

ABOUT US

Welcome video message from Father John Hibbard

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide refugees the support they need to successfully integrate into Canadian life and establish a new home in a peaceful, caring community. We believe everyone deserves to live in safety and dignity, and we are committed to making that a reality for our sponsored families.

Our Story

Then the King will say to those on his right: "Come, you who are blessed by my father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. A stranger and you welcomed me. Naked and you clothed me. Ill and you cared for me. In prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him and say: "Lord, when did we see you hungry and we fed you or thirsty and gave you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you or naked and clothed you? When did we see you ill or in prison and visited you?" And the king will say to them in reply: "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did to me." ~Matthew 25:34-40

Rooted in Jesus' teachings, St. Paul the Apostle Parish, together with other local refugee sponsor groups in 2015, sponsored a family fleeing the horrors of Syria's civil war. Our first application, under auspice of Anglican Diocese of Ontario Refugee Support (DOORS), was that September. Our first family, two parents and their four children arrived in December. In that first year of sponsorship, with a wonderfully dedicated and effective settlement team, we provided housing, food, clothing, medical and educational assistance as asked of sponsors by the government.

Since then, we've been approved for two more sponsorships. A third sponsorship was cancelled a few days prior to the family's expected arrival under ambiguous circumstances. Our most recent sponsorship was approved November, 2019 but placed on hold with the pandemic. That family, which had lost everything of their home, suffered an extended refuge in Lebanon. During that time we were able to provide them with basic support. The process restarted in November 2021 and the parents and three children, then aged 15 to 21, arrived in Kingston in September 2022.

Currently, we have received allocation from DOORS to sponsor two more families (both, daughters and families of our recent sponsorship). While we await processing of their applications by the federal government, we are focused on raising the money that will be needed to support them for their first year.

Settling in a new country is an enormous challenge... new people, new culture, new language. We are only able to help these newcomers with the generous participation of our volunteers, the generosity of our donors and the help of community partners. We extend sincere appreciation to everyone who has, and continue, to make our work possible, in accordance with Jesus's teaching.

But a Samaritan while traveling came near him and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper and said: "Take care of him and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" He said: "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him: "Go and do likewise." ~Luke 10: 33-37