



# SYRIAN REFUGEE ARRIVALS

## ONE YEAR DONOR UPDATE

### Dear supporters,

For many Syrian newcomer families, September was a milestone in their new life. In communities across the country, thousands of refugee children began school for the first time here in Canada.

It was no doubt a nervous day for these children, whose normal upbringing and education had been taken away by the conflict in Syria. But even before they stepped into a Canadian classroom, your support was there to help.

With your donation, we were able to provide them opportunities to practice a new language, participate in summer camps, and learn about a new education system.

Of course, adapting to Canadian schools is only one of many challenges facing Syrian newcomers.

Thanks to your donation, the Red Cross has also been able to provide language and skills training, transportation assistance, mental health support, cultural integration and many other community activities to help these families in the next step of their journey.

Please accept my sincere thanks for the compassion and generosity you have showed to these Syrian families. Together, we have done much to help them overcome the past and build a bright future here in Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Conrad Sauvé".

Conrad Sauvé  
President & CEO

# What your support has meant: A letter of gratitude



Thanks to your donations, the Canadian Red Cross was able to partner with organizations that support refugees across the country, such as the Immigrant Community Support Centre in Montreal, to help Syrian families settle and integrate into their new community.

Because of the war, my family and I decided to leave Syria and come live in Canada. It seemed like the ideal country to raise my two children, aged two and five. We arrived on February 11, 2016.

I started looking for work in my field to support my family. Then I decided to go to the Immigrant Community Support Centre in Montreal to become proficient enough in French to find a job and improve our life.

With each passing day, the Centre became my second family. They helped me integrate in my new community, learn French and look for a job. Thanks to the employability program for Syrian refugees, I was able to find a good job!

- Firas Altouma

## YOUR SUPPORT HAS PROVIDED:

**Educational programs** for Syrian refugee youth covering English, Math and an introduction to the Canadian school system

**Summer camps** and support groups for youth

**English and French conversation** classes for Syrian children and youth to assist with language proficiency and preparedness before starting school

**Women's health** support group

**Skills training** for job opportunities

**Arabic language hotline** for Syrian refugees to access referrals, immediate support and information

**Programming to support** Canadian parenting practices

**Transportation** to health clinics

**Mental health support** for families through their transition

**Swimming lessons** and First Aid classes

# Helping Syrian refugee families integrate

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For Syrian newcomer families, integrating into life in Canada means adjusting to a new culture, a different climate, and unfamiliar activities.

With your generous donation, the Canadian Red Cross has supported various integration activities across the country, including cultural visits for families, summer camps for youth, and water safety events for children and parents.

In early August, 67 Syrian families from the Moncton area gathered for a memorable day in canoes. Red Cross staff taught children and their parents about water safety and how to wear lifejackets properly – all while introducing them to a favourite Canadian pastime.



## HOW YOUR DONATION HAS BEEN SPENT

The Canadian Red Cross would like to thank generous individuals, governments, and corporate and community partners for donating \$3.2 million in support of our Syrian Refugee Arrivals Appeal.

To date, \$2.4 million has been spent, with remaining funds going towards community integration projects.

### Here is how your donation has been spent:



#### 19% ARRIVAL ASSISTANCE

- 11,012 Syrian refugees supported by the Red Cross at the Welcome Centre in Montreal
- Resettlement support at temporary lodging sites, including information sessions, translation services, activities for children and youth, and transportation assistance



#### 81% COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

- 52 projects through partnerships with community organizations
- 10,700 + Syrian refugees being supported through integration projects across Canada

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*The cost of fundraising on this appeal was 5%. This includes fees associated with donation processing and receipting, reporting and communications.*



## Thank you!

Your kindness and generosity has reached thousands of newly arrived Syrian refugees. Together, we have made them feel welcome in our communities and provided them a path to success here in Canada.

### OUR PARTNERS

Thanks to your donation, the Canadian Red Cross has funded partnerships with the following organizations in support of community integration:

Altered Minds Inc.

Armenian Society

Aurora Family Therapy Centre

Canadian Muslim Women's Institute

CARI Saint Laurent

Carrefour de ressources en  
interculturels

Carrefour interculturel de Laval

Centre d'appui aux communautés  
immigrantes

Centre Social d'Aide aux Immigrants

Église Orthodoxe St-George

Église Saint Jacques

Église Vierge-Marie

Hay Doun

Immigrant and Refugee Community  
Organization of Manitoba

Intercultural Association of Victoria

Islamic Social Services Association

Le Procure de missions Jésuites

London Cross Cultural Learner Centre

Maison CACI

Millbourne Community Life Centre

Muslim Food Bank

Moose Jaw Multicultural

Mosaic Charity

Les Œuvres Marie-Anne Lavallée

Ontario Council of Agencies Serving  
Immigrants

Options Community Services

Prince Albert YMCA

Quinte

Regina Open Door Society

Réseau d'intervention auprès des  
personnes ayant subi la violence  
organisée

Rexdale Health Centre

Saskatchewan Intercultural  
Association

Saskatoon Open Door Society

Seven Oaks Early Years Coalition

S.U.C.C.E.S.S Foundation

The Youth and Parents AGAPE  
Association

Vancouver Association for Survivors  
of Torture

Victoria Immigrant & Refugee Centre  
Society

Wesley Urban Ministries

Woodgreen Community Services