

YMCA of Greater Montreal

2005 YMCA Peace Medal Recipients



Contrastes (Genevieve Hamel and Christine Renaud) with Luck Mervil

Contrastes: Genevieve Hamel and Christine Renaud, after travelling to Africa and Latin America, decided they would like to share their reflections on international development with youth and school children in Quebec. From this idea and with support from Club 2/3, the "Contrastes" project was born. Contrastes has photographs from around the world, and has developed an educational guide for use in secondary schools. The two trained facilitators help youth gain a better understanding of the differences between the developed and developing world, the challenges we face, what divides us, and what can bring us together to reach common goals.

The Montreal Dialogue Group founded by Ronit Yarosky, a Canadian and Israeli citizen, and Nada Sefian, a Muslim Palestinian, builds bridges between Montreal's Jewish and Palestinian communities through dialogue. As well as facilitating regular discussion groups, the Montreal Dialogue Group organizes a wide variety of activities to create and strengthen understanding; including multi-faith celebrations, art exhibits, music concerts, conferences and workshops. The Montreal Dialogue Group not only promotes peace but also demonstrates ways to live in peace.



The Montreal Dialogue Group's founders, Ronit Yarosky & Nada Sefian



Sexual Assault Centre of the McGill Student's Society

The Sexual Assault Centre of McGill Students' Society (SACOMSS), a non-profit volunteer organization founded in 1991, is a place for survivors and their loved ones to go to for help, guidance and support, and also offers educational programs and discussion groups. SACOMSS encourages people to understand issues of sexual and gender-based violence, and to take a stand against it. Projects such as an annual memorial service for the victims of the December 6th École Polytechnique massacre, and their "Fire With Water" art exhibit which focus on combating sexual violence and discrimination, are fine examples of the peace-building work of this group.

Kimberly Evans, a YMCA member with a passion for humanitarian work, was not able to attend the Peace Brunch as she is presently in a remote area of Uganda working with the Clearwater Project. This is an ongoing project to bring clean running water from two mountain sources to three villages in the area. Kimberly's role with the Clearwater Project is to serve as Health Education officer in HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.



Kimberly Evans in Uganda



Father Claude Grou

Father Claude Grou, was also unable to receive his Peace Medal in person as he was attending a ceremony to making him Rector of St. Joseph's Oratory. Through his many actions, Father Grou demonstrates his on-going commitment to working with people of all cultures and religions towards a more just, humane and peaceful world. He has brought people from different communities together for exchanges and reflections on themes such as family violence, violence against the elderly, poverty elimination, street kids, HIV/AIDS, and intergenerational peace. He has also organized an "Evening of Prayer for Peace" in solidarity for the movement against the invasion of Iraq and a Fair Trade exhibit to promote fair and equitable trade and responsible consumerism.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS