

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

2015 NEWSLETTER



2015

FALL EVENTS!

-Preparations are gearing up for this year's ride! Please join our team- October 3rd is race day!!

-Toronto Palestinian Film Festival ."On the Bride's Side" and concerns : Syrian and Palestinian refugees



Help us to help others!

The finish line: Oct 3rd, 2015

For more than 20 years the FCJ Refugee Centre has been meeting the multifaceted needs of diverse newcomer populations.

Walking with uprooted people over the years, the Centre has weathered many storms, and kept our doors open.

Ride for Refuge is a valuable opportunity to allow us to continue on this path. Our dedicated and motivated teams are ready to meet the challenge and raise funds to keep doing the important work we do. <https://rideforrefuge.org/charity/fcjrefugeecentre>



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Post Reach

955 Total Page Likes

10,352 Total Reach

Thank you for your LIKES:
we are almost there....
/FCJRefugeeCentre

JOIN US!! Ride and Walk for the FCJ Refugee Centre!!

Dear friends of the FCJ Refugee Centre,

Once again this fall, FCJ Refugee Centre will participate at the RIDE FOR REFUGE: help us to help others! Preparations are gearing up for this year's ride!

Please join our team- October 3rd is race day!! As you all know, it is based here in Toronto but it is an inspiration and leader nationally!

We extend an invitation to you, your family and friends to join a team of Centre supporters- Why not join us Saturday October 3rd for a great day and support the Centre at the same time?! The Ride and Walk for Refuge!

There is still lots of time until ride/walk day on October 3rd to find some donors, recruit some friends and tune up your bike or find your walking shoes!

Our team page is at sweat.w-ith.us/fcjfriends .

HOW TO SUPPORT:

1) There you can join the team and, if you can't walk or ride. You can choose to bike 5,10, 25 or 50 kilometres and you can also WALK or jog 5 km for refuge as well!

2) Make a donation.

There is more information on the ride available at our facebook events:

FACEBOOK- at <https://www.facebook.com/events/144155909260885/>

I hope you will join us on Saturday October 3rd- your support is greatly appreciated! You will also see when you sign up that you can start your own team if you would like- this is definitely encouraged!! A family, friends or workplace team would be an amazing addition!



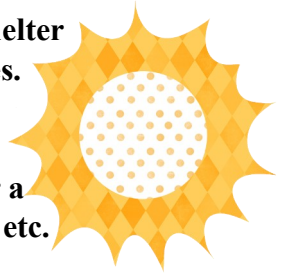
Thanks for your support, and in solidarity!



Temporary Shelter

One of the core services FCJ Refugee Centre provides is temporary shelter to women and children. Currently we have 17 residents in our 3 houses. During this time 2 cases were accepted and 2 cases were refused.

We welcome them and we provide basic settlement services: where to shop, how to use public transit, make a legal aid application, apply for a work/study permit, support with counselling, apply to Ontario works, etc.



Summer time

Summer is an excellent season for our residents to get familiar with the city and learn about entertainment places. They spent a very nice time during their fieldtrips to Woodbine Beach, Central Island, etc.

Workshops

The activities that are provided for this fall are field trip to the museums and workshops that will help them to have a better understanding of Canadian society. An innovation we will try is that the residents will participate not only as audience but also as facilitators. Some of the topics will be chosen by them but most of them will be chosen by the transitional housing worker. By being a workshop facilitator, the residents will develop skills that will be useful for them in the work market, such as being at ease in speaking in front of an audience. It will also help them to be more comfortable in their language skills. All of this is because we believe that the new comers have not only a lot to learn in Canada but they also have a lot to offer. Since some of them held a career in their country, we are giving them the opportunity to share their experiences.



Summer experience

Coming to volunteer to FCJ Refugee Centre is a worthy new experience of migration. Here, you not only support migrants through the programs but you live migration as a whole. FCJ is an open centre that offers people a second house and what's more: a family. Engaging in just one of the areas is difficult as there is so much to do, so in my case I've supported some of them in different aspects. This has given me the opportunity to get to see different migrant realities and program approaches (Human Trafficking, legal area, people support & accompaniment). Volunteering at FCJ you can embrace its philosophy where, for once, people are at the core. I totally recommend people to come and support the FCJ in their own way, strengthening the efforts of this organization/ community.

Marta Pérez

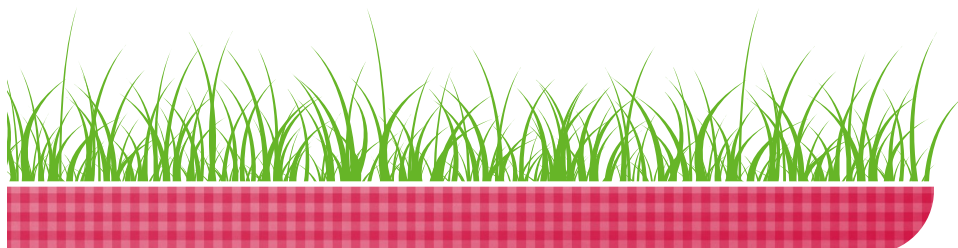


Our first harvest

The FCJ Refugee Centre has been delighted to conduct its first community garden project this year, thanks to TD Friends of the Environment.

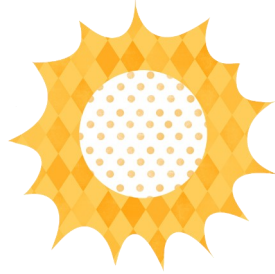
With the help of our funder, we were able to grow lots of vegetables like tomatoes, cucumbers, kale, green onions and much more in organic garden beds right in our backyard! It was a long process to clear the backyard, build raised beds and transplant the vegetable plants, but it was made possible by volunteers and women who call our shelters home. The garden not only has provided vegetables, but provided a space for these women to socialize and share an experience with other newcomer women. Workshops conducted, as seen in the photo, also taught them about important environmental subjects such as composting, which they can bring forward in their new lives in Canada.

Special thanks to Young Urban Farmers for running the workshops.



Second Harvest

FCJ Refugee Centre is one of the many community agencies benefitting from the support of Second Harvest. Thanks to Second Harvest we are able to provide food to our residents once a week.



My goal is to be a Social Worker. Volunteering at FCJ Refugee Centre helps me to expand and gain experience in social working."

Youth Network

This summer was full of activities for the FCJ Youth Network! We kicked off by organizing the Diverse Residents, One Community-2nd Edition. A space where we celebrate the LGBTQ+ immigrants and refugees community. This was an event full of artistic performances and

delicious food where we had the opportunity to share and showcase the talents of our dance group. Also, this summer we started the second year of our dance program, Dance Steps, Life Skills, this time being a completely youth-lead and youth-decided program. It is a space where we continue building



Internship experience

My name is Haydar, I am from Somalia. I got to know FCJ Refugee Centre from the CCR meeting in August 2014. I am doing my summer placement job as a Settlement Support Worker in the FCJ Refugee Centre. I work in different fields and it's such a wonderful experience working with the all the staff here in FCJ.

My goal is to be a Social Worker and this placement is great for me to expand and gain experience in social work.

Message: If you are planning to be a Social Service Worker, FCJ and its staff can provide you with great opportunities to help you learn and gain experience.



Diverse Residents One community Celebration

community and sharing experiences through dance. Community building is an important part of our network, this year we had the opportunity to go to Toronto Island and this time the youth group from CCVT joined us. We spent a very long and fun day at the beach.

This summer has been very busy for us not only with recreational activities but also with a lot of work from our youth-led projects. We are about to finish and publish our youth engagement toolkit, "From Youth to



You", a project funded by the Laidlaw Foundation. This is a very important project as we have dedicated our time to it for



the last couple of months. As well, our work does not finish there because the fall is waiting for us with more exciting projects, which include the creation of our very own BOOK and more fun!



Having fun at the Garage Sale

Internship experience

When I start to work at FCJ Refugee Centre I immediately felt like part of the family. Since the first day I realized that I got the perfect opportunity to learn about how to be a good service worker. The first thing I did was to set my goals but at the end of the summer I believe that I learned a lot more.

The main thing that I loved was working with the residents and their children or families. It was nice getting to know them, working with them and helping out with their needs living in Canada. My main satisfaction was making them feel comfortable and getting to know Toronto as their home. That was exactly what I did for the summer. Thank you FCJ for the opportunity.



The trip to the cottage was amazing. We started our journey early in the morning. We were 12 youth and our coordinator Philip. The group traveled in 2 different cars, it was fun driving on the highway and the best part was when we started teasing the other team in the



other car saying that our car was much better in terms of which one was more comfortable, better the music, singing, etc. We arrived at Sanctuary-North around 2 PM and all of us were excited about it. Everyone started changing and getting ready to swim in the river while others were excited to get in a canoe. We all jumped in the lake to swim and the water was so nice that even those who didn't know how to swim jumped into the water. As the



sun was going down, it started to get little chilly and we decided to get out of the water and have snacks. Around 7 PM everyone was hungry and the group in charge of the cooking started to do a BBQ with burgers and hot dogs for everyone. We set up a fire next to the river during the night, played games and



had marshmallows. There was no Wi-Fi or access to internet which made the youth enjoy the experience of the nature. Such an amazing experience for all the youth and we are looking forward to going back there next year, but this time stay we want to stay a little longer.

Toronto Palestinian Film Festival

FCJ Refugee Centre FCJ is a co-presenter for the closing night of the Toronto Palestinian Film Festival. The movie we've been chosen to present is called "On the Bride's Side".

November 2013, Milan, a Palestinian poet and an Italian journalist meet five Palestinians and Syrians who fled the war in Syria to Lampedusa, Italy. They decide to help these refugees continue their journey to Sweden, where they will claim refugee status and hopefully start a new life. To avoid being arrested as traffickers, the filmmakers enlist the help of their friends and disguise the group as a wedding party, complete with a fake bride and wedding guests. Together they embark on an emotional and physical journey across Europe, travelling over 3,000 kilometres in four days. Along the way, the refugees share their harrowing stories, their dreams and fears, leaving a lasting impact on their benevolent "traffickers", and on the

On the Bride's Side

Sunday September 27

Starting at 7 PM

98 mins

Khaled Soliman Al Nassiry /

Antonio Augugliaro /

Gabriele Del Grande

Documentary

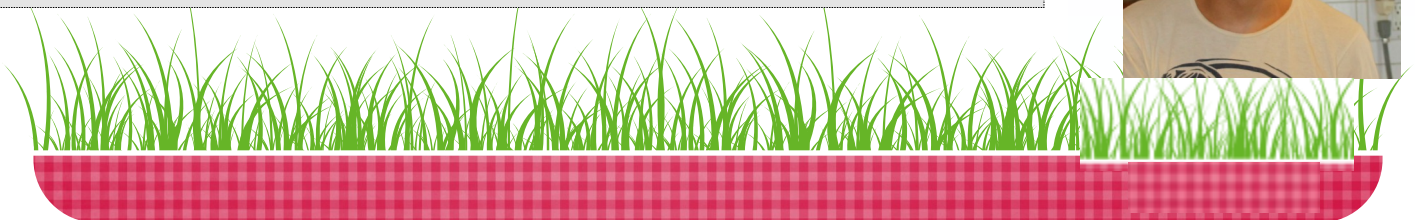
2014 - Italy / Palestine

Internship experience

Since I arrived in Toronto, in the FCJ Refugee Centre, I realised the diversity and multiculturalism of this city and the importance of FCJ's work. Every day, people come to the office looking for some chance to stay in this country for several reasons.

Understanding this people reality and making the best effort to help them is an example of successful work. Finally, I learned a lot about humanity, effort and respect and I lived in happiness, hope and strength. I'm sure that this experience will be very useful in my life, and I will never forget all the people I met here.

Alberto Fernandez



Immigration Help and Refugee Protection

This FCJ team has had a very busy summer, especially during August when we have seen an increasing number of clients looking for support and guidance on several applications, mainly to sponsor family members from outside Canada. These were as a group of five and private sponsorship, particularly from countries immersed in civil conflicts and war.

Simultaneously to the trend above mentioned, we have seen a significant reduction in refugee claims. This is an effect of the recent immigration policies implemented by the last two immigration ministers.



Aurora Canales, Intake and Case Management

I would like to mention that the two pillars of the recent reforms have been found by the courts to be “cruel and unusual” and discriminatory; the cuts to health care for refugees, and the unfair initiative of barring refugees from designated countries of origin to have the right to appeal denied cases through the Refugee Appeal Division – RAD.



Diana Gallego, Immigration and Refugee Worker

We certainly maintain our advocacy for those refugees and clients in need. We can say that something that encourages our commitment is to hear from them that their applications got a positive answer such as three Humanitarian and

Compassionate applications achieved, one PRRA, and two inland refugee claims accepted... Congrats to our successful team, Diana Gallego and Aurora Canales.



Francois Régis Dushimiyimana ,office administrator



IN THE MEDIA : Stories from FCJ Refugee Centre

Host Sook-Yin Lee visited the FCJ Refugee Centre in Toronto. It's a cozy, brick house that provides emergency shelter and assistance to refugees. All of the refugees fled their home country because of political persecution, terrorist attacks, or war. And they were eager to share their experiences.



FCJ Refugee Centre
@RefugeeCentre



Refugee stories: In their own words 1:12

FCJ Refugee Centre Staff

Francisco Rico, Co-director
Loly Rico, Co-Director
Carolina Teves, Popular Education and Communication Coordinator
Philip Ackerman, Resource Development and Youth Coordinator
Tanya Aberman, Research and Project Coordinator
Kanishka Basnayake, Bookkeeper and Administrative Assistant
Sr. Lois Anne Bordowitz, Board of Directors Chair
Georvina B. Gomes, Transitional Housing Worker
Heather Jessome, Anti – Human Trafficking Project Coordinator
Aurora Canales, Intake and Case Management
Diana Gallego, Immigration and Refugee Worker
Haben Tesfai, Health and Well-Being Worker
Francois R. Dushimiyimana, Office Administrator



The Agenda with Steve Paikin:

www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/2015/09/seeking-asylum/

Photos of Alan Kurdi, the drowned Syrian toddler, have shocked Canadians. Now many are wondering if it is time for Canada to do more to help the world's displaced people. Is it time for Canada to do more? What are conditions for asylum seekers in Europe? How is the Syrian crisis affecting the Federal election?

Guests: Francisco Rico, FCJ Refugee Centre; Alexandra Kotyk, Lifeline Syria; Janice Stein, Munck School of Global

Affairs; Christian Leuprecht, Royal Military College of Canada

FCJ Refugee Centre website

You can find the links of articles and interviews published through the media on our website. From January to August we had almost 2 thousand unique visits .

FCJ Refugee Centre Seasonal Newsletter

Get the updates on events and new programs at FCJ Refugee Centre at the beginning of every season . Next issue FALL Newsletter in November.

Refugee Update

Refugee Update aims to reflect the life, experiences and issues facing refugees in Canada and other countries, assist Canadian refugee rights workers with information to support their advocacy activities, as well as to provide critiques on Canadian refugee policy and practices. Refugee Update is published three times per year.

