

Maa'n / Ensemble

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

Women Weaving their Dreams

The dynamic *WWD* group continued honing their cooking skills and catering to a total of 23 public and private events in 2019 to the delight of hundreds of guests. We are happy to report that three of the women in the first cohort have moved on to full time employment, while many more newcomers joined the ranks, participating not only in *WWD* but in other MCM programs and events. In response to a request from the group, we began organizing a sewing circle that was launched in early 2020. Next steps include consolidation and expansion of our current structure that will include the development of an online presence.



Seasons / Saisons

Maa'n coordinator Anwar Alhjoor spent the spring and summer of 2019 connecting with newcomer seniors in downtown shopping malls and coffee shops... discussing with them the challenges of coming to Canada as a senior, their hopes and dreams, and what they felt they could offer their new home. Following that field research, the project *Seasons / Saisons* was launched in fall 2019 when a group of seniors began meeting weekly. Initial sessions on loss, grief, and healing provided invaluable support to those struggling with separation from loved ones as well as health issues. The caring and concern of group members for one another has been an inspiration to the wider MCM community of friends. Soon concrete projects began to take shape: cooking classes, a photo exhibit, and the creation of an original play that will recount the journey of a refugee family from Syria, to a camp in Jordan and finally settlement in Canada.



Community Connections

This program is a mix of our public outreach and advocacy, as well as our gatherings centered on shared conversation and food.

Good Neighbour

What a wonderful evening – with 90 guests joining us for a unique inter-faith/cultural/generational experience. The event was filled with thought provoking conversation, attentive listening, and simply getting to know one another on a deeper level.

Table discussion on how we give and receive hospitality - personally and collectively - were recorded and shared during the plenary. Religious, cultural, and linguistic divides were quickly forgotten as all the participants found common ground as good neighbours! In the words of one guest: "I had no idea where and what I was coming to. I find this amazing that such an event is taking place here in Montreal."



Rana Hammoud, photographer

We thank our partners St. James United, the Muslim Association of Canada, Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, photographer Rana Hammoud, and Mohawk elder Tom Dearhouse. And of course – all of our good neighbours!



Iftar with Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom and the Muslim Association of Canada welcomed 130 guests at St. James United in May 2019



300+ at 2019 Apple Picking Outing! A record!



A joint MCM and St. James United panel discussion for Peace Day: A Call to Community in a Changing World



Participation in Blue Met Literary Festival for 4th year running

Many thanks to Hakam Al Waheb and Lamis Barbari for designing the 2019 Annual Report



Montreal City
Mission
communautaire de Montréal



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

A United Church of Canada Community Ministry

At MCM, 2019 was a year of great innovation and community initiatives. I hope you enjoy reading through our many heart warming stories, and learning more about our programming.

The year 2020 marks the 110th anniversary of Montreal City Mission. To celebrate this milestone, we have designed a new logo that we hope reflects our United Church social justice roots, as well as our work with diverse faith and cultural communities. Whatever our background, we are all called to join together in compassion, hospitality and justice for one another, and especially for the most vulnerable among us. That vision and the actions it has inspired have had an important impact on thousands of individuals, families and on society, for over a century. With the help of the ever-growing MCM community of friends, it will continue to inspire and guide our work into the future.

Rev. Paula Kline
Executive Director

1435 rue City Councillors
Montréal, Québec H3A 2E4
www.montrealcitymission.org

montrealcitymission
(514) 844 9128
(514) 844 0067



Youth Action

This dynamic program includes activities focused on building connections and leadership skills for children and teens.

Camp Cosmos

At **Camp Cosmos**, swimming, hiking, soccer, cooking, dancing and yoga all kept our campers busy in 2019. The camp's holistic approach linked practicing sports with education on what fuels our bodies, while allowing campers to take their turn at gardening. Fun activities such as body mapping, therapy dogs and cooking classes enabled campers to explore and appreciate similarities and differences among themselves and staff. Raising awareness on indigenous history and issues along with discussing challenges faced by newcomers were also part of the program.



	2015	2017	2019
Campers	73	121	140
Counsellors	6	10	11
Shadows	4	8	9
Leaders-in-training	9	8	10
Campers with disabilities	9	14	10
Languages spoken	15	27	26

Our fantastic team of shadows and accessibility directors provided resources for children with special needs so they could integrate into the daily life of the camp... an important lesson in inclusion for all!

The new Montreal camp site at Westmount Park United was a delight with its location on beautiful Westmount Park. In Dollard-des-Ormeaux, we were welcomed once again by the Christian Reform Church – also close to parks in that area. Outing highlights included trips to Verdun Beach, UbiSoft and the Cap St. Jacques Nature Reserve where campers collected butterflies, ants and other insects along the Nature Alley.



Hybrid Identities: Meeting the Other in a World in Movement

MCM youth, together with their peers from Westmount High School and Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom, explored their individual identities and how to better understand one another – all through art. Their amazing creations were showcased at the Montreal Museum of Fine Art.



© Photo MMFA, Denis Farley

Muslim Awareness Week

A panel of 4 university and high school students with CBC host Sonali Karnick shared their struggles, ideas and dreams for the future during a MAW youth panel at St. James United.



Student Interns



End of term potluck in December 2019

"The opportunity to work as an intern at the *Just Solutions Legal Clinic* was truly the highlight of my final year at McGill University's Faculty of Law. At *Just Solutions*, I was able to see a different side of the legal profession, one that centered on the core values of the Montreal City Mission which include compassion, inclusivity, honesty, and respect. I was reminded of the reason I came to law school in the first place and felt a renewed sense of commitment to social justice. I am extremely grateful to the Montreal City Mission and, in particular, Rev Paula Kline, Olga Houde, and Louise Olivier for making this opportunity so meaningful and special." **Kelsey Ayow**

McGill Law 5
 McGill Social Work 2
 McGill Anthropology 1
 Université de Montréal 3
 Social Work
 Dawson College 1
 Social Services
 United Theological 1
 College

Legal Clinics

MCM's two legal clinics provide free information and services to vulnerable populations.

Just Solutions Clinic

The *Just Solutions Clinic* provides free legal information, rights advocacy and accompaniment to vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and families in the domain of refugee and immigration law.

	2018	2019
Total cases	436	357
No. of interventions	3555	4679

This year at the clinic a total of 318 new individuals were served, of whom 59% were women.



This happy couple finally received their permanent residency in October 2019. "We wouldn't have made it without the help of Louise and Mylène from *Just Solutions* as well as the organization Doctors of the World", said the mom. A new chapter began in the life of this family – one being written with joy, confidence and in safety. We wish them all the best!

The Gonzales family have been endeavouring to build a safe life for themselves in Canada since 2009. During ten years, they were swindled out of their money by unscrupulous individuals offering assistance, and not fulfilling their commitments. In June 2019, Doctors of the World asked *Just Solutions* to take over their file right after their humanitarian application was accepted at the first stage. In January 2020 the family became permanent residents.



Vulnerability factors

Health issues (physical or mental)	26%
Domestic violence	16%
Single parent families	15%
Children with special needs	7%
Homelessness	7%

Top areas of intervention

Humanitarian applications	22%
Refugee claims	16%
Permanent Residency	13%
Sponsorship	11%
Work Permits	9%
Family Reunification	8%

Roger Snelling Seniors' Clinic

The *Roger Snelling Seniors' Clinic* is a free legal information clinic that specializes in information and services in immigration and administrative law to a low-income immigrant population, as well as Canadian-born seniors, aged 55 and up.

	2018	2019
Total no. of cases	162	47
Consultations	505	555

This year at the clinic a total of 41 new individuals were served, of whom 68% were women.

Vulnerability factors

Severe physical or mental health issues	59.5%
Major financial problems	25.5%
Domestic violence & elder abuse	6.4%

Top areas of intervention

Humanitarian applications	32%
Non immigration needs: (housing, social benefits, elder rights)	32%
Family reunification	10%

Principal regions of origin

Canada	27%
Sub Saharan Africa	24%
Caribbean	15%
Middle East	10%
Asia	10%
Central and Latin America	7%
Northern Africa	7%

Estelle was accepted as a refugee in Canada but her daughter Rosie was not, causing grief within their small family unit. On two occasions, Estelle applied for permanent residency for herself and her daughter without success. The *Roger Snelling Seniors' Clinic* took over her case and in December 2019, the two women's application for permanent residence in Canada was eventually finalized. After several long years of uncertainty and stress, Estelle is now enjoying life with her daughter and her grand-son.

