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## Message from the Board

February can be a month that means different things to different people. Some see it as winter is nearly over with spring just around the corner. Others might say winter is still here to stay, for a while at least, so embrace it. Still others just choose to ignore it entirely!

For our recipients, February can be one of the toughest months. Basic food and

grocery prices can rise dramatically during this month; the cost of importing fresh produce and meat, spiking fuel costs and extra transportation logistics all add to the increased prices. Meeting basic food needs becomes a greater challenge. West Island Mission is pleased to report that we continue to deliver generous food baskets to our recipient base. This is possible because of the

partnership we have with people like you in our community. With your support, be it financially or by volunteering your time, WIM continues to help make a difference in the lives of our West Island neighbors. As always, if you have any comments/suggestions, please feel free to email me out our WIM website.

Donald Harris,  
President,  
West Island Mission

## A Look Back...

When our Christmas committee met in the beginning of October 2012, they had no idea that they would end up preparing baskets for 274 families, a 30% increase over Christmas 2011.

On December 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, over 200 volunteers helped prepare, pack, load and deliver these 274 baskets. Here are some of the highlights:

- Our first ever "Sponsor a Turkey" initiative was very successful and we managed to raise all the money needed to cover the cost of buying a turkey for each family.
- 480 new toys were donated in a period of less than 4 weeks, allowing each child to receive a new, wrapped gift (for some it would be their only gift this year.)

- Many recipients were overwhelmed with the size & quality of the baskets and the kind spirit of the volunteers delivering it to their home. Calls came in the same day from recipients, several of whom were in tears as they shared their gratitude at the caring of others in their community.

- Food donations during the months of November & December were at an all-time high, allowing us to stock our shelves for 2013. This was in part due to food drop off locations at various Tim Horton's, city libraries, Metro and IGA grocery stores, businesses, etc. We are so grateful for their support during the Christmas season.  
*(cont'd on page 2)*



(Left) Boys Scouts from Troop 246 (Bois de Boulogne) helping assemble food baskets. (Above) Some of the 480 gifts that were delivered to children by volunteers on December 8, 2012.

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



After the Christmas distribution and one more week of regular food deliveries, West Island Mission took two weeks off for the Christmas holidays. On Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013, WIM resumed deliveries for the New Year.



*Some of the 200 volunteers who delivered baskets on December 8, 2012*

*“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”*

*- Mahatma Ghandi  
Indian Nationalist  
Leader  
(1869-1948)*

## A look today...

As 2013 unfolds, WIM continues to deliver to between 30-36 families weekly and the Board is presently deliberating on how to increase capacity since our recipient base is growing monthly.

This topic was discussed at length during our February

Board of Director's meeting and while a final conclusion was not reached, several options will be explored in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for results in our next newsletter.

But while numbers continue to grow, our donations help

us meet this growth. During Valentine's week, Laurie Corbett of Eighty Ate cakes donated the proceeds of Valentine day cupcake sales to West Island Mission. Laurie is hoping to make this an annual event. These types of donations allow us to continue to serve those in need.

## A look ahead...

We are excited to announce that we will be holding our second annual Open House on Thursday, March 21, 2013 from 5-7pm at our warehouse @ 139 Labrosse in Pointe Claire. During the evening you can take a tour of our facility, find out what WIM is doing, meet members of the Board and enjoy some refreshments/goodies. We hope to see you there.

While you're visiting us on the 21<sup>st</sup>, why not drop off all your no-longer-distributed pennies? While the Canadian Mint is no longer making them, we would be happy to take your pennies and

convert them into much needed relief for our needy neighbours. Why not put them to good use?

We are also pleased to announce that the West Island Becket Players have chosen WIM as one of the charities they will support with proceeds from their 2013 show called, "Gasoline and Matches". The performances will take place over the last weekend of April and first two weekends of May. For more info, visit [www.becketplayers.ca](http://www.becketplayers.ca).

As well, as the summer season approaches, we will

be gearing up for two of our major summer events: our June food drive "because hunger doesn't take a vacation", and our August Back to School Distribution

Watch for news of these events in our next newsletter and on our website. As always, we thank you for your continued help and support. Without this, West Island Mission would not be able to do what we do.



## WEST ISLAND MISSION

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### *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.