

# FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE

# SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2018



september 29, 2018  
what moves you?  
#ride18

September 29



FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE  
RIDE FOR REFUGEE IS HERE!!

*what moves you?*

The Ride for Refuge is a family-friendly cycling and walking fundraiser that supports charities who provide refuge and hope for displaced, vulnerable and exploited people everywhere. Join us on Saturday, September 29, 2018!

SUPPORT FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE, SUPPORT  
REFUGEES !

27 YEARS WALKING WITH UPROOTED PEOPLE

RIDE WITH US, JOIN US , SUPPORT US

## WE ARE BACK!

## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT MORE THAN EVER

### HELP US TO REACH OUR GOAL!

### TO LEARN ABOUT THE WORK OF THE

### FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE VISIT OUR

### WEBSITE:

### [WWW.FCJREFUGEECENTRE.ORG](http://WWW.FCJREFUGEECENTRE.ORG)



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RIDE FOR REFUGE: Support FCJ Refugee Centre  
<https://rideforrefuge.org/charity/fcjrefugecentre>



Dear friends,

On September 29th, we are going the distance for refugees.

If you will be around Toronto and available for some exercise, sign in and join us

Come join the FCJ Refugee Centre teams and ride, walk and fundraise to help provide services for refugees! The Ride for Refuge is on Saturday, September 29, 2018

FCJ Refugee Centre has been opening its doors for 27 years. We need your financial support to continue working and helping unprotected people, since there has been an increasing number of refugee claimants appearing at our doors.

We invite you to come and support us. Come ride with us for 10, 25 or 50 km. or walk for 5 km. You can also support us by giving a donation.

To learn more about us please visit our website: [www.fcjrefugecentre.org](http://www.fcjrefugecentre.org) or visit the Ride For Refuge website

<https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=812418#&panel1-2>



**RIDE FOR REFUGE 2017.**

We had a lot of fun during our RIDE FOR REFUGE last year:  
**A BIG THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS**



**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT ...  
MORE THAN EVER**



# DIVERSE RESIDENTS ONE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Despite a forecast announcing rain, the “Diversity Festival” was successfully held on Saturday, July 14th at the FCJ Refugee Center.

Glenhurst Avenue, which is usually characterized by its passivity, vibrated with the diversity of colours, flavours and sounds that helped us enjoy our celebration during the weekend.

More than 150 people gathered at the event. They were able to taste the flavour of delicious dishes from different parts of the world: *puto* of Filipinas, *zamosas* from India, *Shir Berenj* or rice pudding from Afghanistan, *quesadillas* and *pupusas* from El Salvador, *dumplings* from Tibet, among other delicious dishes.

In our event, the artistic presentations could not be absent. Therefore, young talents performed on our stage, delighting the public with their music and dances.

Loly Rico, co-director of the Center, was very satisfied with the response of the community: "This is a very special celebration because, apart from commemorating 27 years of being part the community, this was an opportunity to meet with women who had lived in one of our refugee houses more than 15 years ago. Now they are here celebrating with



Co-directors of FCJ Refugee Centre Loly and Francisco

us."

This event, which takes place every year, aims to celebrate the diversity of people residing in Canada, as well as the union of all communities in one voice. The organization of this event occurs at a time when support for refugee claimants is on the line due to the recent government announcements. For the co-directors of the center this type of activity is crucial, “now more than ever it is necessary to join forces”- they pointed out.

**During this summer we welcomed an excellent group of volunteers and summer placement students.  
Thank you for sharing your experiences at the FCJ Refugee Centre:**

Regina Osei-Bonsu

I am a French and International Relations student at the University of Leeds, England. I decided to spend the summer of my first year abroad to



foreground all that I had learned during my first year at University with regards to humanitarian work. I believed that it would be a great way to immerse myself in a new culture. University teaches you how to read academically, absorb information and regurgitate it back to the examiners. I pride myself in taking a more proactive role. Therefore, I started looking for work experience and internship(s) abroad.

I was referred to the FCJ Refugee Centre through an online Agency known as 'The Intern Group'. I decided to go ahead with my internship here as opposed to another Centre or the local councils within Toronto as I wanted to be directly involved in an organization. I strongly believe that the hands-on approach at FCJ has allowed me to greatly develop and exert more prominently skills such as patience, greater compassion and understanding. Moreover, I was attracted to the amount of activities available at FCJ ranging from youth group to street parties. There really is never a dull moment at FCJ.

Workload aside, I have learnt more interpersonal skills such as learning to listen thoroughly; not only to respond but to understand and offer advice. Additionally, I have also learned how to tell my 'story' and how to receive others. FCJ truly does teach you the importance of family, unity and co-operation so needed for refugees to feel welcome in Canada.

I did not know what to expect when I signed up to spend my summer working in a refugee centre four thousand miles away from home. However, spending my time here has superseded my expectations and it has exposed me to and shattered the common misconceptions associated with refugees. As I prepare to return to England to continue my studies I take back with me all that I have done, learned and seen, better preparing me for my future ventures. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the FCJ Centre: it is more than just a house with offices— it is a home for everyone.

Tamera Campbell

I'm a Public Policy Co-op and Sociology student at the University of Toronto Scarborough. I came to volunteer at the FCJ Refugee Centre through a wonderful sociology professor at UTSC who sparked my interest in issues of migration and race, as well as social service in general. As I began thinking more seriously about practicing social work professionally, I researched places where I could volunteer and found FCJ to be the perfect fit for me. As I expected, FCJ has served as a great platform to support uprooted people. At FCJ, I have the privilege of assisting migrants with complicated documents, performing data entry, and supporting important community events. Even though I've been here for a very short time, FCJ has provided me with some of the most fulfilling and meaningful work experiences I've ever had. For the first time, I feel like I can apply the critical skills I've gained through my education outside of academia and play a small part in helping marginalized people navigate social structure.

One challenge I've faced at FCJ, however, is the disconcerting awareness I now have of the way government policies I've hitherto only read about hurt people on the ground daily. Instead of letting this realization discourage me, it has enforced my commitment to grassroots policy-making, which I hope to practice as a social worker after graduate school. Public policy professionals who pride themselves on Canada's welcoming reputation must understand, for example, that it is unconscionable to mandate that displaced people pay high administrative fees in order to secure safety and refuge for themselves and their families. My experience at FCJ will, undoubtedly, not only equip me with necessary skills, but also play a critical role in my approach and principles as a social worker.

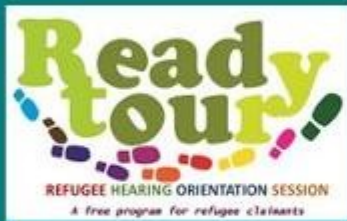
Thank you, FCJ, for doing the much-needed work of supporting migrants wherever they are at on their journey and for building a wonderful sense of community within your organization. I love working in an environment that respects and empowers migrants — it is my hope to remain at FCJ long past this summer!



Updated calendar on the upcoming sessions of Hearing Preparation and Refugee Appeal (RAD) 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@fcjrefugecentre.org](mailto:cteves@fcjrefugecentre.org)

## READY TOUR AND RAD INFO-SESSIONS

### CALENDAR September to October 2018



September	6	20	September	13	27
October	4	18	October	11	25

You are welcome to be part of our friends and followers on social media:

**Twitter:** @refugeecentre     **Instagram:** fcjrefugeecentre     **E-mail list:** fcjrefugeecentre.org  
**Medium:** fcjrefugeecentre     **Facebook:** /fcjrefugeecentre     **LinkedIn:** FCJ Refugee Centre



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