

Rosedale United Church

Learn. Grow. Serve.

REFUGEE SUPPORT

The Current Environment

There are 51.2 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. This breaks down into 16.7 million refugees, 1.2 million asylum seekers and 33.3 million internally displaced people. The definition: a refugee is a person who is outside their country of origin because they have suffered persecution and cannot safely return home because of these circumstances.

Asylum seeker means a person who has applied for asylum on the ground that if he is returned to his country of origin he has a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, political belief or membership of a persecuted social group.

For refugees there are three durable solutions: voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement to a third country.

Rosedale United Church

We are a dynamic congregation of the United Church of Canada located in a quiet neighbourhood in the heart of Toronto. We currently share ministry with 430 households from both our immediate neighbourhood and across the City. We have a tradition of, strong preaching, wonderful music and a welcoming environment. Whether you are a long-time member or considering a first visit, be at home among us.

Refugee Committee

Rosedale United has a long pattern of support for refugees fleeing violence, and persecution. We are currently coordinating community support in sponsorships of families directly impacted by the Syrian Refugee Crisis.

This specific sponsorship program relies on the generosity of congregation members, and members of the community at large in time and money.

We are partners with the **Anglican United Refugee Alliance** (AURA) which is a Canadian sponsorship agreement holder that works determinedly to help as many refugees as possible.

For more information about our Refugee Program, contact Claude Hould, the Chair of the Rosedale United Refugee Committee:

Claude@HutsonHould.com

or

(416) 219-0383

Reference: <http://www.rosedaleunited.org/>



AURA is a Canadian charitable organization assisting in the sponsorship and resettlement of refugees. A-U-R-A is an acronym and stands for **Anglican United Refugee Alliance**. AURA represents the Anglican Diocese of Toronto and the Toronto Conference of the United Church of Canada as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder with Citizenship and Immigration of Canada facilitating the Private Sponsorship of Refugees and their resettlement by working with a coalition of churches to help refugees

regardless of their religion, politics, gender, sexual orientation, race and nationality.

Brief History of AURA

It started with crises of the late 1970's. The many military campaigns in South East Asia during that time caused a mass exodus of refugees (called the "Boat People") who desperately needed help and support. The predecessor of AURA was the Toronto United Church Emergency Refugee Relief (TUCERR). This organization began in 1985 (30 years ago). There were young political refugee claimants held in detention centre like conditions at Pearson International Airport. TUCERR offered support by attempting to house these refugees in the homes of concerned church members, by providing friendship, temporary shelter and practical assistance.

Separately from TUCERR, in the fall of the same year, 1985, the Working Group on Refugee Resettlement (WGRR) came together with a mandate to facilitate the sponsorship of refugees through churches in the Anglican Diocese of Toronto and the Toronto Conference of the United Church. In 1994 TUCERR merged with WGRR carrying the name of the last (WGRR) and in 2006 (almost 10 years ago) the Working Group on Refugee Resettlement (WGRR) changed to the Anglican United Refugee Alliance.

AURA's Focus

- Private Sponsorship of Refugees
- Refugee Sponsor Training and Development
- AURA Educational Programs
 - AURA works closely with numerous universities, colleges and other educational organizations to provide student placement practicums
- AURA Community Building through Outreach Initiatives.
 - Educate community groups and the general public in relation to refugee issues. AURA holds presentations and workshops on an ongoing basis in the large and diverse catchment area of AURA which includes the GTA (Greater Toronto Area) in the South to further north than Parry Sound, stretching from Owen Sound in the west to past Cobourg in the east.

Reference: <http://auraforrefugees.org/>

TYPE OF SUPPORT or SPONSORSHIP

Donation to Rosedale United Church Refugee Fund

Funds are used to support settlement of arriving families including emergency support during their sponsorship.

Named or Sponsor-Referred *

A group or church submits a case of a refugee whom they already know and believe would qualify for sponsorship to the Canadian Government.

To help more Canadians and permanent residents privately sponsor Syrian and Iraqi refugees, Citizenship and Immigration Canada has waived the requirement for Groups of Five and Community Sponsors to provide proof that the sponsored person is a refugee. This web page is currently being updated.

Reference: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/community.asp>

Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) *

The Government of Canada will provide up to six months of income support through the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP), while private sponsors will provide another six months of financial support and up to a year of social and emotional support. Refugees are also covered under the Interim Federal Health Program for the duration of the sponsorship (one year), in addition to provincial health coverage. There is currently a limit of 1,000 BVOR Applications a year.

Reference: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/vor.asp>

Visa Office-Referred (VOR) *

Refugee cases that have been identified by the Canadian Visa Officers overseas for resettlement to Canada. They are brought to the attention of the Canadian Visa Officers by the UNHCR.

Reference: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/community.asp>

Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) *

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) sometimes partners with organizations to resettle refugees with special needs. This program is called Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS).

Refugees with special needs may need more support than other refugees in order to settle in Canada. Under the JAS program, refugees receive support from the government and a private sponsor for up to 24 months, depending on the case. In a few cases, the private sponsor may provide support for up to 36 months.

Reference: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/jas.asp>

Reference: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/section-2.asp#a2.5>

Charitable tax receipts will be issued for donations to the Rosedale United Church Refugee Fund or Sponsorship of a Refugee Family through Rosedale United Church.

Our CRA Charitable Registration: **119123370 RR 0001**

*SPONSOR'S OBLIGATIONS

AURA Sponsoring Partners do their part of the PSR (Private Sponsorship of Refugees) program by carrying out the settlement for refugees. Sponsoring Partners are responsible for:

1. **Cost of food,**
2. **Securing accommodations and paying rent,**
3. **Utilities,**
4. **Day-to-day living expenses** (such as personal care products, pharmaceuticals etc.);
5. **Clothing,**
6. **Furniture,**
7. **Other household goods;**
8. **Locating interpreters,**
9. **Assisting with applications for SIN, provincial health-care coverage (OHIP), licence**
10. **Selecting a family physician and dentist;**
11. **Enrolling children in school,**
12. **Enrolling adults in language training (ESL),**
13. **Introducing newcomers to people with similar personal interests;**
14. Providing **orientation with regard to banking services, transportation, etc.**
15. Assisting with **preparation of Government forms and Income Tax Preparation**
16. Helping in the **search for employment.**

All these specific tasks must be done at different times and each requires different amounts of time, expertise, and skills to cover all the needs of the sponsored refugees.

Refugees are usually given a loan from the Government of Canada to pay for their medical examinations overseas and their transportation to Canada. In cases where the visa office has concerns about a refugee's ability to repay a loan, the sponsoring group may be asked to pay a portion of, or all these costs. Examples may be sponsorships for elderly persons who are unlikely to enter the labour market or sponsorships of unaccompanied minor children.

ESTIMATED SETTLEMENT COSTS – one year

Feature	Family of 4	Family of 6
Accommodation	\$ 18,500	\$ 18,500
Transportation	\$ 5,600	\$ 7,100
Personal	\$ 9,400	\$ 13,400
TOTAL	\$ 33,500	\$ 39,000
Note: Does not include pre-clearance and flight costs, originally pre-paid by Canadian Government and expected to be repaid starting six (6) months after arrival. Cost of new mattresses and any purchased furniture/furnishings is not included in the above.		

ROSEDALE UNITED CHURCH REFUGEE PROGRAM GROUP IDENTIFICATION

SPONSORING GROUP'S NAME

MAIN CONTACT		
Name		
Address		
City	Province	Postal Code
Phone	email	

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF GROUP (For Tax Receipts of Charitable Contribution) Use additional pages, if required					
Name	Address	City	Prov.	Postal Code	Contribution (\$)

Support Type (see definitions on page 4)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation to Rosedale United Church Refugee Fund Make Cheque payable to <i>Rosedale United Church Refugee Fund</i>	\$
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Named or Sponsor-Referred
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) or VOR if Blended Visa is not available
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) <i>Additional Support Required</i>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Please add me to the Rosedale United Church Refugee email list You may unsubscribe at any time
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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE

Print this page, sign it and either

- scan it and email to Church Office [churchoffice@rosedaleunited.org], or
- mail the completed form to

Rosedale United Church – Refugee Program
159 Roxborough Dr.
Toronto ON M4W 1X7

CRA Charitable Registration 119123370 RR 0001