

Gratitude Report 2018

My name is Douaa.

I'm a Grade 10 student at Thomas A. Stewart. I live here in Peterborough with my older brothers, little sister and my mom and dad. I came here from Syria.

I want to say thank you for your donation to the New Canadians Center.

Since I came to Canada three years ago I've participated in a lot of activities through the New Canadians Center.

Because of you, I've gone to Summer Camp. I volunteer. I got involved in the Spark New Comer Youth Photography Program. I really enjoy taking pictures.

I went to a course and received my Food Handler's Certificate. I even got a summer job. Every week I go to the New Canadians Center after school. I get help with my homework from tutors.

Thank you for supporting new Canadians like me, through the NCC.

Because of you, I feel welcome. I feel like I belong. One day I hope to be a nurse. Because of your support, I know I can do it.

Thank You!

Douaa Falah

**Because of You,
Douaa Wants
to Be a Nurse**

Your Generosity Helps Reynaldo Excel in his Workplace

Reynaldo Angco is very excited to share some good news with Olga Stetsyuk, his Employment Counsellor at the New Canadians Centre. "I just became a Canadian citizen," he says, grinning and laughing. "I'm thrilled. I wanted to tell Olga in person."

"I just became a Canadian citizen. I'm thrilled."

Originally from the Philippines, Reynaldo has recently been awarded by his employer for his exemplary work ethic. "He is extremely committed to providing a good life for his family," Olga says. "When new Canadians present with skills they have developed before arriving in Peterborough, we do our very best to connect them



Employment Counsellor Olga Stetsyuk(l) and new Canadian, Reynaldo Angco

with employers who will help build on their previous experience and success."

"My kids are very young and I'm working hard to give them a good life," says Reynaldo. "I believe Peterborough is a wonderful city for them to grow up, go to school and be happy."

Your Donation Provides Skills Training for Newcomers

Abdulhamid Abdullah (l) stands in his London Street garden with his 13-year old daughter Sidra. Abdulhamid is grateful to Craig and Ashley of Mortlock Construction for the opportunity to work with their company this summer.

Living in Peterborough for close to two years, Abdulhamid has attended ESL classes and the LINC program at Fleming. He also attended the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) training delivered at the New Canadians Centre to prepare him for employment.



Abdulhamid Abdullah and Sidra

"I worked in construction for most of my life in Syria. To be able to do this kind of work here in Peterborough, makes me and my family, very happy," says Abdulhamid. "We are very grateful to Canadians for their kindness. We want to give back to them for all they have done for us."

An award-winning student at Keith Wightman Public School, Sidra is happy working in the garden alongside her father. "I love tending to all of the vegetables we are growing and we have herb plants growing in pots on our front porch too."

Khidir Had to Leave School Because of the War. Because of You, He's Studying to be an Accountant at Fleming College

Life changed for 24-year-old Khidir Bkdach when he started volunteering at the New Canadians Centre. "One day, Khidir walked into my office and told me he wanted to improve his English," explains

"I never came here to take anyone's job or their home. I came here to help. Canada is a great country. And I hope to make it even better."

NCC Refugee Resettlement Coordinator, Jack Gillan. "I believed the best way for Khidir to not only develop his English but start to feel connected to the community that was now his home, was to

employ his skills as an interpreter. He started volunteering his time – for doctor's appointments and training sessions. "When a client came to the NCC with a problem, Khidir was there to help."

"One day, Jack called me and said there was an emergency and I had to go to the hospital with him," Khidir remembers. A new family was arriving from Syria and they were in need of urgent medical attention. "Khidir was right there with the doctor



24-year-old Khidir stands in front of the 'Be Alive in Peterborough' Community Mural. "I like the expression, Never Look Back."

in the emergency room explaining everything," Jack says. Not long after, Khidir, who grew up and attended school in Homs before the war broke out, started working at the NCC as a summer student. "I couldn't finish school because of the war. I studied at home and I watched movies to keep learning English." His favorite? "The Godfather,"

he says with a smile. "I identify with this family because they had to work so hard. They wanted so much to belong in their new country."

Today, Khidir is busy attending Fleming College in the Business Administration program. "I want to be an accountant. And then I hope to get a job and continue building my life in Peterborough. I never came here to take anyone's job or their home. I came here to help. Canada is a great country. And I want to make it even better."

With Your Help, Newcomers Build Skills for Employment

"We are eager to work with the New Canadians Centre to help newcomers secure employment," explain Ashley and Craig Mortlock of Mortlock Construction. Understanding there is a gap in skilled trades, both Ashley and Craig are receptive to innovative ideas that can help new Canadians who need work, fill them.

"This summer we employed new Canadians who were referred to us from the NCC's employment counsellor, Olga Stetsyuk. These gentlemen possessed a great work ethic, were pleasant and we would hire them again."

Acknowledging there are barriers as a result of

"We're open to coming up with new ideas, building partnerships and increasing capacity within our sector to work with and employ new Canadians."

language, both Ashley and Craig agree some type of skills assessment would be helpful to determine ability as well as ensuring quality control. "When you are on a job site things

are happening quickly. It's imperative health and safety measures are adhered to and that everyone understands the importance of these rules. Standards in other countries may vary. We want to ensure people are meeting the

demands that are required for working in the trades in Canada. We're open to coming up with new ideas, building partnerships and increasing capacity within our sector to work with and employ new Canadians."



Craig (I) and Ashley Mortlock

A Volunteer's Experience

Supporting New Canadians has Enriched Judi Hendry's Life

Judi Hendry believes that regardless of where we come from, we all want the same thing in life.

Supporting new Canadians as a volunteer for more than 17 years, Judi remembers welcoming a family of four from Colombia to the Peterborough community. What was then known as the *Host Family Program*, Judi recalls attending the graduation ceremony of the family's eldest daughter. "The memory still stands out for me," she says. "She graduated from university at the top of her class."



Judi Hendry, Volunteer

Originally, it was Judi who volunteered her time. Soon her family of four got involved, strengthening her commitment to supporting and welcoming newcomer families. "I've always been curious to hear people's stories," Judi, who is a member of a volunteer support team for newcomers from Syria, says. "It expands our view of the world, and helps us to understand that regardless of our origin and culture we all share a common story and desire the same thing in life – a safe place to live for ourselves and our family."

"Regardless of our origin and culture, we all share a common story"

Your Generous Support Builds a Diverse & Welcoming Peterborough, Thank You!

The New Canadians Centre Peterborough strives to empower immigrants and refugees to become full and equal members of Canadian society, and to provide community leadership to ensure cultural integration in a welcoming community.



221 Romaine Street Peterborough, ON K9J 2C3
www.nccpeterborough.ca

For more on the New Canadians Centre, contact Carol Lawless, Fund Development Coordinator
carol@nccpeterborough.ca or 705-743-0882 x230

Your Generosity Gives Ahmad the Chance to Fulfill his Goal of Becoming an Electrician in Canada

32-year-old Ahmad Lalou knows the importance of living in a welcoming community.

Having made the journey from Syria with his young family, Ahmad remembers meeting Salwa Mirgani, his Transition Settlement Worker from the New Canadians Centre, for the first time. Salwa was waiting at Fleming

"When I'm at the grocery store, people smile at me. I don't feel alone. I feel like we belong here."

College's Severn Court to greet him when he and his family arrived from Pearson Airport. "I was asking myself all of those questions: Where are we going? Where will we live?

What is going to happen to us?" says Ahmad who recently completed the Industrial Electrician course at Humber College.

"I looked out and there was Salwa. She was waving to us and smiling. She told us she was here to help. Suddenly, I felt like it was going to be okay. We weren't alone. We were welcome."

Currently enrolled in the English as a Second Language Bridge program at Fleming College, Ahmad started working towards the goal of becoming an Industrial Electrician when he was in high school in Syria – before the war broke out.

While Ahmad says there are so many people who have supported and encouraged him – his volunteer support network, the staff at the New Canadians Centre, he



From left to right are Ahmad Lalou, Salwa Mirgani, Transition Settlement Worker and Jack Gillan Refugee Resettlement Coordinator, New Canadians Centre

says it's the people of Peterborough who have made the biggest difference in his life. "When I'm at the grocery store, people smile at me. I've lived in Toronto while I was going to school. I know the difference of living in a city where people care about what happens to you. I don't feel alone. I feel like we belong here."