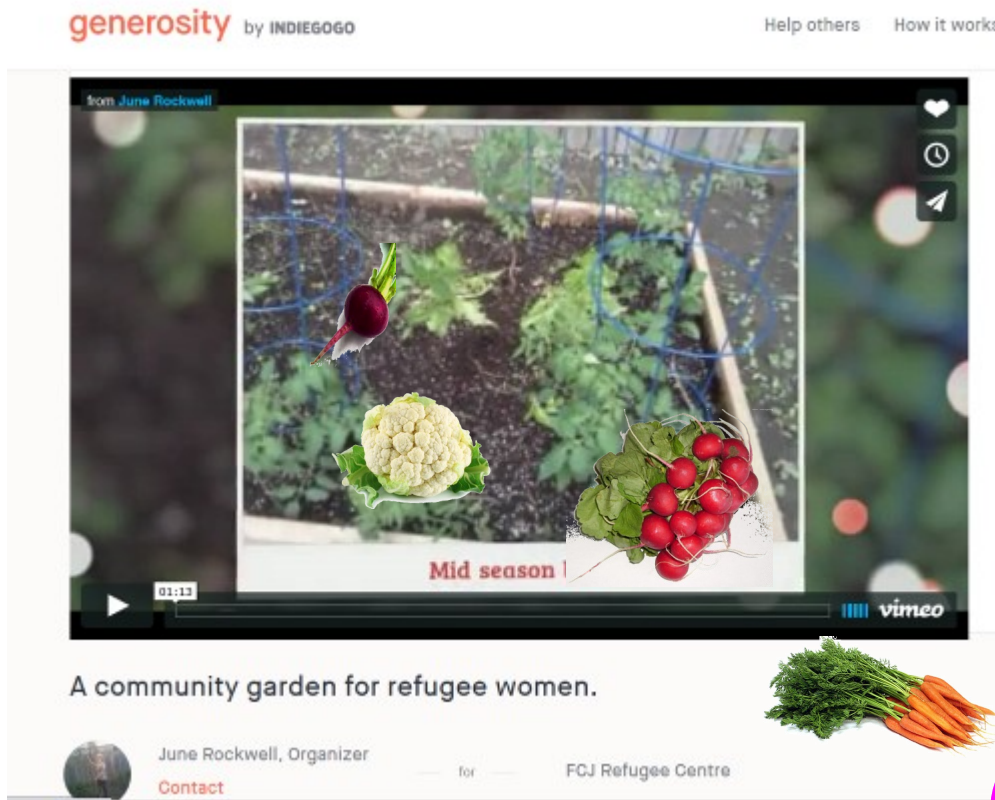




A Community Garden for Refugee Women



SAVE THE DATE Upcoming activities

- Diverse Residence, One Community Street Party
June 25
- Picnic and Paddle
July 8
- 25th Anniversary
September 22

THANK YOU

**A BIG THANK to all of you
for your donations
to make the COMMUNITY
GARDEN possible.**

**If you have not yet made
your donation please visit
our page and help us to
spread the word:**

**[www.generosity.com/
community-fundraising/a-
community-garden-for-
refugee-women](https://www.generosity.com/community-fundraising/a-community-garden-for-refugee-women)**

In this spring we want to continue working on our community garden project. It started in the backyard of one of our houses last year. At the beginning of this spring we announced a campaign to raise funds to continue with this project. The goal is to collect \$700 through the campaign launched on Indiegogo website: <https://www.generosity.com/community-fundraising/a-community-garden-for-refugee-women>

As you visit the link to Indiegogo campaign you will be able to watch a video explaining the stages we had last year in our garden. You can support us by making donations and/or share the above link through your connections and social media. The more people who know about our campaign, the better chance we have of reaching our goal.





Building the beds

Community garden Coordinator: June Rockwell

Last summer I had the beautiful privilege of creating and managing a community garden for the women staying in our houses. The project was started from scratch; we had to clear the back yard and build the garden beds. It was a lot of hard work, accomplished with the help of volunteers. We grew a variety of plants, including tomatoes, green onions, kale, and peas. Although there were challenges along the way, many of the women enjoyed partaking in garden activities, including the workshops hosted every month, teaching them how to garden and other environmental activities.



Finished preparing the beds

Testimony written by one of the residents that joined the Community garden last summer

"Just want to express my gratitude to the organizers for a planned vegetable garden at our house. I want to remember the people who participated in cleaning the backyard and who cut the trees for sunlight. The plan was well designed to interest and unite women from different countries."



Planting the vegetables

Picnic and paddle

The Sanctuary North Community is organizing a "Picnic and Paddle" on July 8th from 10am to 4pm. This event is intended to give members of our broad community a chance to have some fun while getting to know one another and learn some important canoeing and water safety skills.

We will meet at Sunnyside Park in the morning and canoe to Toronto Island, where we will have a picnic lunch. The cost is \$5 per person, but please contact us if the fee is a barrier for you and we can help out.



We look forward to having everyone there for a fun day of picnicking and paddling in the sun!
More information: Philip Ackerman, Resource Development and Youth Coordinator at FCJ Refugee Centre
(416)469-9754 x 228

Diverse Residents One Community: Street Party

Join us during our annual celebration of diversity and resilience within the LGBTQ+ refugee community. Enjoy music, art, cultural displays and speeches by community leaders. It will be a day of learning about our community and fun. The event is part of the celebration of our Anniversary: 25 years of walking with uprooted people!

If you are interested in participating, please contact Rosa Solorzano:

rosas@fcjrefugeecentre.org



DIVERSE RESIDENTS ONE COMMUNITY **STREET PARTY**

**Food, Live Performances,
Face Painting, Piñatas and
more!**

*"25 years of
celebrating diversity"*



DATE: JUNE 25TH

LOCATION : 208 OAKWOOD AVE

TIME: 11:00AM TO 4:00PM

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

There was an urgent call to continue the conversation during the Community Roundtable to Improve Access to Education for Newcomer Youth

The event was the first of two roundtables to address the inequitable experiences of newcomer youth in Ontario High Schools. With the participation of about a hundred community members, the roundtable opened a space to discuss alternatives on how to build on the Uprooted Education Project. The second Roundtable will take place in the fall and will follow up with the first round of discussions.



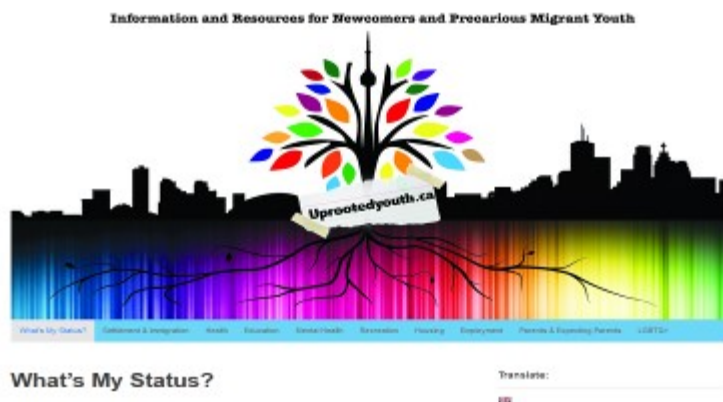
UPROOTED YOUTH PROGRAM

FCJ youth network working on their new t-shirts as a reward for their hard work in the Uprooted Youth program. The next round of classes will start in September. For more information contact Tanya Aberman, Research and Project Coordinator



RESOURCES FOR YOUTH

If you feel you are being discriminated against based on your sexual identity or gender identity, you still have the right to feel safe, regardless of your status. Overcoming Barriers at UPROOTEDYOUTH.ca. Have a look! <http://uprootedyouth.ca/>



GETTING READY FOR OUR 25th ANNIVERSARY

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

email address

Subscribe

The FCJ Refugee Centre is celebrating 25 years of welcoming and walking with uprooted people. To celebrate this milestone, we are highlighting 25 values that underlie the work that we do. As we lead up to our anniversary celebration in September, we circulate a value every week. You can receive it in your email.

The Inland Regularization Class

As part of our 25th Anniversary Celebration, the FCJ Refugee Centre is proposing a program aimed at providing a new avenue for regularization for many migrant populations that find themselves in various states of immigration status limbo, including legacy claimants. We anticipate that this proposed program could impact more than 360,000 residents of Canada – a group that represents 1% of the “censused” population. This program involves the development of a new immigration class through which individuals will be assessed on various criteria surrounding their time in Canada, including their involvement in different institutions and community groups, economic integration, as well as social and familial ties.

This new class will fill the gaps in existing legislation whereby refugee claimants are unable to submit an application for permanent residency on humanitarian and compassionate grounds, despite having set down roots and become well-established in Canada. You can read the complete document on our website.



New Community Programs

Blanca Cruz is taking over the position of Housing Counsellor at FCJ Refugee Centre. She has been implementing and/or reinforcing community programs that are open for women. Some of the programs are: Yoga, Community Kitchen and Sewing Classes.

If you want to register, contact Blanca: blancacruz@fcjrefugeecentre.org



READY TOUR INFO SESSIONS

Ready Tour and RAD info-sessions became very successful programs for the community. Taking into consideration that refugee claimants and appellants face a lot of stress, confusion and misinformation, both programs provide an enormous support. Thanks to The Law Foundation of Ontario for their support.

Through the first 4 months of the year about 300 participants have joined the informative sessions.

Both sessions are free and take place at the IRB location. If you have clients who would like to participate in these sessions, please contact Carolina Teves: cteves@fcjrefugeecentre.org

Front line workers are welcome to join the sessions with their clients. If interpretation is needed please let us know in advance.

REFUGEE RIGHTS DAY

Commemorating Refugee Rights Awareness Month 2016 at a public forum on Monday April 4, 2016, from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm at Women's College Hospital.



DONNER CIVIC LEADERSHIP FUND FELLOWSHIP

Emily Gerhard is a law student at the University of Toronto and will be with FCJ Refugee Centre full-time over the summer, under a Donner Civic Leadership Fund Fellowship. She will be working on the Inland Regularization Class proposal, and also will be seeing clients as part of the legal team. She's interested in immigration/refugee law as well as criminal law and constitutional issues.

Our unique service provisions model is partially funded by the Newcomer Settlement Program from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration.



CALENDAR JUNE TO AUGUST 2016

RAD INFO SESSIONS Refugee Appeal Process

June 9th
June 30th
July 14th
July 28th
August 11st
August 25th

READY TOUR SESSIONS Refugee Hearing Preparation

June 2nd
June 16th
July 7th
July 21st
August 4th

Heather Jessome

Welcome back Varka! Now that Varka has returned I will be finishing my contract as the (Interim) Anti-Human Trafficking Project Coordinator. It has been a pleasure working with the FCJ staff, volunteers, students and service users. I learned so much about being a part of a grassroots organization and I will take this experience with me wherever I go.

I hope that my contribution to the anti-human trafficking project will further assist the efforts of the organization to provide holistic services to exploited persons.



We welcome Anyeli, Camila, Emily, Rosa and Blanca to the FCJ Refugee Centre team.



FCJ Refug...

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