



AGAINST THE COLD WINTER

The Youth Network has witnessed a continuous increment in new members on a weekly basis. It has been an amazing start of the year so far with the youth as involved as always. The youth have already been involved in a number of activities this new year and are excited about the upcoming events and projects in 2014.

The youth prepared and presented a workshop to third year U of T students on community development, focusing on the issue of Access to Education. This was an engaging and participatory workshop with the U of T students which built up leadership and presentation skills in the youth.

The FCJ Youth network also got involved with activities around the black history month (February) as they participated in art workshops on spoken word, dance workshops and lots of other activities to understand the black history and celebrate the event.

Most exciting is the upcoming art project which the youth recently got funding for from Artreach

Toronto and the Law Foundation of Ontario. This project, "The Arts Between US", will involve professional mentors, facilitate art workshops in various fields of art such as theatre, spoken word, dance, visual art and film, and will be followed by series of exhibition by the youth to showcase their talents and share their experiences and stories through arts.

They are also working on a Zine (Newsletter production) which will be a way to write and share their stories and experiences through creative writing.

The FCJ Youth Network is also excited and involved in planning the Youth Action Gathering which will take place in the second week of August at the Steelworker's Hall, Toronto.

The youth have recently shone in all their activities and show great potential and talent. We continue to welcome new members every week and keep the group educative, entertaining and fun.

SETTLEMENT PROGRAM

Happiness and sadness on the same day



We began 2014 experiencing opposite feelings. One morning in January, we said goodbye to one of our residents, a Hungarian mom and her child who were deported. We were used to seeing them around, as the severe condition of autism and epilepsy of her son never prevented Erzsebet Boncz to participate in every event and activity that we organized. She always was very enthusiastic, looking for things to do. She got a baby wagon so she could go anywhere with her son. Erzsebet's case was declared abandoned and the opportunity to reopen it was denied. Since she was left without social assistance, FCJ Refugee Centre supported her with all her needs.

It was a very heart broking situation since they do not have any family member in Hungary or a place to stay. Only at the last moment with the help of many people and different institutions, we were able to find a safe place for them in Hungary. We thank all of you who helped Erzsebet and her child to have a better start back in Hungary.

The same day another of our residents, Boriola Kukoyi experienced a positive event in her life with the arrival of her husband and her four older children from Nigeria. Their family reunification was a very happy moment for all of them since they were separated since Sep 27th, 2011 when Boriola who was pregnant at the time had to leave her country and her loved ones in order to save her life. The entire office welcomed Boriola's family. We are very happy that the family is finally together and we wish them the best.



The settlement program is one of the areas where students and volunteers can gain a lot of experience supporting the coordinators of the program.

Gladys Urias started to work in this area helping to plan activities for the residents of the houses. Some of the main events in which she has been involved are monthly meetings, holiday parties, workshops, etc.

Gladys, who has been living in Canada for almost two years, said that this has been a great experience: "As an immigrant, this volunteer work is giving me an opportunity to have a new experience in my life in a new country, and also helping me to improve my resume for a future job."

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT FUND

The Youth Employment Fund is a new program that allows FCJ Refugee Centre to connect youth with job opportunities at our Centre. Since this program was implemented, three members of the youth network were beneficiaries of this program. One of them is Treisy Rivera who shared with us her experience:

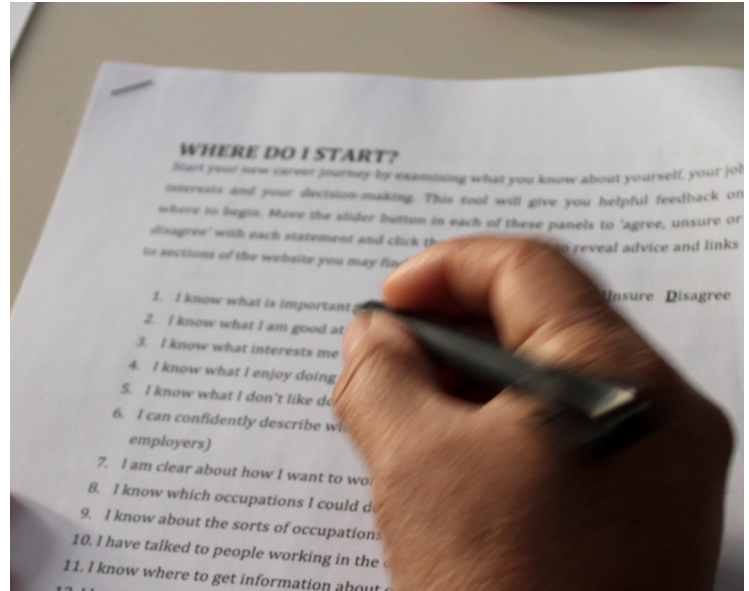
My name is Treisy Rivera. Over the last four months, I have had the great opportunity to work at FCJ Refugee Centre under the Youth Employment



Fund. I came twice a week for 15 hours and worked in the reception area assisting with client intake. This wonderful opportunity has given me a lot of knowledge and skills for my future career as a refugee lawyer.

I was able to improve my communication skills as I dealt clients with different needs. For me, one of my favorite things at FCJ is that I very much enjoy helping others. My management skills also played a significant role in my job as I needed to keep track of all the appointments and services for each staff member. I gained a lot of knowledge with the help of my co-workers as all of them helped me a lot when I needed help with calls, applications or if I had a question about a client situation. I was also able to participate in the CCR winter consultation in Kitchener and this was a wonderful week as I learned more about the recent immigration changes and about other organisations that are helping refugees and immigrants.

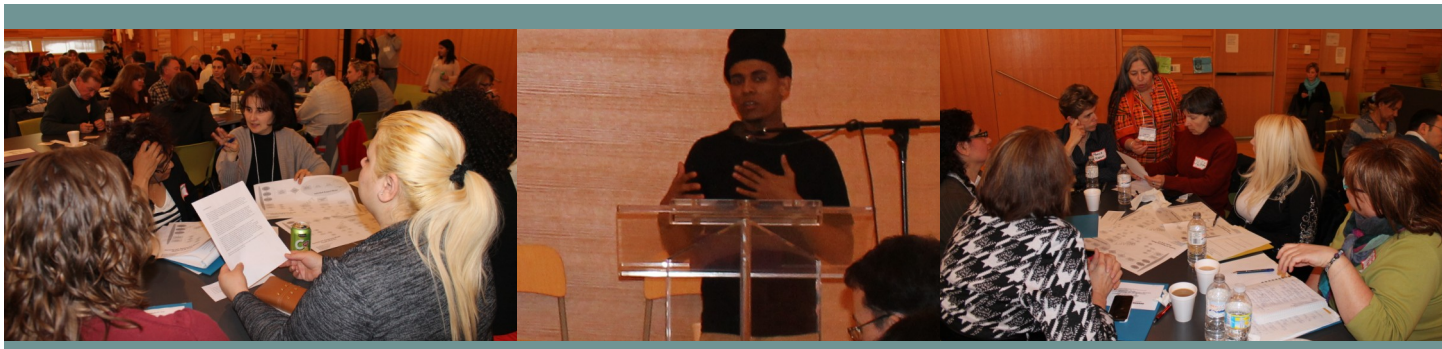
These four months were a wonderful learning experience as this has helped me to gain more confidence and knowledge about the future career that I want to pursue.



Employment and Life Skills for Newly Arrived Women

Through this program FCJ refugee Centre is able to develop and deliver essential skills and employment training for newly arrived women. The workshops are delivered every Monday at FCJ Refugee Centre. Besides the workshops, we also provide individual sessions for employment counselling and job search support. The program also allows us to increase the capacity of volunteerism for newly arrived women.





BUILDING COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The model of response and protection to trafficked people was the main discussion during the second roundtable that took place on February 20th 2014.

The event, identified as “Building Community Response to Combat Human Trafficking in the City of Toronto”, was a success with the participation of about one hundred stakeholders. “All the participants were committed and expressed interest to continue the work we have started” said Varka Kalaydzhieva, who is the Anti-Human Trafficking Project Coordinator at FCJ Refugee Centre.

The event started with a welcoming statement by members of the Toronto Counter Human Trafficking Network, who organized the event. Members of the Toronto District School Board and Children’s Aid Society presented, along with survivors of human trafficking who reflected on their experience while in a situation of trafficking and on the road to recovery. The working groups’ discussions on the draft Toronto anti-human trafficking response model were held during the afternoon. The Roundtables series carried out over several months has as its goal to facilitate the dialogue between multi-sector stakeholders to address the issue of human trafficking in the City of Toronto. The series began in October 2013 and will continue throughout the next months.

Human trafficking has its root causes in social, political, and economic forces that continue to oppress vulnerable sectors worldwide. Some of these are: poverty, forced displacement, and sexual objectification. Due to worsening social, political and economic climates, human trafficking is on the rise. Human trafficking is a global issue that needs to be tackled.



FCJ Refugee Centre

208 Oakwood Ave. Toronto ON

416 - 469-9754

Upcoming EVENTS

EVENTS

-Art Fundraiser for Education:

Date: March 6th

Place: FCJ Refugee Centre.

-Human Trafficking and Youth: Addressing intersectionality and igniting change.

Date: April 25 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Place: United Steelworkers Hall at 25 Cecil St. Toronto.

-Third Roundtable organized by Toronto Counter Human Trafficking Network is happening on May 15, 2014. For more information contact Varka Kalaydzhieva: varka@fcjrefugeecentre.org

OPPORTUNITIES

Over the past year working at FCJ Refugee Centre has been a tremendous experience for me. Being a new comer in Canada, I first came across the volunteer opportunity with this Center at one other group that I attended and it got my attention. Being a part of the Diverse Community Event they held in June of 2013, planning and organizing such a huge event and working with such a diverse crowd was amazing. Seeing everyone treat each other like family and having that genuine bond regardless of their background, is a great experience of humanity. It is a wonderful feeling.

At the beginning of 2014, I started my volunteer job as a receptionist with FCJ Refugee Centre. It was very different from my line of work back in St. Kitts, but with the support of the team that works here I did an amazing job. While volunteering for this Centre, I was offered the opportunity to work part time. Knowing the organization's history and my job experience here, I quickly jumped to the role as soon as it was offered to me.

Working in this organization, I wish to grow and work on my communication skills and have a greater

SERVICES

-Primary health clinic: New patients are welcome to our clinic every other Saturday. Next clinic appointments are scheduled for February 22, March 8, March 22.

-Counseling clinic: Every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

-English Learning Language: You are welcome to join ELL class every Saturday at 11:00 a.m. (exception long weekends).

-Yoga classes: Are accessible to everyone, regardless of their ages, every Saturday at 1:15

-Workshops for newcomers: We provide periodically workshops on diverse topics every week: how to find a job, healthy eating, tips, goal setting, resume writing, stress management, etc.

-Immigration help and Refugee Protection: Every Tuesday and Friday we provide free orientation on any immigration issues: sponsorship, humanitarian and compassion application, work permit, refugee protection, visa renovation, etc.

-FCJ Youth Network: Welcomes new members to join the group every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

understanding of the legal aspect of the immigration and refugee processes. Personally, I want to provide helpful information to clients that I interact with on a daily basis and also walk away with a great knowledge in social working skills that I can use and apply to my everyday life, helping me to become a more mature and positive young adult.

Xavier Browne

We need your support !

Looking forward to 2014, we are asking for your generous support to allow us to continue the work we do. If you wish to make a donation, please visit our website: www.fcjrefugeecentre.org and make your contribution through CanadaHelps.



FCJ Refugee Centre's Board of Directors during a special dinner prepared by the Youth Network .

FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE STAFF

Aberman, Tanya	x 225
Ackerman, Philip	x 228
Basnayake, Kanishka	x 224
Browne, Xavier	x 221
Bujang, Destin	x 228
Da Silva, Diana	x 222
Kalaydzhieva, Varka	x 222
Leguizamo, Diana	x 229
Rico, Francisco	x 227
Rico, Giovanni	x 225
Rico, Loly	x 224
Rivera, Treisy	x 222
Teves, Carolina	x 226

ART FUNDRAISER FOR EDUCATION

FCJ Refugee Centre has an upcoming event to help raise funds to support youth education.

As some of you may or may not know about the hardship non-status individuals face when it comes to getting education here in Canada- either they are banned from attending studies or charged international fees for tuition which are triple that which a Canadian citizen would pay.

It is for this reason we hold this event to help those who have to pay these fees. Please come out and support the youth by purchasing hand-made art pieces, textile designs, drawings and baked goods created by the youth. Some very beautiful and heartfelt talents will be revealed.

ART FUNDRAISER FOR EDUCATION

HAND CRAFTED ITEMS
TEXTILE DESIGN ITEMS
DRAWING PIECES
REFRESHMENTS ON SALE

WHEN: MAR. 6, 2014
WHERE: 208 Oakwood Ave, Toronto ON
TIME: 5:00PM - 7:00PM
CONTACT: 416 469 9754 (Diana/Philip)
For further questions contact Artist/co-ordinator at: webb_tassannia@hotmail.com