



# FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE

# Spring Newsletter, 2015

/FCJRefugeeCentre

@FCJRefugeeCentre



Save the date!  
**Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> 2015**



**Venue:** Artscape Wychwood Barns  
**Address:** 601 Christie St. Toronto, ON M6G 4C7  
**Time:** from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm



## Upcoming Events

**-YOUTH CELEBRATION**

**-DIVERSE RESIDENTS, ONE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**

**-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLINIC**

**WORLD REFUGEE DAY : JUNE 20**

**-COMMUNITY GROWING GARDEN**

## DIVERSE RESIDENTS, ONE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION: A SUMMER FESTIVAL

Through this event we intend to raise awareness among the general population of the plight of LGBTQ Refugees and the multiple barriers they face.

More importantly, we want to afford members of these communities with a venue to display their talents. This will be achieved through a day of musical and theatrical performances, art, exhibitions, cultural displays and speeches by community leaders.

Diverse Residents One community celebration coming on June 19th. Pictures above are from our last Diverse Residents One community celebration. Some of the activities we had during this celebration: fashion show, delicious food, excellent performances, dance, etc.

## SETTLEMENT PROGRAM

During the first quarterly of the year, around 40 clients have received housing access services. More than the half of them were located in our refugee houses.

We welcome Georvina Gomes who is our new Transitional Housing Worker and is coordinating the houses.

### Fieldtrips

The Transitional Houses will have an exciting summer with a field trip every week in different interesting places to encourage the residents discover Toronto and enjoy the warm summer time.

### Green Light Program

The green light programs offered to FCJ Transitional Houses the opportunity to participate in the program for economize energy. Now on the entire Houses are illuminated with energy-saving lightbulbs. Thanks for the green light to help the FCJ Houses contribute for the reduction of the planet warming.

### Community Kitchen

Our Community Kitchen provides an avenue for sharing of ideas and experiences improving interaction through our residents. The program is led by Betty Chinweokwu,



one of our former placement students. Betty has a lot of passion for cooking and she believes this is the best way to share, learn, relax and make community. Community Kitchen space helps to reduce isolation, and provides participants' access to healthy food. White African Yam was one of the delicious recipes shared during one of the cooking sessions that started on spring.

### Spring projects: Community Growing Garden!

FCJ Refugee Centre will be starting its first even garden, the Community Growing Garden! For the next 6 months, residents of our houses and youth in the Youth Network are welcome to participate in a fruits and vegetable garden, where we will be growing community as well as food! Participants will be deciding what they want to grow, so we'll wait and see what exciting variety of plants we will host this year. This project has been a long time coming, and we're excited to get it started. Check this newsletter for update on our growth, and invitations to see our success.



*Community Kitchen*

*White African Yam*

## SETTLEMENT PROGRAM

### Job Search Support

Through this program we help clients for successful job interviews. The program was implemented since the beginning of this year. So far we were able to support more than 15 newcomers.

Anyeli Estrada meet with clients every Wednesday 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

### Tax Clinic

FCJ Refugee Centre started to assist clients through the Tax clinic. The service is for individuals and families with low income and unable to complete their own returns. Maricel Ortiz and Daniel were very committed to the clinic.

They started with a training provided by Revenue Canada and be ready for Tax declaration time. Every week they were coming to see clients looking for this service. Tax clinic was running on tuesdays and fridays from March to May.

*"I thank FCJ for giving me the opportunity to volunteer in such a rewarding place and for letting me be part of this unique family. As a newcomer myself, I have experienced the difficulties that come with acclimating to a new country. I know how challenging it is to find a job and to meet the requirements in a new job market. Supporting newcomers through the Job Search program is a g r e a t experience for me."*

*Anyeli*



## LOOKING FOR A JOB?



FCJ Refugee Centre  
Walking with Uprooted People

### Do you need help with your:

- Resume
- Cover Letter
- Job Search
- Online and In-person Applications
- Job Interview

### We can assist you!

Every Wednesday from 12:00pm to 4:00 pm

(only by appointment)



### FCJ Youth Network : Chinue Bute

Congratulations to Chinue who received an important recognition from the City of

Toronto: Natalie Novac Youth Award.

## SETTLEMENT PROGRAM

### International women's Day

All the residents of the FCJ Refugee Centre got together to reflect on the International women's Day .

Jessica Morales, board member of FCJ Refugee Centre, shared her experience with residents and staff at the centre. She referred to the multiple challenges and overcoming Barriers women face as immigrants.

### A conversation around Femicide

*Breaking the Silence* is a documentary that shows the violence that women are continuously facing, specifically in El Salvador. FCJ Refugee Centre was happy to release this documentary as a resource to create awareness about this situation around the world. The video will be available soon.



*Participation at the International Women's Day*



*Jessica Morales sharing her experience at the International Women's Day Celebration*



*Gerson Peña (with the microphone) producer of the documentary during the launching of the film.*

### Message from the producer of the documentary: Gerson Peña

I think that the main message to take away from the film is, that violence against women is continuing to happen and that there needs to be more done about it.

This is not an issue of El Salvador only, this is a global issue. Many people will look at the film and call it a feminist film or ask me

why I made a feminist film. I think that this goes beyond that. This isn't about feminism, this is about human rights, the basic human right to live. We are all



## SETTLEMENT PROGRAM

### Primary Care Clinic

On June FCJ Refugee Centre will celebrate the third anniversary of the clinics which were opened just after the refugee health cuts. We welcome the new team who is making possible to open the clinic every other Tuesday.

### Mentoring team at the clinic

I feel fortunate to do my mentoring at the FCJ Primary Care Clinic with Dr. Jim on Saturdays. We can see different types of patients here. And I have learn from Dr. Jim that there should be no fixed time frame in assessing a patient. He spend as much time as the patient needs in each appointment. He supports patients in providing them with medicines, looking for laboratories, etc. As a foreign doctors helping here at the clinic, we feel this is a good path to get familiar with clinical experience in Canada. It is an honor to work with Dr Jim. And all credits goes to the almighty Allah and to you. Because it is you, who gave us the opportunity.

The staf in FCJ clinic is also very friendly and helpful. Patients here speak in different languages like French, Spanish, Portuguese, mandarin etc. and the FCJ staff do interpretation

MOHAMMAD AHSAN

### Dance Steps, Life Skills

After hours of rehearsing, dancing, laughing, expressing and learning, the dance program has sadly come to an end. Over the last year, newcomer youth have been exposed to various dance styles, such as Modern, Hip Hop, Ballet, Jazz, African Fusion, and Breakdance.

In addition, the youth were provided with a space that recognized and appreciated their diverse cultural backgrounds as the youth were able to share their traditional dance styles, while developing their leadership and self-confidence skills. Most importantly, the youth were actively involved in building an inclusive and positive space – a space that they could call their own.

**FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE** Presents *Dance Steps* Life Skills

**DPNCHC**  
1900 Davenport Road  
Tuesdays 6 - 7:30pm

**St. Stephen's Community House**  
5231 Yonge Street  
Thursdays 5 - 6pm

Hip Hop    DanceHall    Salsa  
House    Jazz  
Popping    Tango    Break-Dance  
African    & any style of your choice

Dance Steps, Life Skills is an interactive dance program meant to transcend barriers experienced by newcomer and marginalized youth. Youth will have the opportunity to express themselves artistically, share cultural practices, and learn creative dance forms from emerging artists in the Toronto area.

*Limited Space Available. To register, please contact:*  
Diana Da Silva  
(416) 469-9754 ext. 223  
FCJ Refugee Centre

FCJ Youth Network continue working on different projects: Dance Steps, Life Skills, Laidlaw Program, Film Projects . The next event is happening on May 27th, 2015.



# Say **YES** to Youth



**What:** A mini youth-led conference for newcomer youth and allies

**Where:** Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre

**When:** May 27, 2015 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm

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**6:00pm - Doors Open**

**6:30pm - Welcome and introduction**

**7:00pm - Break out groups**

**a) One Step Forward:** Conversations around anti-oppression

**b) Across the Line:** Reimagining mental health for newcomer youth

**c) My Lifeline:** Exploring the world beyond high school

**8:00pm - Dinner with special unveiling of our new website: [uprootedyouth.ca](http://uprootedyouth.ca)**

**9:00pm - Wrap Up**

Funded by:

## REFUGEE PROTECTION

**Immigration help and Refugee Protection:** Every Monday and Friday we provide free orientation on any immigration issues: sponsorship, humanitarian and compassion application, work permit, refugee protection, visa renovation, etc. Through the first semester of 2015 we provided orientation to more than 300 clients. The FCJ Refugee Centre depends on volunteers who help with all aspects of our work.

### ***Diana Gallego***

I have been enjoying a meaningful volunteer experience with the FCJ Refugee Center. The FCJ is a welcoming space for immigrants and refugees in need. I feel rewarded because I have had the opportunity to help clients and to interact with the amazing but humble human being team. Everybody places different roles according to the moment and situation, everyone is willing to help. As a refugee myself, being at the FCJ inspired me to improve my commitment and advocacy for social justice, especially with refugees and immigrants with precarious status.

Thank you for an enlightening experience

### ***Alberto Fernandez B.***

I have experience in research, consultancy and advocacy in dialogue and decision making stances on Human Rights of Migrants people, forced displacement, asylum seekers and refugees from the Mesoamerican region. Therefore, I am totally committed with migrants and their vulnerabilities. In this regard, Toronto offers me the opportunity to learn on other stages of migration and migratory fluxes.

At the FCJ Refugee Centre I am supporting, communications, coordinating events, doing research on the region and I am working closed to the people in need of help, moreover I am enjoying with the youth group.

### ***Shecofah Jabarkhil***

My experience at the FCJ Refugee Centre has been an amazing one. As a student, you look for a placement that has many opportunities for you to grow and improve on your skills. FCJ has definitely been that and more for me. The staff are very warm and friendly, which in turn helped me to feel more comfortable and more at ease within the environment. It's also a place of open and honest communication, and the staff never makes you feel as if you're being judged.

Overall, this has been an amazing experience that I will back on fondly. I would like to give a huge Thank You to the staff as well as the youth that have made my time here so wonderful.



## REFUGEE PROTECTION AND POPULAR EDUCATION

Through the Popular Education Program, FCJ Refugee Centre provided around 40 workshops across Ontario. Some of the trainings we are implementing are the Breaking Barriers, Gaining Access, Newcomer Settlement Program trainings, Human Trafficking, Immigration changes, etc.

**Toronto Counter Human Trafficking Network (TCHTN)** organized the training on trauma counseling to people that have been trafficked. Other important event is the forum Building Community Support for LGBTQ+ People in Forced Labor (aka Human Trafficking. More than 200 participants joined this trainings.

### **RAD info Sessions**

The RAD info-sessions continue welcoming appellants who are in the appeal process. So far we coordinated 6 sessions with around 50 participants.

The RAD is a free program for refugee appellants. It provides refugee appellants to be better prepared for the presentation of their appeal before the RAD.

The sessions are scheduled on Thursdays at the 74 Victoria ST. and it is facilitated by Lenny Di Vecchia, analyst at the Refugee Appeal Division of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada.

Through this sessions rejected refugees learn the steps to follow and how to document your appeal before the Refugee Appeal Division (RAD).

### SERVICES

**-Primary Health Clinic:** New patients are welcome to our clinic every Saturday. —

**Counseling clinic:** Every Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**-English Learning Language:** Join ESL classes every Saturday at 11:00 a.m. (exception long weekends).

**-Yoga classes:** Are accessible to everyone, regardless of their ages

**-Workshops:** We provide workshops on diverse topics

**-Immigration help and Refugee Protection:** Every Monday and Friday we provide free orientation on any immigration issues

**-FCJ Youth Network:** Welcomes new members to join the group every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

**-Dance classes:** tuesdays and thursdays

**-Community Kitchen:** every other Friday from 3 to 5:00 pm

For more information about our programs contact our office 416-469 9754

