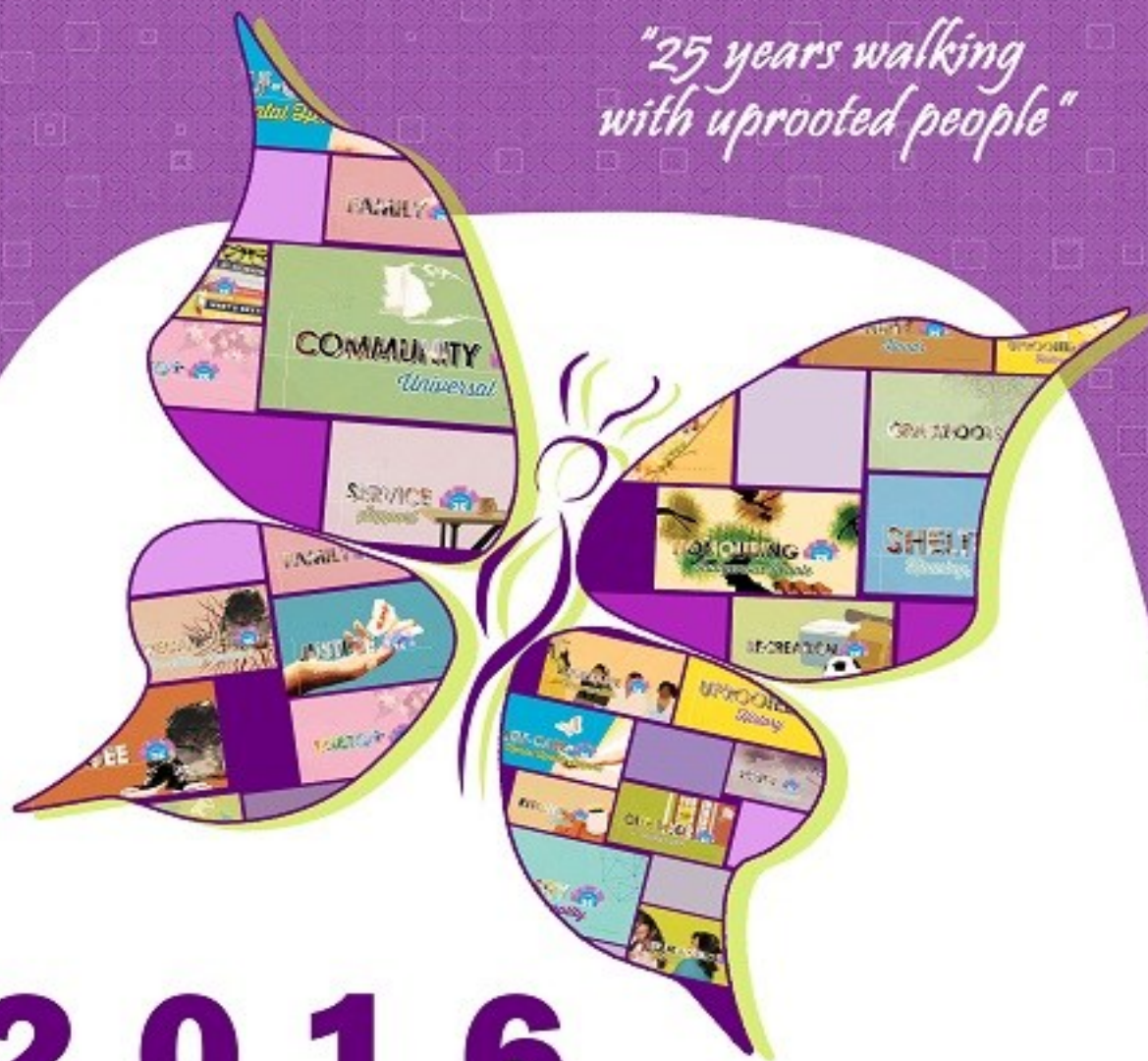


FCJ Refugee Centre

*"25 years walking
with uprooted people"*



2016 ANNUAL REPORT



FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE
Walking with Uprooted People

ABOUT FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE

MISSION

FCJ Refugee Centre helps uprooted people overcome the challenges of rebuilding their lives in Canadian society. With an open door approach, the Centre offers an integrated model of refugee protection, settlement services and education, including shelter for women and their children.

MANDATE

The FCJ Refugee Centre has a mandate to assist refugees and other uprooted people in re-establishing their lives and integrating into Canadian society by:

- Offering inclusive and timely counselling and support, including interpretation, referral to legal assistance, employment training, programs on Canadian culture and life, and other educational workshops
- Providing temporary shelter for women and children
- Collaborating with relevant organizations to deliver popular education about the protection of human rights and the dignity of uprooted people.

MESSAGE OF THE CO-DIRECTORS

Last year we celebrated our 25th anniversary! For more than 25 years, we have been devoted to providing a solid, helpful and hopeful foundation for uprooted people and people on the move. Thanks to all of the incredible support we have received from our donors over the years, we have stayed firmly rooted as an organization so that we could keep our doors open to those in need of our services.



To commemorate this milestone we organized several initiatives and events throughout 2016.

One of our initiatives was to reflect on FCJ Refugee Centre's main values. Staff and volunteers identified 25 values that represent the ethos of FCJ Refugee Centre. These values were highlighted and also linked to an online fundraising campaign on our website. The FCJ Youth Network program got involved in commemorating the anniversary by designing a brand new FCJ logo that features an insignia of 25 years to showcase our anniversary.

In addition to our "25 for 25" fundraising campaign and our logo design, community events were held throughout the year. We threw a street party in front of our 208 Oakwood address for the local community that included fun games, activities and more, as well as a fundraiser night of dinner and dancing at Wychwood Barns.

Board of Directors 2016

Lois Anne Bordowitz,
FCJ Board of Directors Chair

Bonnie Moser FCJ
Member at large

Martha Crean,
Member at large

Rozanne Reszel
Member at large

Adela Crossley
Member at large

Indika Kottegoda
Member at large

Fidaa Shehada
Member at large

Jehad Aliweiwi
Member at large

Michael Maher CFC
Member at large

Denis Claivaz,FPM
Member at large

Beth Coates
Member at large

Ann McGill FCJ
Member at large

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MESSAGE OF THE CO-DIRECTORS

Continued from page 2

When we first opened our doors as a Refugee Centre on Hamilton Street back in 1991, we had a modest house that could provide 2 bedrooms for uprooted women and their children. We were refugees who had fled our native country of El Salvador. Hamilton House, as it came to be known, was generously loaned to us by Sister Yvonne of the FCJ congregation, who welcomed us with open arms and an open door policy. Since then, we have been trying to reproduce Sister Yvonne's open door model by serving the needs of the uprooted populations that are all around us. Now, a quarter of a century later we are at 208 Oakwood and we operate 4 homes that can provide shelter for up to 28-30 women and children. As well, we have developed multiple support programs since opening our doors. FCJ's impressive roster of programs include Settlement, Refugee Protection, peer-to-peer Popular Education, Anti-Trafficking, which is the leading program of its kind in Toronto, and a Youth Network, that includes the Uprooted U program providing non-status youth access to post-secondary education. This past year 8 youth from this program have been accepted into York University. We are so very proud!

Although last year was a joyous one of celebration it was also a year of significant challenges. Due to the large influx of Syrian refugees, the federal government channeled most of their resources to fund this population's needs. Although the Syrians certainly needed and deserved the support they received, the needs of refugees and migrants from other parts of the world were not considered an equal priority. Refugee claimants and Humanitarian and Compassionate applications from countries in areas such as Africa and Asia were relegated to a secondary and sometimes a tertiary priority position, and this was certainly felt here at FCJ Refugee Centre, since our client base consists of these populations. Concurrently, the number of refugees from the rest of the world fleeing to Canada increased. The anti-immigration policies of the newly-elected Trump government, coupled with the refugee-friendly image of the Canadian Trudeau government contributed to this increase. Many from around the world and those considering fleeing the U.S called us at our office for advice, and still many others fled across irregular borders to get to Canada, believing it to be a haven for immigrants and refugees. All of these needs put a lot of stress on our organization. But we kept our focus and stayed strong to fulfill our mandate of helping to serve vulnerable people with precarious status.

As we look to the future and to the next 25 years, we continue to conceive and develop more initiatives and programs that will further support the diverse needs of our clients. We are beginning to realize the need for a community-based support network to help those who will continue to cross the borders irregularly. As well, we are in the early phase of re-branding our organization, to fit with the ever-changing profile of the people we serve.

When we look back at all that we have accomplished, and all of the friends, co-workers and volunteers, board members and donors who have supported FCJ Refugee Centre, we are so thankful and moved. Here's to the next 25 years!

Loly Rico
Co-director

Francisco Rico-Martinez
Co-director



SETTLEMENT PROGRAM

TRANSITIONAL HOUSES



Through our settlement program we offer women and children temporary accommodation while helping them get settled and feel safe in their new surroundings. We serve marginalized migrant populations who are experiencing settlement barriers due to their immigration status. This includes issues of discrimination, prejudice and domestic violence. Our staff works with our contacts in Toronto to help highlight the existing limitations of the settlement programs and to help provide individuals with temporary, transitional and ultimately permanent housing options. During 2016 with the generous support of the City of Toronto we were able to partially renovate one of our houses. We are waiting to receive approval for the second stage funding to completely renovate the whole

house. In addition, our successful partnership with IKEA North York led to a complete make-over of the living rooms in the three houses. New sofas, curtains, carpets, coffee tables, etc. are part of this donation. Now the living rooms are more comfortable, and invite residents to spend time together.

We organized various activities with the women in the houses. The majority of the activities were run by residents or volunteers. We organized Yoga classes, a sewing class, community kitchen which run once a month. In addition, a placement student



ran a program focused on the moms living in our houses. It was designed to connect moms with resources on parenting and child development available through the nearest community centres.

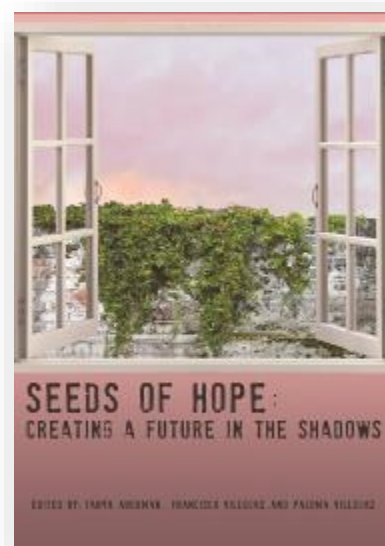


During the fall of 2016, the Centre organized a series of workshops for residents in the houses as well as other newcomer women. The series featured workshops such as Sexual Assault and Consent, Harassment in the Workplace, Indigenous Peoples History, and Healthy Relationships, among others. Various experts including lawyers from METRAC, counselors from TRCC and Toronto Public Health delivered the workshops and the turnout was amazing.

FCJ YOUTH NETWORK

2016 was a very active year for the FCJ Youth Network. During the year the group held a forum: Community Roundtable to Improve Access to Education for Newcomer Youth with the participation of about a hundred community members. The roundtable series provided a space to discuss alternatives for building on the Uprooted Education Project, resulting in The Uprooted Education 2016 Ontario Report.

The FCJ Youth Network also launched their first book, titled “SEEDS OF HOPE: CREATING A FUTURE IN THE SHADOWS.” This youth-led initiative was born out of the interest and enthusiasm of members of the FCJ Youth Network, who wanted to share their stories and experiences in writing.



SETTLEMENT PROGRAM

ACCESS TO EDUCATION



With the generous funding from the City of Toronto's Community Legacy Initiative grant we were able to develop our partnership with York University to create two pathways for precarious status youth to pursue university degrees. This is the first program of its kind in Canada that will allow precarious status students to pursue university degrees while paying domestic fees. Over the course of nine months we created a bridging program to support youth who have been out of school for a little while to transition to university. The program, which consists of a unique and innovative course titled: Critical Ap-

proaches to Migration and Uprootedness, will be housed in the sociology department. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to apply directly to undergraduate programs at York. The other pathway involves direct admissions to York University for recent high school graduates. We have been working on the administrative changes needed, which include everything from how to enrol students, create a safe campus environment, provide specialized student supports, etc. The first bridging course was scheduled to start in January 2017.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLINIC

After the implementation of drastic cuts to the Interim Federal Health program, FCJ Primary Health Care Clinic provided basic medical care to uprooted and people with precarious immigration status. Despite the reinstallation of the health coverage on April 2016, many people still don't have ac-

ceptable access to care. The flow of patients has dramatically increased and the waiting time to see a doctor has increased to 2-5 weeks for the primary clinic and 4-6 weeks for the psychiatry clinic.

On certain days, patients just show up with no previous appointments. The FCJ Primary Care Clinic is possible thanks to the support of the Inner City Health Associates who funds the doctors as well as provides the clinic with some basic supplies.



IMMIGRATION HELP AND REFUGEE PROTECTION

Through 2016 we continued to welcome new clients seeking information, counselling and support regarding immigration issues. Our services included: legal aid applications; referrals to lawyers, immigration orientations, filling out immigration forms, translations, etc. The number of referrals from other organizations greatly increased during the year because many people do not meet the eligibility requirements of many other agencies. This phenomenon has put many populations in a vulnerable situation, violating their human rights.



We were able to serve 3,222 clients during 2016, all of them facing difficult situations in navigating the immigration system.

The work accomplished during 2016 is a result of the implementation of different programs, such as The Precarious Migrant Protection and Support Program, which was possible thanks to The Law Foundation of Ontario.

Our unique service provisions model is also partially funded by the Newcomer Settlement Program of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. Through this program the FCJ Refugee Centre is supporting vulnerable newcomer populations who experience multiple barriers.



SUPPORT OF PLACEMENT STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS



The office dynamic is to always welcome clients to return when they need more information, services or follow up on their cases. With the support of the placement students and volunteers the project coordinator guarantees that the client receives the services needed.

During 2016 we had 8 students from Seneca College, Humber College and George Brown College and also a pro-bono student from Osgoode Hall (York University). The students were involved in programs like Child and Youth Care, Social Services and Community Worker. They filled out immigration forms such as work permits, humanitarian and compassionate applications, sponsorships and visa extensions among other documents. They also helped clients apply for legal aid, and sometimes accompanied them to medical, school and Ontario Works appointments.

POPULAR EDUCATION

Workshop delivery to service-providing agencies on subjects relating to the immigration and refugee system and service delivery to newcomers is an important part of our work of improving collaboration and strengthening response to vulnerable populations. Front-line service providers and communities across Ontario benefitted from our informative presentations which allowed participants to learn about accessing services to vulnerable populations, immigration changes, alternatives for traf-

ficked persons and criminalization of precarious migrant youth. We provided training to different organizations such as the refugee houses, Non status Women's Network, North York Community House (NYCH), Robertson House, Parkdale Newcomers Service Providers' Network, O'Neill Refugee Program, Seaton House, LUSO Community Services, Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office and Learning Enrichment Foundation (LEF).

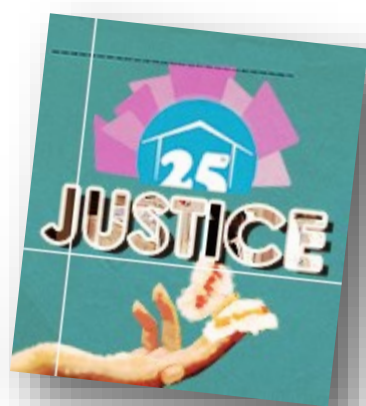
Through 2016 we provided 63 workshops attended by 1,592 participants.



MONTH	Participants	
	Workshops	
JANUARY	4	450
FEBRUARY	6	104
MARCH	7	271
APRIL	4	105
MAY	6	181
JUNE	5	92
JULY	4	52
AUG	5	35
SEP	5	54
OCT	7	145
NOV	6	53
DEC	4	50
TOTAL	63	1,592

There was increased demand for information on 3 particular issues: the humanitarian and compassionate application as an alternative for regularization of immigration status; change of status applications (visa extensions and work permits) and sponsorship applications. Due to the number of requests, we implemented 3 informative sessions on these applications every Monday. The invitation was open to anyone wanting to learn about any of the immigration issues. We produced promotional materials for the sessions and distributed them among other organizations we work with.

Ready Tour and Refugee Appeal Division (RAD) info-sessions became very successful programs for the community. Both programs provide enormous support to refugee claimants and appellants who often experience a lot of stress, confusion and misinformation. Thanks to The Law Foundation of Ontario for their support. Through 2016 we coordinated 45 sessions and 650 participants have joined the informative sessions.

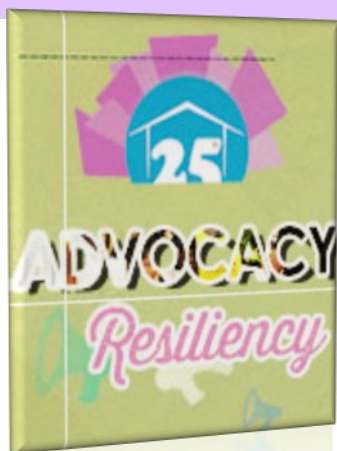


COALITION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS

The Coalition of Service Providers continued the dialogue with all the refugee houses to improving response to the shelter/ housing crisis we are facing as a Coalition. The



POPULAR EDUCATION



populations to homelessness .

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROGRAM

During 2016, our human trafficking program continued to work closely with all stakeholders to highlight important issues related to labour trafficking/exploitation. After years of advocacy from non-for-profit groups and allies, the Ontario Government announced in June 2016 a strategy to address human trafficking. They committed up to \$72 million aimed at increasing awareness and coordination, enhancing justice-sector initiatives and improving survivors' access to services. The service sector was particularly pleased about the commitment to increase community services to meet the immediate and long term needs of survivors. The FCJ Refugee Centre commended the government's move, expressing the hope that "the provincial efforts will be equally focused on reducing labour trafficking and supporting internationally trafficked persons." The Centre along with allies met with government officials entrusted with developing the strategy to discuss labour exploitation issues and ensure that they are at the forefront of the strategy. The meeting included officials from MCSS, Ministry of Labour, Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration among others.



The FCJ Refugee Centre continued to facilitate the Toronto Counter Human Trafficking Network and invite new organizations to join the important work. Jointly with East Metro Youth Services we organized survivor-led focus groups to share experience with services and support available to them. This initiative was part of the Victims and Survivors of Crime Week events funded by the Department of Justice Canada. The focus groups culminated in a roundtable to present the findings and discuss ways forward. The Summary report is available on the FCJ Refugee Centre website. Additionally, talks with related stakeholders, including the City of Toronto, were initiated to lay the foundation of a human trafficking help line for our City. The Find Help (the 211 operator) graciously offered their established infrastructure network system to support such a line. Conversations are still continuing.

SUPPORTERS

FCJ Refugee Centre's work is made possible by the generous support of foundations, businesses, religious groups and churches, government agencies, community groups, labour unions, and individuals. The FCJ Refugee Centre is grateful to our current and recent donors. We wish to thank and acknowledge you, including those who wish to remain anonymous, for joining us on our journey to improve the lives of newly arrived immigrants and their families.

Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ)
The Redemptorists
The Sisters of Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie
Christian Brothers
Our Lady's Missionaries
Sisters of Social Service
Loretto Sisters
Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto
The Basilian Fathers of Toronto
Congregation of Sisters of Holy Names
IKEA
Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada

Laidlaw Foundation
Law Foundation of Ontario
Toronto Arts Council
St Andrew's Charitable Foundation
The Daly Foundation
Chum Charitable Foundation
Trillium Foundation
City of Toronto
Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration
Department of Justice (Ontario)
Donations- Individuals

Thank you to our over 50 volunteers!!

Throughout the history of the organization, the involvement of volunteers has been critical to the operations of FCJ Refugee Centre. Each year, various residents of the houses, and those who use the Centre's services, students, among other like-minded friends, volunteer their time.

From lawyers contributing on a pro bono basis, law students, translators and interpreters, post-secondary school students to people who organize the office, do accounting, provide companionship, help distribute food, clothing, and furniture donations, paint, and garden every part contributes to the whole.



**MAKING A DONATION TO FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE IS
EASIER THAN EVER!**

You can make a donation to the FCJ Refugee Centre through CanadaHelps.org, a secure online donation system. Simply go to CanadaHelps.org and type FCJ Refugee Centre in "search".

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND NET ASSETS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

	2016	2015
Revenues		
Donations		
Individual donations	\$ 24,129	\$ 20,181
Religious organizations (note 6)	129,300	90,300
Foundations	146,222	258,069
Government grants	341,834	248,154
Rent	64,770	69,383
Other	15,806	5,539
	722,061	691,626
Expenses		
Legal program	134,524	117,014
Popular education	70,874	71,018
Settlement program	248,167	222,483
Development and fundraising	70,146	47,375
Administration	226,763	184,694
	750,474	642,584
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses for the year	(28,413)	49,042
Net assets (deficit) - at beginning of year	39,235	(9,807)
Net assets - at end of year	\$ 10,822	\$ 39,235



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