

FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE

Annual Report 2005

The FCJ Refugee Centre has a mandate to:

- *Provide shelter and basic life necessities such as food, clothing and transportation for women and children refugee claimants.*
- *Provide to refugees and other uprooted people education, counselling and other support services, including interpretation services, referrals to legal assistance, employment training, programs on Canadian culture and life, and other educational workshops.*
- *Assist refugees and other uprooted people to adjust to Canadian society.*

We have a new name and website

2005 will be remembered as the first full year of the implementation of the Safe Third Country Agreement which, for the first time in 10 years, managed to reduce the number of refugee claimants in Canada in a very visible way. But, even under that constant threat and sadness, thank God our houses were fully occupied, and our refugee and non-status cases continued to increase.

We have been involved in other things as well: Our creative and artistic skills, are being developed through the women's group. The life skills and popular education increases all year long. We felt the presence of more women from the outside community participating in our programs.

Our volunteers almost doubled. The pro-bono law students are younger and keep coming in good numbers. Our rate of acceptance in PRRA and Humanitarian cases has increased and with that also the smiles of our staff, volunteers and of



Quilt made by the women of FCJ Refugee Centre to celebrate the launch of the new name

course, the smiles of the people that we managed to regularize. Through our workshops we have trained about 1000 new persons. Our electronic capabilities are better than ever. Our presence in the main stream media continues to reach many. Internationally, our presence grew; we went to El Salvador to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our pastor Archbishop Romero; we researched the situation of domestic violence in Mexico to produce a report which helped to increase the rate of acceptance for that type of case. We celebrated the 50th issue of *Refugee Update*. With all of the above, our faith in humanity managed to grow.

Thanks be to God and to all the people that are committed to help our dream in priceless ways. I believe the only thing that reduced in our office during last year was the size of our name (from FCJ Hamilton House Refugee Project to FCJ Refugee Centre). It is nothing better than a great harvest. Our dream is to continue with all of you again next year.

Francisco Rico-Martinez and Loly Rico
Co-Directors

New website: www.fcjsisters.ca/refugeecentre



FCJ Refugee Centre
A Project of the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus



2005 FCJ Refugee Centre Highlights

REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

- Several successful refugee hearings including women from Zimbabwe, Congo, Rwanda, Cameroon, Albania, Nigeria and Brazil.
- One woman from Eritrea was reunited with her children.
- The houses were fully occupied including new women from El Salvador, Indonesia and Pakistan



Women's group enjoying a break

WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

- We offered a new program on coping with and preventing Domestic Violence. Funded by the Attorney General's Office, it proved to be a very helpful program to the women who participated.
- Several craft and art sessions were held throughout the year.

POPULAR EDUCATION

- A grant from the City of Toronto's Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative (SCPI) allowed us to expand our training workshops program.
- Training workshops continued throughout the year to agencies, community centres, labour unions and social service organizations.
- The training manual *Refugee Help in Refugee Hands* was updated.
- We updated our website to include new materials including our Detention manual and *Refugee Help in Refugee Hands* training manual.

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Some of our Key Partners

Since our inception, we have realized that to be effective in our advocacy for refugee claimants, and to meet their wide variety of needs, it is necessary to build alliances with other organizations working on refugee issues, housing shelters and legal service providers.

As such we partner with the following groups:

*Canadian Council of Refugees (CCR)
Coalition of Service Providers for Refugee Claimants (CSPRC)
KAİROS - Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
Legal Aid Ontario - Refugee Issues Advisory Committee
Ontario Council of Agencies*

*Serving Immigrants (OCASI)
Ontario Working Group on Detention
Sin Fronteras
Stop Trafficking
St. Joseph's Health Centre
Toronto Refugee Affairs Council*

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Lois Anne Bordowitz, FCJ
Loly Rico, Co-Director
Francisco Rico-Martinez, Co-Director



Tigest's Birthday Party

Our Supporters

We Gratefully Acknowledge Our Supporters

Our organizational supporters....

Canadian Autoworkers (CAW) Social Justice Fund
 CHUM Christmas Wish
 City of Toronto's Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI)
 The Congregation of St. Basil
 The Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ)
 The F.K. Morrow Foundation
 The Maytree Foundation
 Women's Interchurch Council of Canada

Our many individual supporters who contribute their time and money.

Our in-kind supporters...

The Furniture Bank
 Second Harvest
 Sleep Country

Our deepest appreciation to all of the volunteers and student placements who gave so generously of their time, talents and energy to make our work possible.

Our Volunteer Program

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, volunteer their time. From lawyers contributing on a pro bono basis, law students, translators and interpreters, to people who organize the office, do accounting, provide companionship, help distribute food donations, paint, and garden... ***every part contributes to the whole.***

Of special note:

- ◆ 9 students from Michigan helped with the repairs of the houses and different activities with the women.
- ◆ 37 volunteers donated over 6,000 volunteer hours!

REFUGEE UPDATE

This year marked the production of the 50th issue of *Refugee Update*.



Human Rights Display in El Salvador

delegation to El Salvador. Besides attending the anniversary celebrations, we visited various Human Rights organizations, two groups who are doing popular education through the arts, and participated in a Human Rights Symposium at the University of Central America.

2005 FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd)

NETWORKING

- Took part in CCR's Consultation Roundtable on Security organized by the Minister of Homeland Security.
- Co-Director Francisco Rico-Martinez went to Mexico in March to conduct a fact finding study on the state of protection for women suffering from Domestic Violence.

INLAND PROTECTION

4 pro bono students assisted with our cases based on Humanitarian and Compassionate grounds as well as PRRA cases.

TRIP TO EL SALVADOR

To honour the 25th anniversary of the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero, we organized a

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET DEFICIENCY

For the year ended December 31, 2005

	2005	2004
Revenues:		
Donations	\$14,071	\$6,245
Grants	\$146,335	\$89,356
Rental Income	\$61,275	\$57,765
Other	\$3,846	\$15,562
Total Revenues	\$225,527	\$168,928
Expenditures:		
Administration	\$45,429	\$35,351
Communications	\$6,195	\$7,679
Household - Hamilton	\$16,648	\$23,747
- Oakwood	\$20,110	\$14,340
- Dufferin	\$9,781	\$9,997
- Dovercourt	\$10,090	\$8,945
Salaries and benefits	\$154,351	\$143,532
Refugee support	\$8,954	\$29,237
Support group activities	\$2,553	\$16,171
Manuals and production	\$3,943	\$2,030
Total Expenditures	\$278,054	\$276,579
Subsidy from Federal Corporation (FCJ)	(\$8,470)	(\$15,470)
	\$269,584	\$250,258
Deficiency of revenue over expenditures for the year	(\$44,057)	(\$81,330)
Net assets – at beginning of year	(\$133,281)	(\$51,951)
Net assets – at end of year (to be covered by FCJ Sisters)	(\$177,338)	(\$133,281)

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Welcoming the stranger...