

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The Syrian Civil War has generated the largest refugee crisis in decades. Since 2011, when the conflict began, over four million people have fled Syria. An additional eight million people have been displaced within the country. Based on the most recently communicated information, 25,000 Syrian and Iraqi refugees will be admitted to Canada by February 29, 2016.

Businesses, organizations and residents are inquiring as to how they can welcome the refugees to the community and assist them in their settlement and integration. The City of New Westminster and Welcoming and Inclusive New Westminster (WINS) Local Immigration Partnership Council, which comprises business, community, faith, settlement and social service organizations, is providing the following information to assist those who want to make a difference.

Inquiries related to Making a Donation

The Welcoming and Inclusive New Westminster (WINS) Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) Council has established an account to hold cash donations to help support the settlement of Syrian refugees in New Westminster. The Lower Mainland Purpose Society, as host agency for the LIP initiative, is designated to hold the funds. Use and distribution of the funds will be overseen by a sub-committee of the LIP Council.

To make a donation and to receive a tax receipt, the following methods are available.

By Cheque: Payable to the 'Lower Mainland Purpose Society,' plus indicate 'LIP Refugee Fund.' Cheques can be dropped off at: Lower Mainland Purpose Society, 40 Begbie Street, New Westminster, BC, V3M 3L9.

By Credit Card: Telephone the Lower Mainland Purpose Society at 604-526-2522.

In Person: Drop by the Lower Mainland Purpose Society, 40 Begbie Street, New Westminster.

Don't forget your return address for a tax receipt and indicate that your donation is for the '**LIP Refugee Fund.**'

Inquiries related to Accommodation and Employment

The Immigrant Services Society of BC has established a registry where those wanting to make a contribution can sign-up to provide accommodation or employment. Please see the below link.

<http://www.issbc.org/prim-corp-nav/our-work-with-refugees/refugee-crisis/how-can-i-help-refugees>

Inquiries related to Private Refugee Sponsorships

Citizenship and Immigration Canada provides information related to sponsoring refugees. As a sponsor, you would provide financial and emotional support for the refugees for the duration of the sponsorship, which is typically one year. This includes housing, clothing and food. Please visit:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/ENGLISH/refugees/sponsor/index.asp>

MOSAIC is playing a key role with regard to facilitating Private Refugee Sponsorships. To access information about being a sponsor or to attend an information session, please visit: <http://www.mosaicbc.com/refugees/refugee-support-you-can-change-lives-refugees>

Inquiries related to Donating Products and Services at No or Low Cost

MLA Judy Darcy's Constituency Office has established a registry where businesses and organizations can offer products and services to assist in Syrian refugee resettlement in New Westminster – e.g., dental services, grocery gift cards, etc. Please see below contact information:

Community Office, 737 Sixth Street, New Westminster, V3L 3C6, 604-775-2101, Judy.Darcy.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Inquiries related to Donating Clothing, Small Household Items and Toys

St. Barnabas Anglican Church is accepting new and near new clothing, small household items and toys for distribution to newly arriving refugees. Given limited storage space, it will not be possible to donate larger household items at this time.

St. Barnabas Anglican Church, 1010 Fifth Avenue, New Westminster, V3M 1Y5. Please call Dave Ross at 778-863-0497 to arrange a drop-off time.

Inquiries related to Food and Meal Programs

Those wanting to make a contribution can purchase a food bank voucher at their local grocery store, in which the proceeds will be used in New Westminster, or make a donation of food or money to the Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society or the Muslim Food Bank. This will not only benefit Syrian refugees but residents with low-incomes or living in poverty. Please see the below links:

<https://www.foodbank.bc.ca/> and <http://www.muslimfoodbank.com/>

Newcomers can access a number of food services located in New Westminster and bordering Burnaby. Some of these services are listed in the 'Helping Hand' brochure, which can be accessed at: [http://www.newwestcity.ca/database/files/library/New_Westminsters_Helping_Hands_Brochure_2015_final\(1\).pdf](http://www.newwestcity.ca/database/files/library/New_Westminsters_Helping_Hands_Brochure_2015_final(1).pdf)



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