



INSIDE MATTHEW HOUSE

An update for the supporters, friends & volunteers of Matthew House Toronto



Delegates listen as former Matthew House residents share their stories of detention.

Matthew House on the World Stage!

Thanks to the support of our donors and volunteers, we are not only making a difference to those landing on our doorstep, but we may also influence the lives of refugees in desperate situations around the world. On April 20 Matthew House had a rare opportunity to make a significant impact on the world stage when we hosted an international delegation of leaders in the refugee field.

The 40 delegates, including human rights experts and high-ranking government officials, came from all corners of the globe to attend a round table consultation on the topic of “Alternatives to Detention,” convened by the UNHCR. According to international law, refugees should NOT be held in detention, but unfortunately this practice is very widespread.

Throughout the day, different groups visited our beautifully kept Dundas Street home where staff described our work of receiving refugee guests and three former residents, who had experienced detention in Canada, spoke about the impact it had on them. One fact that left a lasting impression on many delegates was that in welcoming over 1,300 refugees from 88 different nations over the years, we have no locks on our doors and nothing has ever been stolen from our home. We cited our core value of treating all people with care, dignity and respect as being a key factor in creating an atmosphere of trust.

At a subsequent reception, we were thanked for the eye-opening tour and learned that Matthew House was seen as the “ideal model of refugee reception to which all nations should aspire.” What a privilege to play even a small role in influencing attitudes and practices for the better regarding alternatives to refugee detention. As a shelter that does not receive any direct government funding, our success is solely due to our generous supporters who care about the plight of refugees and want to make a difference. Thank you!



Thank you!

My name is Nathan and I want to thank all the amazing volunteers and donors who supported my mom. When she arrived at Matthew House from Eritrea she was pregnant with me and all alone. Thanks to you, she felt supported and at peace in the days leading up to my birth and I was born April 1, a healthy 7 lb 8oz. I want to give a special thank you to Nikki, Gary, Isla and Casey for all your help. We are forever grateful for all the love we received from everyone in the Matthew House community.

Did You Know?

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Vietnamese boat people arriving at our shores where they were warmly embraced by Canadians. Sadly, there are still many boat people today from countries like Eritrea and Syria seeking refuge but unfortunately many nations, including Canada, are essentially turning a blind eye to them.

Thank you for helping Matthew House flow against the current with open arms of welcome.

Get involved!



Get Your Tickets Today!

On Wednesday, June 10 we will be holding a fundraiser at the Bloor Hot Doc Cinema where we will be showing the film *The Good Lie*. For more information visit our website.



Camp 2015

This summer we are again inviting residents and volunteers for a fun weekend in Muskoka August 21-23. If you would like to sponsor a refugee (\$150 per camper), you may do so via the enclosed donation form or online via our web-links.



Lace up your running shoes

Sunday, October 18 we will be participating in the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon, Half marathon and 5 km. We invite you to walk or run with us. To sign up for Team Matthew House visit our website.

Please make all cheques payable to:

Matthew House Refugee Reception Services Toronto
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www.matthewhouse.ca
Charitable No. 89115 2944 RR0001

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." Matthew 25:35