



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

JAN 1 - DEC 31 2023

Presented by:

MICHELLE DEPOOTER

Lead Chaplain

WE RELY ON GLOBAL SUPPLY

Approximately 90% of all our material goods are sourced from other countries and transported to Canada via ship.

Despite our reliance on the seafarers who keep the global supply chain moving, these resilient men and women remain largely invisible to the average Canadian.



SHIPS WE SERVE



CONTAINER & CRUISE SHIPS, TANKERS, BULK CARRIERS

On average, ships coming to Montreal are 225 metres long. In comparison, the Eiffel Tower is 324 metres tall.



SCHEDULES

A ship travels at an average of 24 knots per hour and takes 10-20 days to cross the Atlantic (depending on the route).



CREW

The average crew on a merchant ship consists of 20 members who work around the clock in shifts, on average 12 hours/day – every day of the week.



WE DEPEND ON SEAFARERS

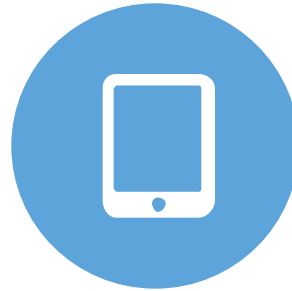
As seafarers work tirelessly to connect us with most of the goods we own and use — they themselves are isolated from family, friends and from the familiarity of their home countries.

LIFE AT SEA



FAR FROM HOME

1.6 million seafarers are typically out to sea and away from home for 6-9 months at a time – depending on their contract



ISOLATION

Many ships lack adequate telephone or Wi-Fi service, meaning that seafarers rely on time in port to contact friends and family



SHORE LEAVE

In many ports, seafarers must be granted shore leave even to have the opportunity to:

- Access data/free Wi-Fi
- Purchase personal items
- Interact with others besides their crew

PORT OF MONTREAL

The Port of Montreal is a hub of world trade and the economic engine of Greater Montreal.

The port is connected to more than 140 countries and welcomes ships during all 12 months of the year.



OUR PORT



HANDLES

34 million metric tons of cargo (2022), out of the 11 billion tons that are transported at sea, including:

- 40% Container Ships
- 36% Liquid Bulk
- 24% Dry Bulk



SIZE

Is the largest in Eastern Canada. It spans 26 KMs and:

- Welcomes 2000 vessels/year
- Contains 23 terminals
- Includes a terminal in Contrecoeur (66 KM away)



AMENITIES

Services on offer to meet the needs of seafarers who arrive in our port:

- Free transportation
- SIM cards/currency exchange
- Seafarers' Centre



www.ministrytoseafarers.org

OUR MISSION

The Ministry to Seafarers (M2S) is dedicated to enhancing the lives of seafarers regardless of race, religion, gender or rank, through ship visiting, advocacy and hospitality; showing and sharing Jesus' love by caring for their physical, emotional, spiritual and justice needs.

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

After several years of living with COVID-19, the need for hope felt more important than ever.

Our vision acknowledged that the way to cultivate hope begins in our own hearts and the way to get there is through spiritual practices. Only then can we share our hope with seafarers.



Vision 2023

To experience the hope of Jesus, through spiritual practices that open our eyes and enlighten our hearts.

JAN: Prayer; FEB: Scripture reading; MAR: Sabbath; APR: Service; MAY: Remembering; JUN: Wonder;
JUL: Celebrating; AUG: Listening; SEP: Hospitality; OCT: Generosity; NOV: Gratitude; DEC: Acts of justice & mercy



THE CHALLENGE

While the work itself and the dangers inherent to life at sea are both challenging, the greatest challenge faced by seafarers is loneliness.

A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE

We work in the harbour.

Covering the full breadth of our 26-km port, our chaplains, staff, interns and volunteers aim daily to meet the seafarers where they are – whether on ship or shore – to assist them in accessing our city, to connect with community and to receive spiritual or practical care as desired.

We also work to bring visibility to the value and presence of seafarers in our city through engagement with our wider Montreal community and beyond.



SHIP TO SHORE



CHAPLAINCY

Visiting on ship or shore provides a time for our chaplains to offer practical and spiritual support, a Bible or devotional or to pray with and for the crew.



SHIP VISITS

Our chaplains and volunteers visit each ship in port, offering a listening ear to seafarers who wish to talk about work, faith, personal joys and sorrows, or to share about family difficulties that are particular to those who spend long periods of time away from home.





TRANSPORTATION

For seafarers granted shore leave, the expansive 26 kilometre port presents its own challenge to accessing the city.

The only safe, reliable and affordable option made available to serve the seafarers is our free shuttle service - which goes anywhere in the port.



MAKING CONNECTIONS

During regular ship visits, we ensure that seafarers are able to purchase SIM cards which they can use in and out of port to connect with friends and family.



HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Through our partnership with Mariners' House, we invite seafarers to the Seafarers' Centre where they can purchase necessities, enjoy recreational activities, receive the care they need, attend a chapel service, visit with others and rest.



WARM CLOTHING

With many seafarers arriving directly from warmer countries, lack of warm clothing can often be the only reason they are not able to take shore leave.

Through donations of gently used warm clothing, we are able to offer items on loan or to keep - to help the seafarers stay in good health and good spirits.



ABOUT CHAPLAINCY

Our chaplains provide spiritual, pastoral and practical care to all seafarers by **building intentional relationships** with them.

Each interaction with a seafarer is different depending on how much time they have, what their needs are and how comfortable they feel talking with us.





DECADES OF CONNECTION

Twenty-two years ago Chaplain Michelle met a young child who was sailing with her father. This woman is sailing with her husband now. Upon learning of her trip to Montreal, her father asked her to see if Michelle was still working as a chaplain. After she and Michelle reunited, the woman called her family back in India and Michelle was able to reconnect with them more than 2 decades later!

JUSTICE & ADVOCACY

One of the shipping companies temporarily restricted shore leave on all their ships coming to Canadian ports. We reached out to the Montreal office of this company to express our concern. We also shared the information with ITF inspectors and others in seafarers' welfare around Canada who were also faced with the same situation in their ports.

This serves as a reminder of how important it is to be connected with the wider shipping community in Canada so that we can work together to the benefit of seafarers.

“

“Wow, thank you very much sir David. It was a big help to me and my family. God bless you Sir and good health so you can serve more seafarers coming here to Montreal.”

A seafarer from one of the restricted ships
that couldn't go ashore

”



SEAFARERS' CENTRE

We share office space with Mariners' House on the Grand Quai in the Old Port of Montreal.

In addition to housing our offices, Mariners' House also has the following amenities to serve seafarers:

SERVICES AVAILABLE ON-SITE



THE SEA CHEST

Refreshments, toiletries, souvenirs, SIM cards, currency exchange



RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Snooker and pool tables, foosball, table tennis, Karaoke



CHAPEL

Evening prayers, Mass or other religious services as requested (i.e. blessing of the ship)



FREE STUFF

Free transportation; free coffee; free lending library; free Bibles and literature; free winter clothes



EASY ACCESS TO THE CRUISE SHIP TERMINAL

A stone's throw from the Iberville cruise ship terminal, enabling convenient access for crews

BEING COMMUNITY

Through our partnership with Mariners' House, we are able to provide a community space that is familiar and full of life.

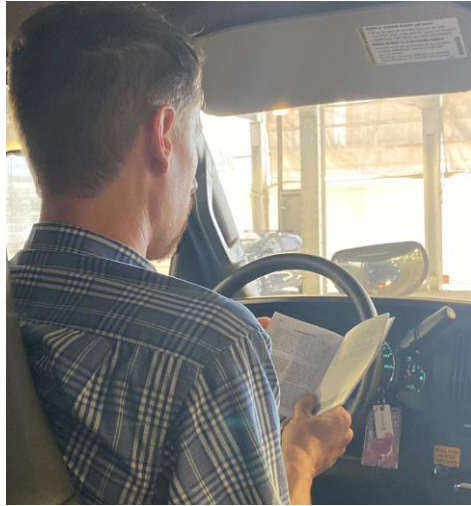


ENCOURAGEMENT

"It's so nice that seafarers are being remembered by their names, even after years. They surely feel special from the warm welcome that they get at the Seafarers' Centre each time, and the good work that all volunteers do for them. Surely looking forward to meeting you at the Centre on one of our future voyages to Montreal."

– Captain Felino D'Souza, M.V. Glasgow Express

2023 HIGHLIGHTS



JANUARY

SEAFARER VISITS

We had opportunities to comfort and connect with seafarers and their families after:

- the earthquake in Turkey;
- a seafarer's dad had a total hip replacement in Montreal;
- a 2-year absence from one of our regular seafarers, Vino



MARCH

UKRAINIAN POTLUCK

On Easter Sunday about 25 people attended a Potluck at the Centre. A group of newly arrived Ukrainians were able to connect, share food and as one said, *"enjoy relaxing. We are working too much!"*

PRAYER DRIVE

Staff and volunteers began the year with a prayer drive through the Port, praying for all the land-based workers and seafarers.

FEBRUARY



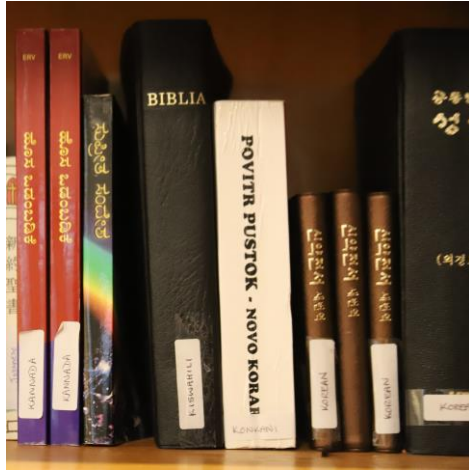
PREPARING EASTER GIFTS

Visiting students learn about the lives of seafarers and paint Easter eggs gifts for them. Another visiting group made the crates.

APRIL



2023 HIGHLIGHTS



MAY

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE SEAFARER

Thanks to a generous donation from *Montreal Mariner*, we were able to host celebrations at the Centre and 75 people attended including the crew of the *Vistula Maersk* (below).



JULY

VOLUNTEERS

Out-of-town and local volunteers came in July and August, bringing their photography, translation and administrative skills to help us serve seafarers.

DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS

At the Centre, the chaplain gave out Bibles and *Today for Seafarer* booklets. One of the crew members was live streaming his visit and showed his followers the devotionals, reminding them of the importance of reading the Bible.

JUNE



SUMMER INTERN

Alberto, a summer intern from Montreal Mission shadowed the chaplains. He also helped in migrating our devotional Blog content and scheduling it on our social media sites. It's being shared by other Seafarers' Centres now too.

AUGUST



2023 HIGHLIGHTS



SEPTEMBER

CHAPLAINCY

A year full of stories! With his friends egging him on, a seafarer asked us to teach him how to play Happy Birthday on the piano so he could record himself and send a video to his girlfriend on her special day.



NOVEMBER

CHRISTMAS PARCEL CAMPAIGN

Thanks to many generous donors, we delivered 1437 parcels to 64 ships and collected \$6745 towards virtual parcels.

4th ANNUAL SEAWAY BIKE TOUR

Our fourth annual fundraiser welcomed 21 riders and raised \$12,892 towards our work. Zubeyde and Sheila, our two volunteers, served a picnic lunch on beautiful Boucherville Island to all the riders.

OCTOBER



CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS!

Many wonderful people work behind the scenes to prepare for our Christmas campaign: sewing, knitting, purchasing, packing, sorting and crafting.

DECEMBER





JUNE 25th INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE SEAFARER

Day of the Seafarer 2023 highlighted seafarers' work to protect the marine environment around them.

“Seafarers bear witness every day to changes in the marine environment due to human activity – including from shipping.”– IMO.org

Montreal Mariners sponsored a buffet dinner, providing our community with an opportunity to celebrate and prioritize seafarers, show them hospitality and thank them for their work.

SEPTEMBER 28th: WORLD MARITIME DAY

Montreal Mariners—a group of retired seafarers—and **Robert Reford**, shipping agent, sponsored snacks throughout the day for any seafarers dropping in, and a buffet dinner at the Seafarers' Centre.

One ex-seafarer now working in the industry came to the party and said **of all the Centres in the world, the one in Montreal was the best.**



ROBERT REFORD



"MONTREAL MARINERS"

Seafarers' Centre Open House for

World Maritime Day

28 SEP | 1-8 PM

Free food & snacks





MINUTE-TO-WIN-IT SEAFARER EVENT



After a long hiatus due to COVID-19, we brought back Games night.

When chaplains and seafarers have fun together, it provides opportunity to share an experience, deepen relationships and start new conversations.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS

Thanks to generous donors and volunteers, each seafarer docking in the Port of Montreal receives a personal parcel.

Parcels contain toiletries, snacks, leisure items and warm clothing like gloves or a tuque.





CHRISTMAS CREATIVITY

The talents of our donors means that Christmas is one of the most beautiful times of the year.

Knits, crafts and handwritten cards, created with love and attention, are included in all the parcels.

CHRISTMAS BY THE NUMBERS

Eighty-two donors contributed parcels or virtual parcels which our volunteers then shopped for and packed. Our chaplains delivered 1437 gifts to 64 ships.

In particular, we wish to thank **Batshaw Youth and Family Centres** and the **Catholic Women's League** for their tremendous support and participation at the Seafarers' Centre.

1437
PARCELS

\$6745
VIRTUAL

64
SHIPS

82
DONORS

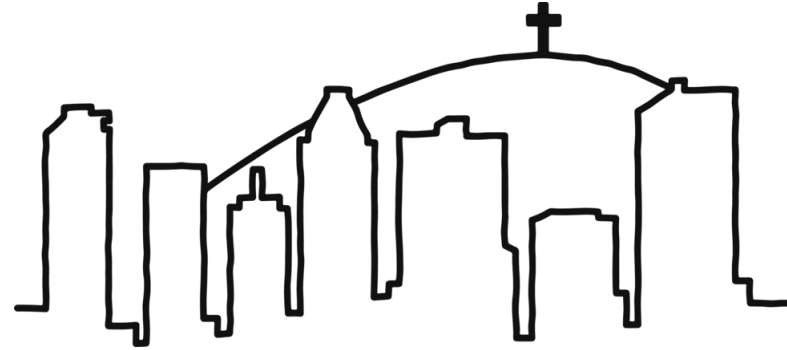
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We believe in sharing our story
through education and hospitality.



EDUCATIONAL VISITS

We work to bring visibility to the value and presence of seafarers in our city through engagement with the shipping industry and educating the wider Montreal community, especially by welcoming groups for Port tours and educational activities.

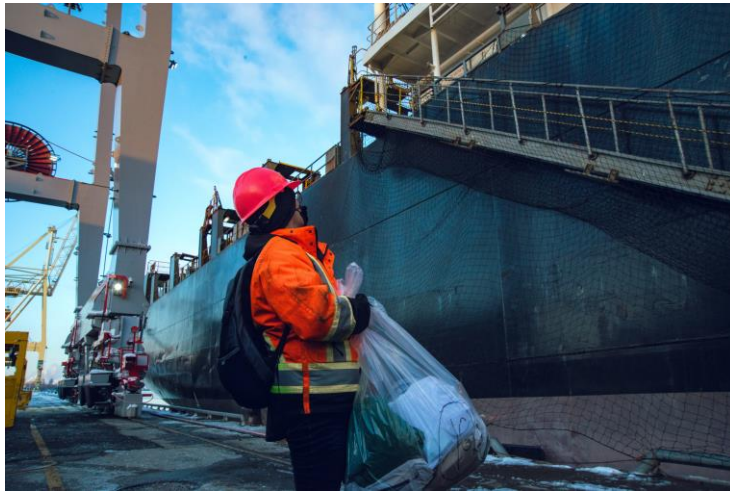


**Montreal
Mission
Internship**

MONTREAL MISSION INTERNSHIP – A LOCAL PARTNERSHIP

This was our second year partnering with **Montreal Mission**. They provided a 9-week paid service-learning placement for young adults ages 18-25. We provided the opportunity for one intern to shadow our chaplains and to also gain administrative experience.





THE MAKING OF A DOCUMENTARY

Concordia University student and award-winning filmmaker, **Wojtek Jakubiec** shadowed us for three months to tell the story of our Christmas Parcel Campaign.

The film will be completed in 2024.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



FUNDRAISERS

1st Cabane à sucre (Sugar Shack); 4th Annual Seaway Bike Tour; 1st Christmas Concert



TODAY FOR SEAFARERS DEVOTIONAL

In the summer of 2023 our intern migrated our devotional content online, publishing one on a weekly basis. Seafarers' Centres in Canada and the USA have begun sharing the content on their own social media pages.



CHRISTMAS PARCEL CAMPAIGN

82 churches, individuals or groups sewed bags and knitted warm gear, donated 1437 parcels and donated \$6745 towards virtual parcels. Many more volunteered their time at the Seafarers' Centre during the campaign.



EDUCATIONAL TOURS

We welcomed six different school groups for an educational tour of the port. Groups responded by creating crafts for the seafarers or volunteering time to prepare for the Christmas parcel campaign.



CANADIAN NATIONAL SEAFARERS' WELFARE BOARD

We have a seat on this advisory board to the Canadian government on issues related to the welfare of seafarers.

ENCOURAGEMENT

"Thank you so much for the wonderful visit that we could enjoy with you. The students absolutely loved that we were able to meet some seafarers when we came, and they enjoyed helping with the [Christmas parcel] bags as well."

– Heritage Christian School

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

We held three fundraising events.
Two were joint efforts with **Mariners' House of Montreal**.



Maison des Marins de Montreal
Mariners' House of Montreal M28

CABANE À SUCRE JOINT FUNDRAISER

Working together with **Mariners' House** and with the help of 25 incredible volunteers, we raised \$14,000 for seafarer welfare work.

Over 200 participants enjoyed a delicious and authentic sugar shack lunch in the cruise ship terminal.



CABANE À SUCRE SPONSORS





4th ANNUAL SEAWAY BIKE TOUR FUNDRAISER

21 riders

77 ferry rides

12, 25, 50 and 100 KM distances

\$12,892 raised



JOINT FUNDRAISING CONCERT

We partnered with **Mariners' House of Montreal** to host **Les Chanteurs de Lorraine** at what's commonly known as the Sailor's Church in the Old Port.

Before the beautiful concert, guests enjoyed refreshments in the majestic, underground vault. We are glad we tried a new fundraising idea but we raised almost no funds.

A COMMITMENT TO LEARNING & TRAINING

With more than 40 years of combined experience,
our chaplains are well-positioned to teach and train others.
They are also constant learners themselves.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



NAMMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Ready for the Future of Seafarers' Welfare



CHAPLAIN TRAINING

Masters-level courses



BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!

Our staff are enthusiastic readers and keep abreast of news and new developments.



*Women Ministering
to Seafarers*

[Get this course](#)

DEVELOPING TRAINING MATERIALS

Chaplain Michelle participated in the development of the **Women Ministering to Seafarers MARE Training*** course.

**MARE Training provides professional development courses for seafarer welfare providers.*

A COMMITMENT TO SPIRITUAL FORMATION

We engaged in regular physical practices to form our human spirit, with the goal of having our hearts transformed to be more like Jesus.

MONTHLY FAITH PRACTICES

We engaged with the **Faith Practices Project** to refresh our spirits by experimenting with live-giving spiritual disciplines.

— crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

JANUARY

Prayer

FEBRUARY

Scripture
Reading

MARCH

Sabbath

APRIL

Service

MAY

Remembering

JUNE

Wonder

JULY

Celebrating

AUGUST

Listening

SEPTEMBER

Hospitality

OCTOBER

Generosity

NOVEMBER

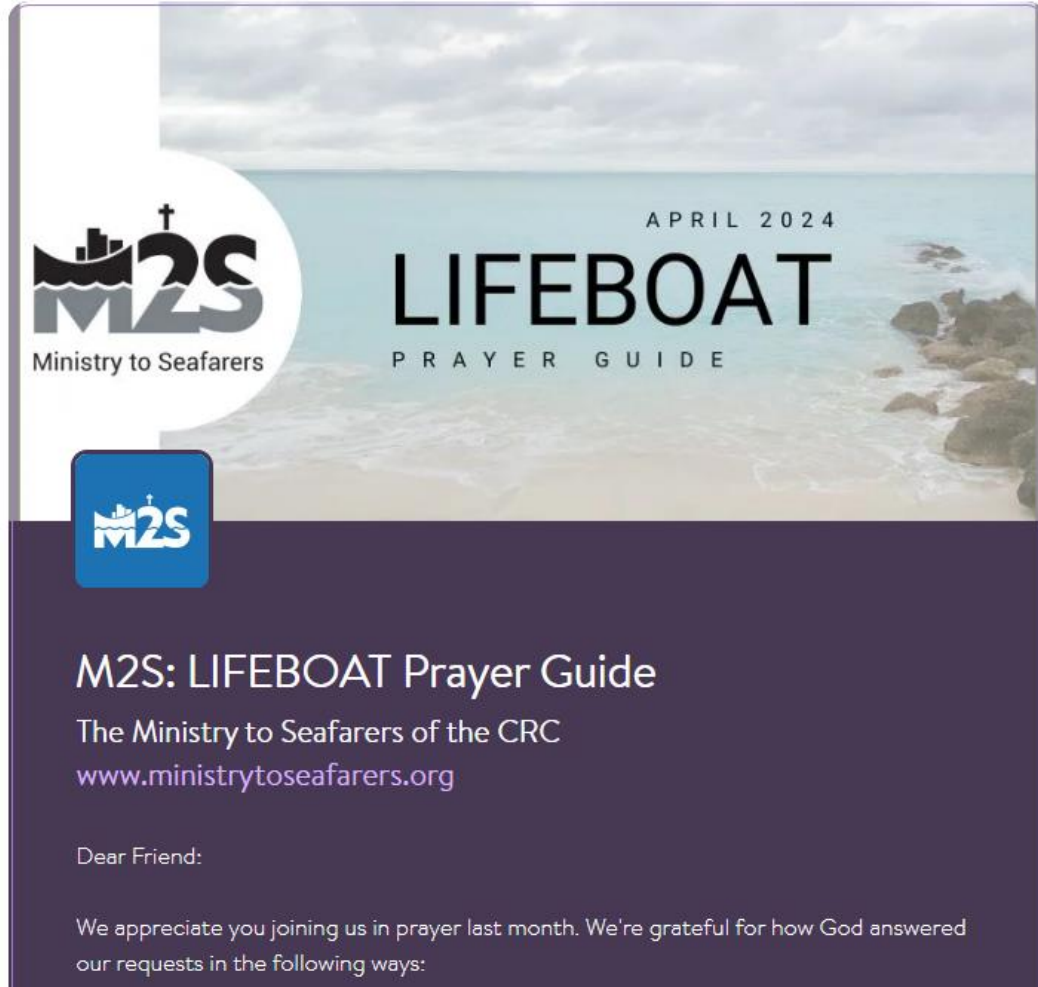
Gratitude

DECEMBER

Acts of
Justice &
Mercy

Follow & Pray

Download the Echo Prayer app to start following this prayer feed.



M2S
Ministry to Seafarers

APRIL 2024
LIFEBOAT
PRAYER GUIDE

M2S

M2S: LIFEBOAT Prayer Guide
The Ministry to Seafarers of the CRC
www.ministrytoseafarers.org

Dear Friend:

We appreciate you joining us in prayer last month. We're grateful for how God answered our requests in the following ways:

LIFEBOAT Monthly Prayer Guide

About 30 people have signed up to pray each month via the ECHO Prayer App or through the monthly email.

There are seven requests each month, one for each day of the week.



THANK YOU

Our work is not possible without the generous financial donations of individuals, churches, foundations, businesses and organizations.

We are also grateful to be able to work so closely with **Mariners' House of Montreal** and **Stella Maris** to serve seafarers in the **Port of Montreal**.

WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO OUR FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS

THE JOHN & ELLIE VOORTMAN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

THE MANTLE FOUNDATION

MARANATHA FOUNDATION

NORTH AMERICAN MARITIME MINISTRY ASSOCIATION

YVES & GLADYS CHENG FOUNDATION

(Some foundations requested not to be named and do not appear here.)

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Serving at the Centre

BATSHAW YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRES

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

ÉGLISE ST-PAUL

EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ENGLISH MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARD
(Professional Sales Adult Education Students)

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

WOODLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ASHA, KIRAN, MICAELA & ROSHAN FRANCIS

DANIEL GIRARD

DEBBY SMIT

DOUG & MICAH VANDEKAMP

EMRE & ZUBEYDE ALTUN

HANS & CATHY VINK

HARRY XU

KATIE MALLETT

LAN WEI

MAXIME JUCKENACK-MELLINGER

OPHÉLIE LEGARS-TOUSIGNANT

PIETER VAN OUDENAREN

ROB WHITLEY

PAUL & SHEILA MARGERRISON

SIDITA BELO

WEIBIAO WU

WILLEM BUWALDA

WOJTEK JAKUBIEC

Supplying Our Needs

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

DISARM THE DARK

HERMONT MARINE

MAGGIE'S MEAT MARKET

ONTARIO FLOWER GROWERS

PAUL HARMAN

SAWYERVILLE UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

SIERRA FLOWER TRADING

TRINITY ANGLICAN

Plus many unnamed mobilizers,
needle workers and knitters.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 BOARD



**SONJA
VERBEEK**

Chair



**SHAWN
BRIX**

Vice Chair



**GEORGE
ZEKVELD**

Treasurer



**BERT
WISSINK**

Secretary



**DEBBY
SMIT**

Volunteer
Liaison



**SANDRA
PENNER**

Staff
Liaison

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 STAFF AND INTERN



**MICHELLE
DEPOOTER**

Lead Chaplain



**DAVID
ROZEBOOM**

Chaplain



**PATTY
SARAZEN**

Administrator &
Volunteer Coordinator



**ALBERTO
BARUZZI-ROJAS**

Summer Intern

IN THE NEWS (PRINT MEDIA)

<https://www.lapresse.ca/actualites/2023-12-24/recit/le-pere-noel-des-marins.php#:~:text=David%20Rozeboom%20est%20aum%C3%B4nier%20%C3%A0,navire%20%3A%201500%2C%20en%20tout.>

Suzanne Colporon, a **La Presse** reporter and Robert Skinner, photographer came to interview us during the Christmas Parcel campaign.



The image shows a screenshot of a news article from the website La Presse. The page header includes the La Presse logo, the date "La Presse, jeudi 18 avril 2024", the location "Montréal" with a weather icon and "7°C", and social media icons. A navigation bar lists various news categories such as "ACTUALITÉS", "INTERNATIONAL", "DIALOGUE", "CONTEXTE", "AFFAIRES", "SPORTS", "AUTO", "ARTS", "CINÉMA", "SOCIÉTÉ", and "GOURM". Below the navigation bar, the article is categorized under "ACTUALITÉS" and "Récit". The main title of the article is "Le père Noël des marins". A photograph shows a man in a yellow safety vest and a white bag walking on a snowy path towards a large white truck. In the background, there is a large red and white ship. Below the photo, the caption reads: "PHOTO ROBERT SKINNER, LA PRESSE. L'aumônier David Rozeboom va distribuer des cadeaux aux marins dans le port de Montréal."

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Our Audited Financial Statements are available upon request.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

for year ended December 31

	2023	2022
REVENUE		
Church support	55,000	55,000
Donations	74,774	81,938
Investment income	40,132	54,039
Designated funds	651	1,492
Undesignated funds	16,500	21,265
Other income	8,362	3,812
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	1,373	1,962
	\$196,792	\$219,508

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

for year ended December 31

	2023	2022
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries, benefits and housing	173,296	164,320
Seafarer programs	7,611	14,124
Vehicle Operating	12,301	11,136
Office	6,560	7,563
Mariners House Support	5,125	5,125
Professional Fees	4,927	4,885
Investment Counsel Fees	4,253	4,253
Amortization	2,065	2,931
Professional Development	1,964	2,245
Telephone	2,097	2,042
Bank Charges	1,065	766
Insurance	1,607	1,566
Intern Expenses	-	-
Volunteer Expenses	1,940	435
Travel & Committee	2,275	242
	\$227,086	\$221,633

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

for year ended December 31

	2023	2022
NET REVENUE (EXPENDITURES)	(30,294)	(2,125)
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,058,959	1,061,084
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$1,028,665	\$1,058,959

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP SERVICES

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We encourage our supporters to use the services of CSS to steward their resources with a Kingdom mindset.

