

YOUTH ACTION

A dynamic program that includes activities focused on building connections and leadership skills for children, teens and their families.

Camp Cosmos...

...continued to innovate in 2020 with its accessible childcare approach during the COVID-19 pandemic. Follow-along videos were posted each week throughout the summer for campers, their families and others to watch and enjoy, with activities ranging from exercise to baking and art. We hosted a handful of distanced family gatherings and online workshops, including two free barbecues in Angrignon park, a puppet show at Saint James United Church, and a DJ workshop over Zoom! As was the case with many organizations, growth during the pandemic was put on pause this past summer as we learn to navigate this new norm.



We look forward to picking up where we last left off in 2019, when we were able to host 140 campers at our two locations, and created lasting memories together. Here's to an even more fruitful 2021!

Friends of the Family

On a crisp, sunny Saturday last February, a fearless group of 15, aged 5 to 35, got out on the ice for their first time. What a blast! A big thanks to our Friends of the Family volunteer coordinator, McGill law student Julia Green, to McGill students Matt and Andrew, for using their hockey player skills to teach the kids how it's done and to MCM staffer Arwa Nofal.



SHAKING THE MOVERS...

...a large MCM newcomer youth cohort joined their peers at Concordia University last January to discuss how to improve their schools and their education - everything from the urgent need to clean and repair old bathrooms to including a greater focus on diversity and First Nations history in their courses. Today's leaders – tomorrow's decision makers!



MCM NEWS



MCM LIVE!

MCM staffer Arwa Nofal, was interviewed on CBC evening news last April for the Good Neighbour Mask project. Great job Arwa!



Apple & Corn Picking Outing

Before the October lockdown, we gathered together 72 families from our community for an apple and corn picking outing, with family bubbles, masks and social distancing. It was a much appreciated breath of fresh, country air, with lots of delicious apples and corn to take back home along with vitamin D stored up for the winter months.

Muslim Awareness Week At City Hall

MCM Director, Paula Kline and St. James pastor, Arlen Bonnar, were invited to address the press conference at Montreal City Hall for the launching of Muslim Awareness Week in January of this year.



NEW MCM ELDER-IN-RESIDENCE

A heartfelt welcome goes out to our new MCM Elder-in-Residence, Val Shannon, who just joined elders Renate Sutherland and Robert Verrall. Val, as long-time supporter and former board member, we have always appreciated your wisdom and will continue to call on you in this new role!



ON THE MOVE

Our fall fundraiser for the Just Solutions Legal Clinic raised just under \$3,000 for its first edition in September. MCM faithful supporters biked, walked, jogged and played golf as they raised funds for our work with vulnerable migrants. Our partners in this new endeavour at Action Refugee Montreal were also successful. Many thanks to one and all!



TRANSMISSION 2020

disponible en français



Montreal City
Mission
communautaire de Montréal



montrealcitymission
(514) 844 9128
(514) 844 0067
www.montrealcitymission.org
1435 rue City Councillors
Montréal, Québec H3A 2E4

MCM LEGAL CLINICS

Just Solutions Clinic...

...provides free legal information, rights advocacy and accompaniment to vulnerable individuals and families in the domain of refugee and immigration law.



In 2010, Alicia fled violence and death threats in Mexico, seeking asylum in Canada. Her initial request filed in 2011 was refused in 2013. Due to her lack of status, Alicia has had difficulty finding employment and has often had to work for less than minimum wage in dangerous conditions, suffering harassment and threats from one employer when she complained about lack of worker safety. In July of this year, worried about lack of news on her Humanitarian & Compassionate application submitted in 2017 by her lawyer whom she had paid a considerable fee, she contacted JS. We reviewed the file and found it to be incomplete and most likely heading for a final refusal.

We submitted a detailed update in July and only a few days later, we were contacted by Immigration Canada informing us that Alicia would receive her permanent residency based on our update. She officially became a resident in September of this year. The future is now brighter for this brave young woman.

Roger Snelling Seniors' Clinic...

... specializes in immigration and administrative law for a low-income immigrant population as well as Canadian-born seniors.

After 8 long years of uncertainty and waiting, Grace finally became a permanent resident in October 2020 after the Roger Snelling Clinic took over the process of her permanent residence application early 2018. We are relieved as is Grace that this stressful period is finally over and the future can now be embraced with peace and anticipation. We continue to work on this file, so that she can be reunited with 3 of her adult children and 4 of her grand-children whom she has never met, as quickly as possible. Congratulations Grace!



STUDENT LEADERSHIP...

...provides internships and leadership opportunities for students from law, social work, nursing and other disciplines in partnership with English and French universities as well as CEGEPS.

This fall, a group of five students from the McGill Ingram School of Nursing have developed 4 online workshops on health and well-being for members of the MCM Community of Friends and the Beaconsfield United Church Women's Collective to be held before the end of the year. Our heartfelt thanks to Christina Liang, Chloe Kuang, Madi Soldwisch, Nataliya Kuzmenko and Lilly Li for informing, empowering and strengthening our newcomer networks.



...and last spring MCM law intern Kelsey Ayow organized 2 online legal workshops for the Beaconsfield United Church Women's Collective on family law and domestic violence as well as general rights and responsibilities of refugees and immigrants, with over 100 participants in each workshop! Many thanks to Kelsey, her fellow McGill law student Robyn McDougal as well as refugee and immigration lawyer Daniela Dobrota.



With the possibility of friendship at the heart of our endeavour, our first step was to encourage the growth of a public which cares for the downtrodden yard that surrounds the church and for the many lives which call the yard home. In late July we gathered in that yard, what we now are calling the St. James Tiny Forest, and discovered how this biodiverse space is brimming over with friendship across different species.

As we continue to take care of our tiny forest, we are endeavouring to educate ourselves and others on environmental care through our new **GSV media channel**, and by exploring how friendship can function as a beacon as we grow and work in our small piece of inner city land.



Green SAGE Vert, a joint project of the St. James-MCM Community of Friends, and supported by the United Church of Canada Foundation, is an offshoot or tendril of MCM's framework for mission and social action called SAGE (Service, Advocacy, Gathering, Eunioa - planting the seeds of friendship), whose broad aim is to live with respect in creation and from which is gleaned its mission of ecological care.



MAAN/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.

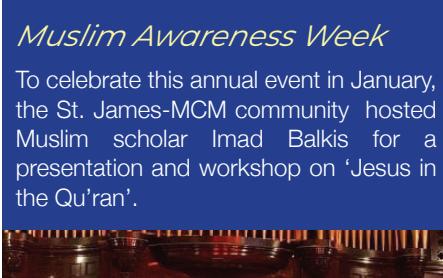
THE GOOD NEIGHBOUR MASK

Over 1000 masks have been distributed thus far to front line organizations and individuals on low incomes. Kudos to the amazing newcomer women in our sewing circle - some of whom have recently arrived from Yemen, Sudan, Egypt, Palestine and Syria - and already are making a contribution!



Connecting...Learning...Moving in the park

In order to stay connected, continue learning and remain healthy, we launched two programs this summer in an NDG city park: *Exercise and Beyond* and *Parlons français au parc*. With something for every age group, our projects were received enthusiastically. They have since moved online with the cooler weather as we continue to build community during Covid.



Muslim Awareness Week

To celebrate this annual event in January, the St. James-MCM community hosted Muslim scholar Imad Balkis for a presentation and workshop on 'Jesus in the Qu'ran'.



Supporting The Community

School supplies and two rounds of grocery boxes have been delivered to our community of friends who are struggling during this time.



SEASONS/SAISONS Newcomer Seniors' Group

Hassan, one of our senior leaders, remains active and positive during the pandemic, taking an online business course and connecting with our first cohort as well as new seniors to ensure needs are met, isolation is broken and the community remains strong. He will also be joining our upcoming English course. What an inspiration for young and old alike!