



## What We've Accomplished Together

Together we, along with the many parish volunteers, and cosponsors, have welcomed over 525 refugees to Canada. Here, as newcomers, they have begun to live a life filled with hope and renewed optimism.

Together, we have initiated the resettlement application to assist 532 refugees, paving the way for their eventual arrival to Canada. Here, they will live in freedom.

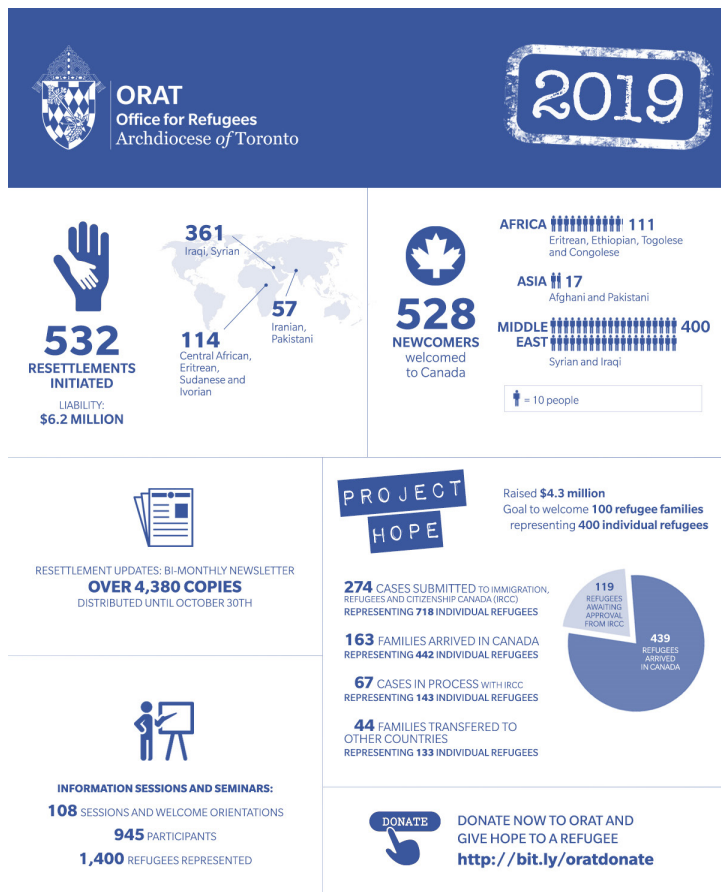
This is a testimony to what we are able to accomplish together as we respond to the Lord's invitation "I was a stranger and you welcomed Me".

The infographic, included on this page, and which is available on our website, summarizes the many accomplishments of 2019 that we can celebrate together. With the help of the Lord and through the generosity of Catholics throughout the Archdiocese, we have been able to raise over \$4.3MM to assist in the resettlement of refugees from many corners of the world. Since the inception of the Project Hope Initiative, we have welcomed over 160 families to Canada, with another 67 families yet to come. In total, 585 refugees have been helped because of the generosity of many, who have given of their time, talent and treasure to respond to this urgent need of our time. It is indeed a testimony of the love of God's people for suffering humanity.

As we know, numbers do not tell the whole story. The reality of these numbers are found in the lives of those who have been touched by this important work of the Archdiocese. We have included in our newsletters the stories of refugees that we have had the privilege to help. In this newsletter, we have included the story of Adam, Monica and Rebecca, who are being settled by the refugee committee at St. Isaac Jogues Church in Pickering. We hope that their story will be an encouragement to you.

In Christ,

Deacon Rudy Ovcjak  
Director, Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto



Sponsor a refugee, volunteer at ORAT or learn more about ORAT: [www.archtoronto/refugee](http://www.archtoronto/refugee)

## 2020 Allocation & Public Session

Please note that we are currently awaiting our 2020 allocation from Immigration Canada, which we expect to receive at the end of February. In either April or May, we plan to announce details about an online registration event that we will arrange for members of the general public who wish to sponsor a refugee.

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# The Story of Adam, Monica and Rebecca

St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church, Pickering was happy to welcome a new refugee family of three Adam, Monica and their daughter Rebecca on September 11th, 2019.

Adam was born in Artala a suburb of the city of Darfur. When he was 18 the Janjaweed militia attacked his



From left to right: Adam, Rebecca and Monica

hometown killing his two brothers; Yusuf and Ahmed.

Adam fled with the rest of his family to a large camp called Kalma located in another region in Darfur. While in the camp he attended school in nearby Belil. Leaving the camp was difficult as security forces would target anyone who left. The school he attended was connected to Saint Augustine, where he would hear the choir singing, which he loved. Adam would leave class on Saturday and attend Mass so he could hear the choir, which led to him wanting to learn more about the Catholic faith. He joined a group and studied the Bible and eventually got baptized with two others in a lake called Rahad. When his family and friends found out about his conversion to Christianity they were very angry, insisting that he return to Islam. Three sheiks gave him a beating, and he was confined and forced to read the Quran.

He fled to Khartoum and married Monica the daughter of his English teacher. They were both persecuted for their faith. Adam was arrested, beaten and threatened to be killed if he and his wife did not convert to Islam. This led to Adam fleeing to Jordan where he awaited Monica's arrival. Jordan is where they spent 6 years of their life and where their daughter Rebecca was born. The Office for Refugees (ORAT) selected this young family because of their ordeal and dire need to be resettled to a safe and peaceful country where they would be free to practice their Christian faith. Adam and his wife Monica arrived to Toronto along with their daughter Rebecca to start a new life.

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The online registration will be open for several days. We anticipate a high level of demand for the limited allocation that we will receive. To manage this, we will be holding a random draw to select a number of registrants who we will then invite to an Introduction to Resettlement Information Session. This marks the first step in sponsoring a refugee through this office and attendance is mandatory for all selected registrants.

## Sponsorship Reminder

Refugee Resettlement is a daunting task, with many rules and procedures. To assist Constituent Groups ("CG") and cosponsors in this important work we have outlined a number of important items to keep in mind when settling a refugee.

Do not provide support in the form of cash: CG members and cosponsors should avoid providing financial support to newcomers in the form of cash. Since cash support is not traceable, Immigration Canada will not factor cash support in their calculation of the required monthly financial assistance. Financial support is to be provided through traceable methods, such as cheques,

money orders, bank transfers, email transfer etc. Should Immigration Canada choose to audit your case and you have not followed this guidance, you will likely encounter unnecessary problems.

1. Has the newcomer received the required monthly financial support as per RAP from the sponsor?

*Please refer to our budget workbook to determine the required level of financial support for your family. The budget workbook is available online at <https://www.archtoronto.org/refugee/Pages/Resources.aspx>*

2. 2) Was monthly financial support from the sponsor reduced because of monies received by the newcomer from Canada Child Benefit?

*Immigration Canada does not consider monies received from Canada Child Benefit (CCB) as income. Therefore, monthly financial support cannot be reduced when newcomers receive CCB.*

3. Was monthly financial support from the sponsor reduced because of monies received by the newcomer from employment income?

*If the newcomer's monthly employment income is less than 50% of their monthly RAP, sponsors*

*cannot reduce financial support to the newcomer. Reductions can only be applied when the newcomer's monthly employment income is greater than 50% of their monthly RAP. Financial support can be reduced, dollar for dollar, for any employment income received that is greater than 50% of their monthly RAP.*

4. Did the newcomer receive all the non-financial settlement support required (refer to the Settlement Plan)?

*Cosponsors and CG members are required to provide all non-financial support as stated in their settlement plans. Please refer to your settlement plan for more guidance. You can also click on the attached link to see a blank settlement plan <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/ircc/migration/ircc/english/pdf/kits/forms/imm5492e.pdf>*

5. Was the newcomer encouraged to take advantage of settlement services?

*Newcomers are required to visit a settlement agencies and register for their services. These agencies are readily available within the Greater Toronto Area (YMCA, CCS, Access Employment etc.)*

6. If English language training was required, was the newcomer encouraged to enrol in a language training course?

*Newcomers are encouraged to enrol in English learning programs. ESL and LINC are free programs that are available throughout the day. A language assessment by settlement counsellors would help placing newcomers in the right level.*

7. Was the newcomer encouraged to take advantage of employment counselling?

*Employment counselling is one of the services that settlement agencies provide. An employment settlement counsellor can assist newcomers to write their resumes, cover letters and help them apply for jobs.*

8. When the newcomer has their own financial resources, was the newcomer required to submit their funds to be managed by others?

*Newcomers should manage their own money and be able to handle their own finances. While sponsors are required to provide financial advice and guidance, newcomers must have autonomy of their finances.*

9. Did you, as the sponsor, accept funds from the refugee either before or after their arrival in Canada for the submission of a sponsorship, or as

prepayment or repayment for lodging, care and settlement assistance, or as a deposit to guarantee that the newcomer will remain with the sponsor for one year post arrival?

*It is considered illegal if sponsors request money from refugees. Sponsorship funds cannot come from the refugee. Newcomers have no obligations to pay the resettlement funds to their sponsors. Funds that are required to be deposited prior to the time of submission are intended to be spent on the newcomers after they arrive in Canada.*

We ask that you please take the time to become familiar with these key changes and to understand your role as a sponsor.

Should you have any questions about these key changes, please do not hesitate to contact the Outreach department at [oratoutreach@archtoronto.org](mailto:oratoutreach@archtoronto.org).

## Helping Newcomers Work

### Helping Newcomers Work



Helpingnewcomerswork.ca is a website designed to help sponsors assist newcomers with their job search efforts.

The site focuses exclusively on training and employment for refugee newcomers. It features job postings as well. It is a key resource, which will help newcomers begin their job search process. Click on the following link to get more information;

<https://helpingnewcomerswork.ca/>

## Upcoming Sessions

Please note that you are required to register to book your seat for any session you wish to attend. You may register for the following sessions by clicking on the attached link: <http://orat.eventbrite.com>



## The Story of Adam, Monica and Rebecca

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The family live close to St Isaac Jogues Church in Pickering, and are active in the life of the parish. Adam and Monica remarked that almost everyone they meet here is very welcoming and friendly. They were quickly made to feel at home, and are happy to be in Canada.



Through the generosity of our priests, parishioners, and the dedicated work by the Refugee Committee, a furnished apartment was ready for them upon arrival.

Within the first week all the necessary paperwork and formalities were completed. They were enrolled in English classes very quickly, and given an orientation on how to use public transit. A couple of weeks later some members of the Refugee Committee decided to take them on their first trip to Niagara Falls, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

This young family is eager to adapt to the new Canadian way of life. Their daughter, Rebecca, will start school in September 2020. Adam is currently working in Ajax. Monica attends English classes, and is looking for work. The only challenge they found so far, is the Canadian winter weather, but are quick to say that it is nothing compared to the hardships they faced as refugees in Jordan. They celebrated their first Christmas with their new-found friends overwhelmed with the hospitality the parish has shown. Please keep them in your prayers for a very successful integration, as they are happily integrating in their new home.

### ORAT Website

Please visit ORAT's website to find details about our mandate, goals, and policies, as well as to obtain immigration forms and info session materials. You can access our website by clicking on the following link: <https://www.archtoronto.org/refugee/>

### Join us on Facebook

Become a member of the ORAT Facebook Page to get the latest news and updates on resettlement issues.

<https://www.facebook.com/>

### Your Input is Welcomed

If you would like to contribute an article to ORAT's newsletter, have any feedback on past articles, or have suggestions for future articles, please email us at: [orateducator@archtoronto.org](mailto:orateducator@archtoronto.org)

Thank you to our



Thank you for all your hard work at ORAT



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