



November 6, 2012

Volume 5, Issue 2

In this Newsletter:

- Message from the Board
- A Look Back...
- A Look Today...
- A Look Ahead...

West Island Mission Newsletter 5(2) 1-2

Message from the Board

Summer of 2012 will be one to remember for some time. Long (and hot) sunny days, with very little rain and yet it came and went quickly. I hope you got to enjoy some quality vacation time with your families and friends.

For West Island Mission, this summer was no different; we continued to deliver food baskets to our recipients every Saturday morning throughout June, July and August (even with some of our volunteers taking their summer vacations). WIM is

truly a community operation and I am constantly amazed with our volunteer base. On behalf of the Board, we are truly grateful to each and every one of you that help us out with your time, your financial contributions or food donations.

As you will notice, the format to our newsletter has changed; the content in the future issues for the time being will consist of three main sections:

- a look back – what has transpired with WIM over

the past couple of months

- a look at today – a present day snapshot of the day to day operations

- a look ahead – what to expect in the coming months

This is our first issue using this format and I welcome any feedback/comments you might have; please email, to my attention at our website: www.wimmoi@hotmail.com. Thanks!

Donald Harris,
President,
West Island Mission

A Look Back...

WIM Back to School Distribution 2012
On August 18th, West Island Mission held its annual Back to School Distribution. This year we had 173 families who attended the event, consisting of 769 people, of whom 382 were children aged 5-17 years old who attend school. Each of the children in elementary school was able to choose a backpack filled with the basic school supplies needed for the year. Highschool students also received the basic supplies and for the first time, this year we implemented a new option allowing them to choose either a new backpack or a gift card for Bureau en Gros to purchase other needed items.

As in past years, families also received fresh produce along with milk, bread & meat to help supplement their grocery bill for this expensive time of year. Thanks to a generous donation from Procter & Gamble, families received some toiletry items as well. Second hand clothing for children was collected

beforehand and offered to families that day. After taking several years off from collecting clothing for the event, WIM resumed the initiative. We're hopeful that this part of the program will grow next year with more donations of gently used 2nd hand children's clothing during the months prior to the event.
(cont'd on page 2)



Backpacks loaded with school supplies and ready for eager students!

A Look Back (con't from page 1)...



All in all, the event was a huge success thanks to the many volunteers, businesses & organizations that donated their time, energy & funds. There were many smiling faces that day as children went home proudly wearing their new backpacks and families thankful for the help offered them by their community.

share of pleasant surprises; it was with great pleasure that WIM was able to accept a cheque for over \$1300 from the Pierrefonds Day Camp. The money was raised by camp counselors who hosted a car wash and collected donations. Wendy Gariepy, Operations Manager and Mario DiCarlo, Board member, were on hand to thank everyone involved. It was a terrific achievement by these

young people and WIM was very grateful.

As well, this past summer marked the one year anniversary of WIM's move to its current warehouse and storage facility in Pointe Claire. Hard to believe over one year has passed but this much needed move to a more operational facility has allowed us to consistently service 30-40 families weekly.

This summer also had its

A look today...

WIM is currently serving up to 40 families (deliveries and pickups) weekly, which pretty well has us at capacity and we look diligently to ensure that this will continue. Below are the number of families assisted for August and September:

August – 124 families
September – 155 families

We have also had a change at the Board level as Kent Elvidge has stepped down as Treasurer this past September. In this role, Kent served well; he also served on our policy committee. Kent's financial expertise was also invaluable when the WIM board was in the process of selecting and negotiating our move into our new Pointe Claire warehouse. Kent's work as

Treasurer over the past 5 years has been extensive, and the Board would like to express our sincere gratitude.

The Treasurer position will be filled by Patrick Daniel: Patrick is a Chartered Accountant, who runs his own company and has authored a book. He has been involved in community and charitable endeavors for many years. We are very happy to welcome him to his new role.

“Charity begins at home, but should not end there.”

- Thomas Fuller, English churchman and historian (1608-1661)

A look ahead...

So what's on the horizon? Well, our annual Christmas basket distribution is taking place the weekend of December 7th & 8th @ Westview Bible Church (corner of Pierrefonds Blvd and St. Charles Blvd). This event is one that many of our volunteers and friends of West Island Mission look forward to and this year will be no different. If you have never been involved before, there are several ways to do so:

- Volunteer your time by either helping assemble baskets, picking up donated goods or delivering to recipients.

- Make a donation of food – to many of our drop off points around the West Island (look for our posters at IGA stores, some Tim Horton stores, Kirkland & Pierrefonds libraries) or by calling us to arrange a drop off at our warehouse (514-912-6813).
- Send a financial contribution – perhaps sponsor a turkey for \$20 or a Christmas basket for \$50. You can contact us via our website or telephone. Your donations will be used for the Christmas Distribution, as well as ensuring our

operations will continue into 2013.

In late March 2013, we will hold our 2nd annual Open House and General meeting. This will give you a chance to tour the warehouse, receive information on WIM's 2012 activities and enjoy some goodies. Stay tuned for more details, soon to be available on the website.

As always, we thank you for your help and support. Without this, West Island Mission would not be able to do what we do.



WEST ISLAND MISSION

P.O. Box 46539
RPO St-Jean Boulevard
Pierrefonds, QC
H9H 5G9
www.wimmoi.com
Ph : 514-912-6813

About West Island Mission...

West Island Mission was founded in February 2005.

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.