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## Message from the Board

Summer has come and gone; it seems every winter and spring we long for the days of sunshine that last into the evening, for those hot days to spend at the pool or beach or just take the time to relax and unwind from our usual routine. I hope you had a chance to do so this year.

Now we are well into the fall season and winter is just around the corner. The seasons may change but the circumstances for many of our recipients do not. Our weekly delivery numbers remain at historic highs for West Island Mission and these numbers aren't likely to change anytime soon. You will also read in this newsletter that our Back to School Event in August served 250 families including backpacks for over 500 students of elementary and high school age. These numbers also represented an historic high water mark for the organization.

Another challenge we faced during the summer was to continue to keep up with the increasing demand for our services. Our volunteers take their vacations as well and it can be a daunting task to keep up. But we do continue our work and I thank each and every one of you who went above and beyond during the summer season. For any of you that have not helped out with the deliveries before, why not consider giving it a try. You will be helping those in our community in need and you will feel good doing it, I promise.

You will also read about our upcoming Christmas Basket Distribution which will take place during the weekend of December 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. There are several ways you can help at Christmas – preparation, pickups, deliveries, etc.

As always, if you have any comments, suggestions or would like more information, please contact us by email at [wimmoi@hotmail.com](mailto:wimmoi@hotmail.com)

Thanks

Donald Harris

President and Chairman

## A Look Back...

On March 21/13 West Island Mission held its' 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Open House at our distribution and storage facility in Pointe Claire. Volunteers, supporters and friends of WIM gathered to talk with Board members to find out more about where WIM is going, along with its financial snapshot, and to enjoy some goodies. It was a great night and we look forward to next year's event.

June saw our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Food Drive "because hunger doesn't take a vacation". The purpose of the drive is twofold. One is to raise awareness of the idea that people in financial difficulty request help all year round and not just at Christmas time. The second is, of course, to help stock our shelves, which are sadly depleted by this time of year. Once again, thanks to the help from the community, this food drive enabled us to continue to serve our clientele through a very demanding summer/fall season.



On August 17<sup>th</sup>, WIM held its annual Back to School distribution. This year we saw an increase of 45% in the number of families served (251 families) and 40% in the number of backpacks distributed (537 backpacks). As well as the school supplies, families received fresh fruits and veggies, milk, bread, second hand clothing and various toiletry items.

**A LOOK BACK** (cont. on page 2)



Life's most persistent question is "what are you doing for others?"

*Martin Luther King Jr.*

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

Our families this year came from all different backgrounds – some were new immigrants to Canada, some were single moms or dads, some were out of a job for the first time in their lives and struggling to get by. The additional expenses of school supplies and clothes for the upcoming winter season, stretch what is already a very limited budget. Many of these families were deeply touched that we were able to help them out in this way. The success of the event was in great part due to over 75 volunteers giving of their time and energy.



*Back to School distribution*

## A Look Today...

### WEST ISLAND MISSION

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

WIM continues to meet our weekly target of serving between 30-40 families. We are also offering recipients the opportunity to come and pick up their food basket at our warehouse. This allows us to serve more families without overtaxing our delivery teams.

To give you an idea of our growth over the last year, the number of weekly baskets for April – September of 2012 was 706. During that same period for 2013, the number of weekly baskets increased to 829. Based on present requests, numbers continue to increase. The Board and our Operations Manager, Wendy, continue to explore ways and ideas to cope with this ever increasing need.



### *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.

## A Look Ahead...

It's hard to believe but November is here and that means our Christmas Committee is meeting and planning for our annual Christmas distribution which will take place at Westview Bible Church on Friday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, Dec 14<sup>th</sup>. This year we are expecting to provide baskets to approximately 270 families here on the West Island.

As mentioned before, there are many ways to help out with this exciting annual event, something the whole family can experience together. Help is always needed in the areas of collecting food, preparing the baskets and, of course, delivering them to the families on the list for this year. If this is something you have never seen before, you should consider getting involved this year. It is really awesome seeing the community come out, helping to achieve the success the event attains each year.

As well, we are once again running our "Sponsor a Turkey Drive" where, for a donation of \$20, you can put a turkey on the table of a family who might otherwise be without this holiday dinner staple. (\$40=2 turkeys, 60=3 turkeys, etc.) You can donate directly to the turkey drive online at this Canada Helps link <https://www.canadahelps.org/dn/16455> or mail a check to West Island Mission at PO Box 46539, RPO boul. St. Jean, Pierrefonds, QC H9H 5G9. Donations of \$20 or more will receive a tax receipt.

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