Metropolis Literary Festival



...where we organized 3 workshops with Syrian & Middle Eastern authors, poets and professionals at this internationally acclaimed festival

First Public Inter-Faith Iftar in Montreal

...where we gathered with the Muslim Association of Canada and the United Church Moderator, Right Reverend Jordan Cantwell, on St. James Square to break the Ramadan fast



Hand Painting Activity



...where MCM volunteer **Sinthusha Kandia** painted the hands of newly arrived Syrian Refugee women. Sinthusha and her Divinart Foundation also raised money to purchase art supplies for Camp Cosmos