

Volunteer Call-Out 2018

Do you enjoy connecting with people from **other cultures**?
Are you willing to invest time in your own **leadership development**?
Would you like to spend some time in **Montreal**?

If your heart leaps at the thought of these opportunities, then we'd invite you to apply for one of our volunteer positions in 2018. Typically, volunteers come for one week or more to work daily at the Seafarers Center from 5-10 pm. Their roles include connecting with seafarers in conversation, selling souvenirs and transporting seafarers to and from their ships. We provide an apartment and a transit pass for your time in Montreal. For more details, go to our website or contact **Patty Sarazen** at info@ministrytoseafarers.org.

Praise & Prayer Requests

We're thankful that four seafarers participated in our pumpkin carving challenge – a first-time experience for them! Six local Christians, who were not familiar with our ministry, also attended. Pray that future events would creatively draw seafarers and locals together to foster relationships.

We're thankful for the more than 1,400 Christmas parcels handed out because each one represents a gospel opportunity. Pray that these gifts would have an eternal impact.

Pray for **Gamaliel, Danielle, Aimerance** and **Maren** – four students from the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute in Camrose, Alberta – who will be spending four Thursday evenings with us from mid-February while they are on a missions trip to Montreal. Pray for clarity as we teach them about M2S and for creativity as they attempt to put into practice what they're learning.



Call-Out for Magazines

If you'd like to send us magazines that are less than 10 years old, we'd be happy to pass them on to seafarers. They enjoy reading about many topics, such as sports, nature, news, cooking and mechanics.



GOODNEWS

From The Ministry to Seafarers

January 2018, No. 81



(L to R) Dennis Dubinsky, Gerard and Hester Bondt, Hans and Cathy Vink, Tony and Mary DeKoter

Volunteer Corner

This past Fall we enjoyed having these lovely volunteers (pictured above) who provided invaluable support during the move and while getting set up in the new centre, and helped with the distribution of Christmas parcels.

Patricia Glenn, one of our volunteers, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, December 16, 2017. Pray for her family and friends, especially **Loretta Johnson** who always served with her here.

A Hug for Doug

Thank you to you, our generous supporters, for the more than 1,400 Christmas parcels given to seafarers so know they know they're thought of by people all over Canada! Over and over we heard expressions of appreciation and thanks.

We joke here at the office that our Ministry to "Seafarers of the CRC" really only encompasses one man named **Doug Hankinson** from Milford CRC in Nova Scotia. We don't know of any other CRC seafarers! When we received this sweet request from his wife, **Joanne**, we leapt into action, delivering Christmas parcels and a hug! Doug was moved by his wife's thoughtfulness, and her heart for him moved ours deeply and made our day.

Good morning. If anyone from the Ministry to Seafarers visits with the Sarah Desgagnes (presently at Section 109 - please give my husband (Chief Engineer - Doug Hankinson) a Christmas hug from me. Thank you so much for the work that you do for Seafarers (and their families) from around the world!! Have a wonderful Christmas!!

Dear Joanne, What a sweet note. Your husband is fortunate to have such a loving wife. Our hearts go out to all seafarers who are far from family at this time of year. We'll absolutely pass on your hug to Doug! Merry Christmas from all of us at M2S. Patty



The Ministry to Seafarers

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Chaplains: Michelle DePooter, David Rozeboom
Administrator: Patricia Sarazen
Board Members: David Harlow (Chair), Joshua Vanderveen (Vice-Chair), Evert DeBoer (Secretary), John Luimes (Treasurer), Gerard Bondt (Volunteer Liaison), William Buwalda (Christmas Parcels Liaison)

Mariners' House Grand Opening!



By Patty Sarazen

On November 23, 2017 we celebrated the long-awaited Grand Opening of the new Mariners' House!

Guests mingled amidst live music and delicious food. Mid-way through the event there were inaugural speeches: **Robert Zeagman**, president of Seagulf Marine Industries and president of the Mariners' House Board of Directors gave a word of welcome; President and CEO of the Port of Montreal, **Sylvie Vachon** expressed her appreciation for Mariners' House and officially cut the ribbon; **Father Andrew**, the Catholic chaplain, and M2S chaplain, **Michelle DePooter**, said prayers and blessings over the new space, future visiting seafarers, chaplains, staff, and volunteers.

Carolyn Osborne, General Manager of Mariners' House said, "We are so happy to have finally arrived at this moment. We've been eager to move back to Quai Alexandra and establish ourselves in the Port once again. Our new centre has some excellent features. It's spacious, bright and welcoming, it's equipped with wi-fi so seafarers can connect with their families, and it's well situated so therefore accessible. During the one month of cruise ship season that we were open this autumn, we served 600 seafarers, almost a 7-fold increase for the whole year of 2016."



Ebony and her Mom, Dalreen, longtime friends of Don and Michelle.

A few weeks after the inauguration, **Ebony**, the ten-year old daughter of a ship captain from Bombay, India visited the Center. We sat down together for an impromptu interview.

M2S: What do you think of our new seafarers' centre?

Ebony: I really like it here—the comfy chairs, the games; it's a very nice place and it makes me feel warm inside. I could live here!

M2S: What does it mean for you to know that your father has access to seafarer centres like this one?

Ebony: I miss my dad and I'm happy when I can talk to him and see him on video. I'm also happy to know when he's on dry land. Sometimes though I don't really know if he'll be able to call, for example if he's in the middle of the ocean.



(L to R) Robert Zeagman, Sylvie Vachon, Carolyn Osborne, Michelle DePooter, Father Andrew.

M2S: When your dad is away from home and misses your school events, how do you cope with that?

Ebony: My mom takes a video and we send it to him. He's not there at the same time and same place so he does miss a lot. But he gets to see my presentations and we talk about them. (giggles) One time when the video of my diorama wasn't getting through to him I just tried to describe it to him but that didn't work very well.

M2S: Can you imagine a world without Internet?

Ebony (shakes her head): It would be awful.

M2S: What would you like to do when you grow up?

Ebony: I'd like to be a seafarer. I like to travel to different places to see other cultures and to meet different people.

2017
a year in review



What you helped make happen!

Ebony's comments perfectly crystalize why we do what we do. We serve seafarers so they can serve their families and their crews. Our facilities may have been modernized and our methods may be changing but our mission never will.