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## Message from the Board

I recently read an article about our past summer of 2014. The byline was entitled "a just right summer". This conclusion was reached based on a review of average daily temperature, rainfall, sunny days and low and highs. While for many of us it might have been "a just right summer", this was not the case for many of our recipients. However, as in previous years, WIM has been well positioned to continue to provide quality weekly baskets, even if the numbers have swelled above 40 families each week. You can read more below on how we have been able to make this happen.

As well in this newsletter, we will continue to feature a look back which will contain a report on our successful Back to School distribution held this past August. We will also have a Look ahead to our annual Christmas distribution to be held December 12 & 13. More details of this exciting festive event below.

Because of your help, whether financially or by volunteering your time, WIM continues to help make a difference in the lives of those around us. The Board of directors of West Island Mission thank you.

If you have yet to help out, why not make Christmas 2014 or year 2015 the time to do so. I promise you that the help you can bring others will be greatly appreciated.

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...

Thursday March 27 marked the date for our annual AGM, held at our Pointe Claire warehouse, which was attended by local politicians and government representatives from the municipal and Federal levels as well as some of our volunteers and those wanting to find out more about WIM. Attendees were able to meet with Board members one on one and also tour our facility. It was after this meeting that the Board officially welcomed Stewart Valin who had accepted joining WIM's Board of Directors. Stewart brings some Board member experience, having served on other West Island volunteer organization's boards. We look forward to his contributions to WIM.

During the weekend of August 16<sup>th</sup>, WIM held it's annual Back to School distribution. This year, 248 families were served during the event. 511 backpacks filled with supplies were handed out to children from Kindergarten to grade 11. Watching as excited kids get to choose a backpack – according to "their own" style, is always a highlight for many involved.

Families also received fresh fruits & veggies, milk, bread and some great toiletry items. Thanks to a generous donation from Procter & Gamble, this year, there was a special area for teenage girls, where **they** could "shop" for makeup and other girls stuff while teenage boys received an extra bag with some toiletry items just for them.

Over 80 volunteers participated and are the reason why the event was such a success. Because of all involved, 511 children started the school year with new backpacks, new **supplies and** a sense of self-esteem. Our hope is that these 3 things will help them achieve their best this school year.

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



"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

Mother Teresa

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

In early September, Alexandra Armstrong resigned from the Board after nearly four years of service to WIM. Alexandra came to WIM, first delivering weekly baskets and then helping out during our Back to School distributions. After accepting to join our Board, she became a voice of reason and interesting opinion, always bringing a fresh perspective to the conversation. The Board wants to thank Alexandra for her dedication and enthusiasm to WIM and wish her the very best. We will miss you Alex.....



Backpacks on display



Makeup & other teenage girl items on display for our girls to choose for themselves

## A Look Today...

Since our last newsletter in March the number of requests for our monthly support of food have continued to rise. From January to October 1408 baskets have been given out which is up by over 60 baskets from the same period last year. More families are now coming to pick up their food which has allowed us to increase the number we are able to serve. On average 4-6 **new** families are calling each week for help and the challenge remains on how to keep up with the demand.

## WHY DO WE DO IT?

*"When I made my first call to WIM, I was filled with shame, humiliation and guilt to be asking for a handout of food. However when your stomach is retching from both hunger and the stress of figuring out how to feed your children, you make the call. Through my tears and sobbing, WIM listened and came to my immediate assistance. I can't explain the feeling – after days of worry, hunger & stress...and suddenly you have bags of food. Tears again, but this time, tears of relief. I am forever grateful and thank WIM for being there for my family."*

## A Look Ahead...

Excerpt of letter sent to WIM

The days are getting shorter, the temperature dropping and pretty soon, the white stuff will start falling. That can mean only one thing – that WIM is gearing up for its annual Christmas distribution. This year's event will be held the weekend of December 12 and 13, 2014 at Westview Bible church. Our Christmas committee is already planning this anticipated activity, with recipient registration taking place in early November.

- There are so many ways you can **help** make our annual Christmas distribution a success:
- **make** a financial contribution or perhaps participate in our "sponsor a turkey" program.  
We have set up a direct link for this initiative making it easy to give.  
<https://www.canadahelps.org/dn/19476>
  - **come** assemble the baskets on the Friday or **assist** in moving goods from our warehouse to the Church distribution centre.
  - **deliver** a basket or two to our recipients. This is something many look forward to doing as a family.

If you have never helped at Christmas before, why not make 2014 the year to do so. We assure you that you will help bring some Christmas joy to those in need.

**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

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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.