

# Annual Report 2015

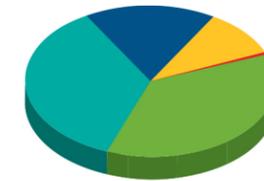
**Founded in 1892, Welcome Hall Mission is now the largest doorway to help for Montrealers in need. A wide variety of programs are offered to support the homeless, young at-risk mothers, families, children and youth.**

Welcome Hall Mission aims to restore their hope through concrete actions and effective solutions that help them improve their lives and reintegrate into society. The yearly accounting of Welcome Hall Mission's activities cannot be told through figures and pie charts; its most meaningful stories are told through the lives of people. However individuals enter the mission, whether through reinsertion services for the homeless, by way of the food bank for the hungry or via skills training programs for the unemployed, they become part of a supportive community dedicated to partnering with them to find solutions to life's most difficult problems.



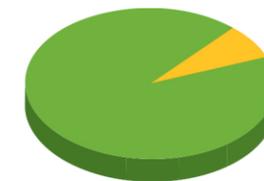
**Welcome Hall  
MISSION**

## Financial Results



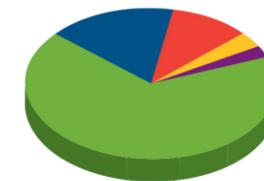
### REVENUES (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

\$6,749	DONATIONS (36.8%)
\$6,586	DONATED MERCHANDISE (35.9%)
\$3,102	SUBSIDIES and GOVERNMENT GRANTS (16.8%)
\$1,846	SALES, RENT and SERVICE (10.1%)
\$80	INTEREST and OTHER (0.4%)



### EXPENDITURES (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

\$15,328	PROGRAM COSTS and RESERVES (92.6%)
\$1,225	ADMINISTRATION FEES (7.4%)



### DISTRIBUTION OF DONATIONS (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

\$4,556	INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS (67.7%)
\$1,104	BEQUESTS (16.4%)
\$663	OTHER (9.9%)
\$220	COMPANY DONATIONS (3.4%)
\$162	FOUNDATION DONATIONS (2.6%)

## STORIES MADE POSSIBLE BY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MONTREALERS

In addition to the corporations and foundations who sustain us, I am so inspired when I realize that in the past year, over 38,000 individuals joined together to support the work of Welcome Hall Mission. Each gift is precious, as are the lives of the many, many people who turn to us for help. Thank you for being part of the mission community.



**Cyril Morgan**  
CEO/Executive Director

# David's Story

David was given up for adoption when he was three. He recalls his mother waving goodbye and her silhouette shrinking in the distance as he drove off with the social worker in a Volkswagen Beetle. He never saw home again.

His adoptive parents eventually divorced and he moved to Halifax with his father who started drinking heavily. With crates of alcohol in the basement, David started drinking too. By age 13 he was an alcoholic and his relationship with his adoptive father had disintegrated.

## EMERGENCY SHELTER

David was sent to an orphanage that later made national headlines when it was uncovered that its staff had repeatedly sexually abused children in their care. David was one such victim. Rejected by his biological and adoptive families and then sexually abused in an orphanage, David was completely traumatized. He ran away. His following years would be spent caught in a vicious cycle of addiction, homelessness, crime and imprisonment. For a while David held jobs in the restaurant industry. He had two children. But when he started smoking crack cocaine, he plunged into hopelessness. Now David reflects: "I think a big part of my addiction came from my inability to cope with the fact that I was sexually abused. Drugs were a way for me to self-medicate and escape uncomfortable feelings."

David hit rock bottom in Montreal at age 41 and his incarceration in Bordeaux prison became a period of reflection. He realized he was tired of the gutter and was now open to change. After release from prison, he turned to Welcome Hall Mission where he encountered a network of professionals who encouraged him to heal. David went from thinking "I deserve to suffer" to "I've suffered enough." He abandoned drugs and the street and started volunteering at the mission where he was eventually offered a permanent position as an intake worker. "My work at Welcome Hall Mission meant that I was able to take something positive from my destructive past and use it to help others," David explains. He had a knack for dealing with homeless men and drug addicts because he had walked in their shoes. The sense of purpose and accomplishment that resulted from helping others precipitated David's recovery.

On his last evening working at Welcome Hall Mission, David spoke to the homeless men in the cafeteria. "I made a decision to change," he told them. "Four years ago my life was completely destroyed, but at forty-one I was blessed with the opportunity to turn things around. The same is possible for anyone. Anything's possible if you want it."



**Against all odds, David turned his life around – from homeless drug-addict to counselor in an addiction center. His story shows that with courage and support, anything is possible.**

## YOUTH SERVICES

# Maurice's Story

A street youth, Maurice came to Welcome Hall Mission with bad teeth, a bad reputation and very little self-confidence. Having heard about the Youth Services program from a friend, he found a listening ear when he met with a caseworker for the first time. Fortunately for Maurice, his timing was golden. Funding had recently been secured to launch a culinary socio-professional reinsertion program and he was enrolled to learn how to prepare ready-to-serve meals to women and children in other mission services. "Maurice is a quick study," his instructor said. "I have trained a lot of young chefs, but Maurice took to quality food preparation almost immediately." Other important milestones followed. Maurice was supported in his search for an apartment and then took the necessary steps to get new teeth.

With a renewed sense of hope, purposeful work and a bright smile, he thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to strengthen his skills and gain experience in the kitchen. "I am proud of being able to create delicious recipes on my own. It gives me great satisfaction to know that I am preparing food for other members of the mission community. Their comments about the quality of the food and the children's happy faces as they fill their stomachs after school have inspired Maurice towards continued growth in his life and career. "I know how hard life can be in the streets," he remembers. "One day down the road I would love to have my own food truck to serve youth."

Maurice's difficult start has given him great empathy for other young Montrealers who are struggling. He is grateful for the support he has received at the mission and wants to pay it forward by helping others who want to help themselves.



# Debra's Story

Debra is a wonderful example of a person who came to the mission in difficulty and used the available resources to put her life back on track. Homeless and hungry, she became a client of the food bank and learned about the mission's skills training program. Soon, she made the decision to begin the journey back to a more stable life and eventual employment. Nine years later, Debra is living in one of the mission's transitional housing apartments and has been hired at a Montreal food services company.

According to Debra, a great adventure began on the day she first started to make changes in her life. "I realized that it was up to me to make the effort, and that I had to keep moving forward, without looking back at my previous circumstances."



**FOOD BANK  
SKILLS TRAINING  
LA BOUTIQUE**