

### **Back-to-School**

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Although summer temperatures are rising and school has just finished, the West Island Mission is already planning for its annual **Back-to-School** event which will be held on Saturday, **August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011**.

As you know, poverty is largely a hidden problem in the West Island of Montreal and although there is a perception of affluence, many people are simply not aware that large numbers of children, women and men often go to bed hungry. While anyone is at risk of food insecurity at some point in their lives, children are particularly vulnerable.

We also know that the foundation of any healthy community is our young people and with education being central to their growth and development, our back-to-school program provides food and essential school supplies to under privileged children. This program is built on the premise that providing new school supplies to children in need will raise their level of self-esteem and encourage them to do well in school.

Our 2011 goal is to raise \$10,000 by partnering with our local West Islanders to provide school supplies for students between the age of 5 and 17. Kits include supplies recommended by local schools such as back packs, pencils, pens, calculators, binders, dictionaries, math sets, etc. Our recipients include 754 people in the West Island of which 62% are children. As a result we will be supplying backpacks to 385 children for this year's event.

It is in this spirit that we are inviting you to help the less fortunate by sending a gift to the West Island Mission at the above mentioned address. Twenty five dollars (\$25) will provide a back-pack to a child in need while \$50 will provide a family with school supplies for the children and a healthy food basket full of fresh produce. Of course, any gift you send will be greatly appreciated because when we combine your gift with others it becomes a wonderful source of aid to families and children in our neighborhood.

Yours truly,

Wendy Gariepy

Director of Operations, West Island Mission (514-912-6813)