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Message from the Board

It has been a busy summer.

For many people, summer is a time of vacation, beaches, and terraces in the sunshine. While this is no different for most of our board members, we also spent a significant chunk of our time initiating and planning new fundraising and distribution activities for WIM (see Spring Fling! And It's beginning to look a lot like..., both on pg 3). The food has been moving off of our shelves at an unprecedented date.

Further, there have been a number of personnel changes at the board level (see To Everything there is a Season on pg 2). Marlene Gallant and Steve Watts are

stepping off the board after making significant contributions to the lives of the people of the West Island through WIM. We thank them both for their hard work and unique contribution to our mission.

In the same breath we welcome new board member Renada Dekker, who comes to the Board after participating in a number of distributions and acting as our point of contact with First Christian Reform Church in Dollard-des-Ormeaux. Renada brings a wealth of administration experience, and we look forward to working with her.

After 2+ years with WIM, most of that as President, I am very

please to see that WIM continues to make a difference. We are working to address the challenges to our continued operation, and we are seeing fresh and new faces coming on as volunteers and board members. These people will help to chart a course for WIM to continue to serve recipients on the West Island, to ensure our support is wisely used, and that WIM remains accountable to supporters and recipients.

As always, feel free to contact us at wimmoi@hotmail.com

Darren Sleep,
President and Chair,
West Island Mission

Making a Difference – One Recipient at a Time

As the West Island communities of Montreal transition through this last economic recession, it seems an appropriate time to remember the purpose of WIM and why we exist.

WIM's primary goal has always been to provide food resources to families across the boroughs of the West Island of Montreal on an "as needed" basis, without fostering dependence, in a caring, respectful and dignified manner. Year after year the Mission has continued this effort, delivering around 1000 baskets of food annually to

families in the West Island.

If you are a long time supporter and/or contributor to WIM through either financial, foodstuff or time contributions, we appreciate your help.

While running a food bank is never the most optimistic task, the moments that we live for are when we see the results of this work come to fruition. We have seen volunteers come from the ranks of our recipients who desire to give something back. Recipients occasionally call our voice mail box just to say they appreciate our help, but they have come through their hard times and

no longer need our services.

Unfortunately, while our services are always appreciated, they are also always needed. Our delivery schedule continues to fill up every week. With the demand continuing, we appreciate that our sponsors continue to support us.

Financial contributions are always in demand (see page 3 for how to donate), and information on how to donate food will soon be available on our website, or call our phone line and leave us a message if you would like to donate food.



*“When a man dies
he clutches in his
hands only that
which he has given
away during his
lifetime.”*
- Jean-Jacques
Rousseau, Swiss
Philosopher



To everything there is a season...

As you look outside your window, the changing of the seasons is perhaps no more evident than now. Bright hues of red yellow and orange assault the eyes as leaves fall, geese start winging their way south, and the mercury (for those of you who remember mercury thermometers) starts to fall.

Things at WIM are no different. Since our last distribution (Spring 2009) we have had three changes at the Board level. Our longest serving director, Steve Watts, has

left the board to pursue other ministries. Steve has been a workhorse and staunch supporter of WIM since its inception. His heart, guidance and spirit of enthusiasm will be sorely missed.

Marlene Gallant has also moved off the Board. Marlene brought strong leadership and helped WIM through a troubled time as it sought new direction and corporate footing. Her contribution to WIM was shorter, but no less significant.

But like the leaves that fall, change is as much about

renewal as it is about loss. Joining the Board is Renada Dekker. Renada comes to WIM with background in administration, which will no doubt be useful as WIM continues its operations. Renada has already served WIM as its liaison person at 1st Christian Reform Church, helping to keep the folks there aware of the need and direction of WIM.

At WIM's Board we wish to express our deepest gratitude to Steve and Marlene, and welcome Renada as she comes on board. We're looking forward to continuing the good work we've started!

Happy Birthday! Can WIM come to your party?

Ok, before you start sending us your birthday invitations, let me explain...

WIM's director of food distribution (Wendy Garipey) was pleasantly surprised recently when she was contacted by a local family who had come up with an interesting way to teach their children about charity.

As part of their birthday parties, youngsters had

invited their friends to forgo bringing presents to their parties and instead bring non-perishable food items. And bring them they did!

The family had only one request: the birthday child wanted to bring the food donation to WIM, check out the food bank and see how we ran our operations. Needless to say, we were more than happy to oblige!

And a little child shall lead them....

This sort of idea has a way of catching on, and WIM was subsequently contacted by several other families with the same idea.

At WIM we not only want to celebrate this "random act of kindness" but to spread the word. Should you wish to collect food in a similar manner, we would love to hear from you.

And Happy Birthday, by the way!

About West Island Mission...

West Island Mission was founded in February 2005 by Eric Tetreault.

Our purpose is to help

alleviate poverty on the West Island of Montreal through the provision of food and other aid to those in need.

WIM is a non-for-profit, non-denominational charitable organization.

WIM Corporate Sponsors:



Spring Fling – WIM’s Spring Distribution

The West Island Mission held its fourth annual Spring Distribution on Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18, 2009 for underprivileged families in the West Island.

This year almost 160 families were supported, and came out to fill up their families baskets with milk, vegetables, fresh produce, bread and cereals.

WIM responded to our recipients’ requests this year by providing cleaning

products to help with spring cleaning. Further, WIM felt that being green was important, and we provided materials and instructions on how to make simple clothes detergent by grating laundry soap bars and mixing the shavings with Borax. For those of you who missed in (or would just like to know how it is done!), here is the recipe:

- 1 cup grated bar of laundry soap
- ½ cup Borax
- ½ cup baking soda

Our WIM testers report that this recipe produces effective

laundry soap that is cheap, to purchase, phosphate free, and simple to make.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all of our sponsors, donors and volunteers alike for helping make this distribution happen, and the folks at Ascension Christian Fellowship Church for providing their space for our work.

It’s beginning to look a lot like... AGAIN?!?!?

Can’t you just hear those three Chipmunks tuning up their vocal chords? Is someone in your house dusting off old Bing Crosby 45’s, and tuning up the old hi-fi? One look at the store shelves and one see the Halloween costumes have been replaced with the Christmas decorations.

Of course with dropping temperatures after Thanksgiving comes the inevitable hustle and bustle of Christmas. For many, Christmas is a wonderful season, but for the less fortunate among us, Christmas brings stress, sadness, and disappointment.

WIM’s mission at this time of year is three-fold. We strive first of all to provide a bit of cheer and encouragement to as many families as possible through the distribution of ample food baskets and a few gifts. Second, we try and raise awareness of poverty in our midst at a time when people’s generosity and giving spirit is running high. Finally, Christmas is the time of year when many charities such as WIM count on their donors to

help keep them up and running during the leaner times of the year.

This year is no different. As in the past, WIM’s distribution will be occurring in mid-December (Dec 12), and will run out of Westview Bible Church.

For those of you who participated last year, it’s a great opportunity to lend a hand and help deliver boxes (last year we delivered to just under 300 homes!). For those out there with time or energy on their hands, there are many ways to help. Just drop us a line at wimmoi@hotmail.com and we’ll let you know!

Registration for recipients will take place on Tuesday, November 3rd and Thursday, November 5th, 2009 from 18h00 à 20h00 and Saturday, November 7, 2009 from 9h00 to 12h00 at the following 2 locations:

CLSC Pierrefonds
13800 boul. Gouin Ouest
Pierrefonds, Qc
H8Z 3H6

And
Centre Communautaire de Pierrefonds (est)
9665 boul. Bouin Ouest
Pierrefonds, Qc
H8Y 1R4

Contributing to WIM

Cash Donations

Cheque Donations (please make cheques payable to West Island Mission)

Pre-authorized Debit Donations (form available online at www.wimmoi.com)

Online Secure Credit Card Donations (available online at www.canadahelps.org)

West Island Mission

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.wimmoi.com

FORE a good cause – Women's Links

One of the best things about working to help others is the like-minded people and organizations that you end up working with,

Women's Links, a women's charity golf tournament held annually on the West Island, was founded a mere 2 years before WIM. Their primary purpose is to raise funds to support women and families in need on the

West Island.

Their desire to make a difference in the lives of local families meshes perfectly with WIM goals.

Again this year, WIM was invited to sell Mulligans at the tournament. While the ladies in the tournament gave generously, we suspect that owing to the proficiency of the women on the course not many of them were used.

Women's Links has also

contributed substantially to WIM directly from the proceeds of their activities, and their help has made a difference in not only WIM's ability to provide support, but also to numerous other like-minded charities on the West Island.

WIM would like to offer our thanks to Woman's Links, and hopes they to continue to stay, "In the course of helping others," for a long time to come.

Local Businesses, local support – and bagels!

As much as non-perishable food items are the mainstay of any food bank, it gives us great pleasure to be able to distribute breads, milk, and... bagels?

A local bagel shop, "R.E.A.L. Bagel," has graciously agreed to provide WIM with their overstock so that we can in turn put those bagels in the hands of those who can't afford to purchase

them.

This ancient Polish delicacy (did you know it was Polish? Look it up!) is much appreciated by our recipients, as it represents something that many of them would never be able to afford on their own means.

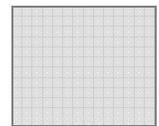
Such community leadership is much

appreciated, and we look forward to working with Real Bagel and the rest of our sponsors to continue improving the lives of the people of the West Island.



WEST ISLAND MISSION

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