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OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY



Winter 2017

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Settlement and Integration • Language and Skills Training • Welcoming Community

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Hello
my name is

Our new Team Member

WELCOME

Emily

Please welcome the Multicultural Council's newest staff member, Emily Taylor.

Emily started working on October 30th, 2017 as the new Language Training Support staff member. She is assisting Language Instructors in the East End with implementing Portfolio-Based Language Assessment (PBLA).

Originally from California, Emily and her family moved to Indiana when she was a teenager. She received her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from Cedarville University in Ohio, and after teaching 3rd grade for 2 years in the Dominican Republic, she earned her Master's degree in Teaching English as a Second Language from Ball State University in Indiana. Emily says she is, "passionate about teaching and enjoys learning about other cultures." She adds that her interests in teaching are a perfect match with our mission statement.

Emily has been married to her husband Brandon for 10 years and has two sons, Aiden 8 and Hudson 6 years old.



Every successful morning starts off with a quality cup of coffee, and Thursday, September 28 was no exception. The difference that day was that rather than stopping at a shop or hitting a drive-thru, employees, volunteers, and clients of the Multicultural Council took part in the Alzheimer's Society Coffee Break.

Coffee was offered for purchase in the reception area of our downtown office, with 100% of the proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Society of Windsor and Essex County. In addition, staff provided numerous baked goods- cookies, muffins, cakes, and even savory options to enjoy with a morning cup o' joe.

Partly out of necessity, partly out of convenience, fresh beans were ground at the front door first thing in the morning. With the smell of coffee greeting people as they arrived.

Customers excitedly lined up to start their day off right. Not satisfied with standard fare, the office provided numerous brews to choose from. Welcomed by volunteer baristas Kendra Kirby and Milana Petko, customers were given a few delicious options. "We have Costa Rican La Candelilla, Congolese Kawa Kabuya, and Starbucks Anniversary Blend- as well as decaf", laughed Kendra, "we also have a wide assortment of teas. Be sure to check out the snack counter as well!"

Greeting staff and visitors in the office from 8:00am until 12:30pm, the Multicultural Council Coffee Bar raised an astounding \$305 dollars. Event organizer and NSP/Family Wellness Coordinator Timpy Aulakh, offered her gratitude to all involved, "A huge thank you to everyone who took part for your generosity and positive response to our Alzheimer's Society Coffee Break event."

Changes in Citizenship Laws Help Our Clients

The Ministry of Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada recently announced a number of changes that will allow newcomers easier access to Canadian Citizenship. Luz Elena Ramos, Orientation Specialist for the past 7 years at the Multicultural Council says, "While certain amendments were enacted on June 19, 2017, the ones most beneficial to MCC clients came into effect October 11, 2017." Ramos notes the two following changes are having the greatest impact on her MCC clients:

- The duration of physical presence in Canada has been reduced from 4 years to 3 years; and applicants can now include each day physically present in Canada (previously, time spent prior to being a permanent resident did not count)
- Previously applicants between the ages of 14 to 64 were required to meet language and knowledge requirements (e.g. take the Citizenship Test), now the age range is 18 to 54 years.

Ramos adds that, "many of our older clients need to work and can't come to classes each day; now those clients can apply for citizenship and still support their families." Additional changes allow for children to apply for citizenship even if their parents are not ready.

"While many clients are excited about the changes, a major obstacle still facing our clients is the cost of the application: \$630 per adult, \$100 for children applying with their parents, and \$530 for children applying alone," says Ramos.

For further details regarding the changes to the Citizenship process go to: <http://www.cic.gc.ca>



Multicultural Council East End location hosts other newcomer Service Provider Organizations



On December 12, the Multicultural Council will hold its second biannual "Service Provider Organizations-SPO Fair" of 2017. This gathering of 8 Service Provider Organizations underscores the fact that helping newcomers settle in Windsor remains a priority. As funding has shifted over the years, many programs are unique to a specific SPO and the event gives our clients the opportunity to see what help is available in a variety of areas.

Jennifer DeMaeyer, Orientation Specialist, says the morning will focus on "programs offered by the other SPOs such as employment programs, computer programs, women's groups, citizenship preparation classes, Driving in Ontario classes as well as Youth programs." While some of these sessions are also held

at MCC, it's important for students to know they have options. Given their popularity, these workshops fill up quickly, so being able to register for them elsewhere is invaluable.

Students appreciate the orientation team's help in finding the supports they need. This spirit of cooperation between Windsor's newcomer organizations assists clients in settling in to their new community quicker than they may otherwise. In addition to helping the students, the SPO fair "keeps communication with other SPOs open so we have contacts and resources that we can refer the students/clients to ensure successful settlement," continues DeMaeyer. "Some have contacted the other SPOs, especially for driving and citizenship classes as well as job search assistance."

New program



MCC CONNECT Program

The **MCC CONNECT** Program offers newcomers the opportunity to participate in networking activities and connect with pre-screened Canadian citizen volunteers living in the Windsor and Essex County area.

MCC CONNECT focuses on social integration, networking opportunities, and community involvement. Under the direction of MCC staff, participants in **MCC CONNECT** will learn beneficial information about Nutrition, Wellness, Canadian Culture/ Society, Civic Engagement, Basic Computer Training, and Financial Literacy.



MCC CONNECT is a networking program...

- Designed to introduce newcomers to Canadian citizens and encourage the building of social networks.
- Designed to help newcomers establish connections that will provide valuable opportunities for integration and skill development.



MCC CONNECT newcomers are...

Committed Permanent Residents who are:

- Eager to learn.
- Interested in learning about Canada.
- Interested in meeting Canadian Citizen.
- Willing to participate in educational and fun events and activities.

Funded by:



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada



For more information, please call:

Mr. Nahi Hatoum

Community Connections Facilitator

519.255.1127 ext. 145

nhatoum@themcc.com

Computer Workshop Session Graduation



PRE-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

On September 14th, The Pre-Employment program had a graduation ceremony and party celebrating the completion of the Basic Computer Workshop Sessions (Level 1) for seven clients. These clients came out to celebrate their success with their family and friends.

The modules completed ran for over four months and included: Computer Fundamentals, Intro to MS Word, Intro to MS Excel, Intro to MS PowerPoint, and Intro to MS Publisher. Feedback from client participants offered much appreciation to the Multicultural Council for providing this program. This opportunity enabled them to develop these necessary skills to further improve communication with potential employers.

Additional sessions (Level 2 and 3) will be offered in the upcoming months to all interested Multicultural Council's clients.



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Positive Parenting Program



The Multicultural Council has been enthusiastically delivering a practical and constructive evidence-based parenting program in the community. The program offers information and support to parents in addressing everyday parenting concerns.

Rebecca Saad, a Client Support Services Case Manager, has been facilitating the Triple P Positive Parenting Program for the Arabic-speaking population in Windsor. In partnership with Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare Regional Children's Centre and other community partners, parents are being provided with practical tools and strategies to help them build strong, healthy relationships with their children. The training addresses a variety of parenting skills that encourage a child's development and potential.

"We all want our kids to be happy and excel in life", comments Rebecca. "This program builds a parent's confidence to constructively manage misbehaviour

and encourage positive outcomes while establishing rules and maintaining routines."

There is a notable difference in addressing discipline in various cultures. Triple P reinforces the positive techniques used in Canadian culture to address other approaches, and motivate families to adopt the acceptable and expected behaviours of Canadian society.

Rebecca also comments that "the impact on parents attending this program is positive and encouraging. Parents are giving us feedback that indicates improved family dynamics, more patience, and a better understanding of how to approach and manage difficult situations within the family."



"Family Wellness program arranged a tour to Connections Ontario Early Years Centre for clients on Oct 23. The children had two hours of fun playing while parents learned about the programs and services offered by the Centre. All in all, everyone enjoyed the tour".



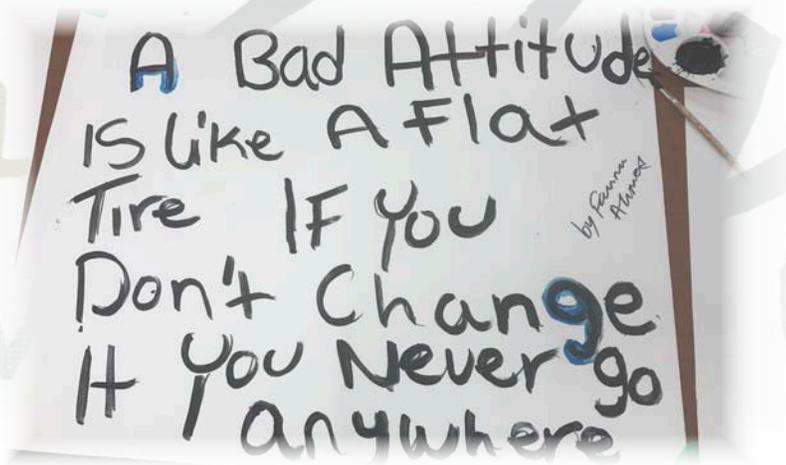
MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL'S ANTIBULLYING WORKSHOP FOR YOUTH

The Multicultural Council's Youth program collaborated with Women Enterprise Skills Training (WEST) to facilitate and deliver an anti-bullying workshop on September 17, 2017.

The workshop started with some discussions surrounding bullying, cyber-bullying and ways of being active against such incidents.

Newcomer youth discussed their experiences, and translated their positions against bullying into art, resulting in a very successful campaign. Pictured are the youth with some of their amazing work.

Our Youth is coordinating potential workshop on bullying and cyber-bullying, leadership skills development and other topics in the near future.



Our toddlers thrive in dynamic learning environment

At the Multicultural Council, the Care for Newcomer Children (CNC) program is split into two groups; infant and toddler. The program is tailored to address the specific needs of both age ranges. Toddlers enjoy an environment that encourages active exploration, conversation, and of course, lots of learning. The professionals delivering the program ensure that the children are learning critical skills without even realizing it. Learning to share and get along with others, improving physical and reasoning skills, and learning English are all hallmarks of the toddler room.

"We support language development through reading, telling stories, singing songs, scribbling and exploring art materials," explains Jadwiga Tubokovic, RECE - Registered Early Childhood Educator. "Our goal is to provide all children with the best possible opportunities for development in all areas." According to Tubokovic, the team develops a schedule for each day, but it remains flexible to address the needs of the children.



Working in a "daycare" setting presents all kinds of challenges based on the students' varied stages of development. However, CNC staff have the added task of working with families from all over the world. Therefore, the way children are raised and taught at home is equally diverse. It's up to teachers to identify possible gaps in development and help prepare the children as preschoolers.

Toddlers are learning to become more independent and teachers encourage them to practice milestones of the age such as getting in a chair on their own, feeding themselves, and drinking from a cup. Working closely with parents to help them with these transitions at home, Tubokovic says they "encourage parents to substitute a pacifier with a soft toy for sleep time to offer something familiar and comforting for the child."

Keeping the lines of communication open is key to helping the children in the CNC program develop, and the staff like to start each day by talking to parents about how the morning went. Knowing how the toddler slept or what they had for breakfast can really help them set the tone for the day. No matter how the day began, their time at the Multicultural Council is full of fun and learning as the next generation embark on a new life in Canada.



STUDENT REPORTERS



We work, work, work, work, work!

By: Yu-Ju Shih, Niran Alsaedi, Randa Hano, Jane Raffi

For many new Canadians it can be difficult to find a job they really want or that fits their qualifications. Youngmi Park, former MCC CLB/6/7/8 client, has faced many problems such as language acquisition difficulties and a lack of Canadian working experience. Now she is working as a lunch monitor at Lakeshore Discovery Public School from Monday to Friday. She stated, "I like this job because it's my first job in Canada. I have made new native speaking friends. I also have a better understanding of the Canadian education system now. My time at the MCC really prepared me for the working world."

Look Who's Talking!

By: Edyta Pletnia, Maria Mihailovic, Begard Sinjari, Aurora Sanchez

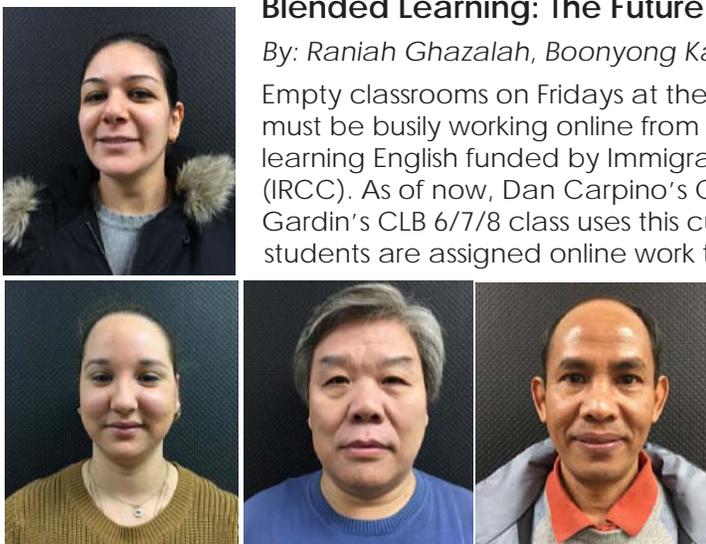
Newcomers in the area have been gathering for some much needed conversation practice and social bonding in Canada. Conversation Circle is led by Sladjana Lazevski, Community Connections Coordinator, every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes are held at the MCC's East End location at 7651 Tecumseh Rd. East and are open to any and all newcomers to Canada. Topics generally focus on Canadian culture, customs and workplace communication, but clients often suggest new topics or areas of interest as well. Sladjana stated, "I'm trying my best to assist all newcomers similar to the way I was helped when I first came to Canada." So, if you are interested in improving your language skills and sipping hot coffee, this program may be for you. All that is required is a positive attitude, an open mind, and a pinch of curiosity.



Blended Learning: The Future is Now!

By: Raniah Ghazalah, Boonyong Kaepkakhon, Lisandra Perez, Jia Wang

Empty classrooms on Fridays at the MCC can only mean one thing – students must be busily working online from home! Edulinc.org is an online portal for learning English funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). As of now, Dan Carpino's Canadian Benchmark Level 5 class and Jesse Gardin's CLB 6/7/8 class uses this cutting edge approach to education. Typically students are assigned online work to be completed on Fridays from the comfort of their homes, possibly in pyjamas! "It is a valuable learning tool that combines essential computer skills with English language acquisition." said Carpino. Nawres Alsaedi, a CLB 6 student who has been using the site for the past several months, stated, "I like using edulinc.org because it gives me flexibility to improve my language and computer skills at my convenience."





Multicultural Council's Youth activities

Sweating and out of breath, but smiling from ear to ear, newcomer Abdul Al Kak summarized the our C6 Youth program activity night best, "We played so many games, it's so fun together- I'm going to take a break and then play again!"

Newcomers and volunteers from the C6 Youth program recently took part in a pumpkin carving activity, creating jack-o-lanterns to take home and enjoy. Volunteers helped first-timers design and carve pumpkins, and shared costume ideas, stories about trick or treating, and some Halloween traditions.

Once all the 'pumpkin guts' were cleaned up and discarded, the C6 Youth program began an evening of video game excitement. Games were set up in three different rooms at the Multicultural Council, and mixed teams of boys, girls, newcomers, and volunteers competed together in different activities.

In the first room, Wii racquet sports gave players the chance to square off in tennis, badminton, or ping-pong, and the games were fast and furious. Winning teams held the court while challengers lined up to take part.

"It's neat to play with someone you don't know- who doesn't speak the language" said Volunteer Matthew Zimmerman, "when we're playing it doesn't matter- we can communicate in other ways."





In the second room, an international track meet was taking place via Nintendo Power Pad. Six players at a time vied to win Gold by outrunning and outjumping their competition. Heated rivalries were formed as heats and finals took place. Some players claimed to have discovered secret tips and techniques for success- sharing them only with their teammates.

Newcomer Evin Shermo discounted this claim "The secret is to go fast- that's it."

Finally, the third room offered FIFA. The electronic version of the world's most popular sport pitted teams of two- one newcomer and one volunteer, against each other in short matches. Barcelona and Real Madrid were the most popular team choices, and scoring was as rare as in the real game. Nevertheless, wins and losses were registered, and friendly conversations and debates ensued.

At the end of the night, with pumpkins in hand, everyone left more as friends than as newcomers or volunteers. Using hand gestures and broken language they made plans to meet at the next C6 Youth event- bowling in November.



BEFORE



AFTER



OUR C6 PROGRAM

“But can we still eat it?”

Many newcomer families experienced their first Halloween this year, and with the celebration came the tradition of carving jack-o-lanterns from pumpkins- a custom most were unfamiliar with, but eager to try. “I’ve only ever cooked with pumpkin” said newcomer Barea Al Kanady “I didn’t know you could make it into a decoration”.

Using templates and a slide show of jack-o-lantern ideas, faces were carved, and gradually the newcomers’ pumpkins began to take form. Volunteer families assisted with carving designs and techniques, and explained some of the traditions that Canadians take part in surrounding Halloween.

The Multicultural Council’s C6 Program Volunteer Salman Basit and his family were excited to take part in the event and to share the experience with newcomers. “It’s been a long time since we have done this; since my girls were very young. It’s almost like we’re discovering it together- I’m remembering, the newcomers are hearing it for the first time, and we’re all trying things out.”

Once all the pumpkins were carved, a discussion took place about what to do with them. Our volunteers showed how a candle or tealite can be placed inside, and used for decoration. Our newcomers however, were far more interested in whether the pumpkins could still be cooked.

Using language aids and those fluent in both English and Arabic, families exchanged pumpkin-based recipes and ideas. Patiently, newcomers and volunteers shared instructions for preparing familiar pumpkin muffins, breads, and treats. A number of Syrian women then revealed recipes for dishes which were new to most of the volunteers.

“We love all things pumpkin” said volunteer Christine Super, “so I’m going to try a number of these.” Pumpkin soups, stuffed pumpkins, and pumpkin patties were all described in detail, but the clear attention-grabber was tahini pumpkin. This recipe was shared and written down by many volunteer families, with promises to try it in the near future.





Tahini Pumpkin

Ingredients:

- 500g Cubed lamb
- One medium-sized onion
- One small pumpkin
- 75g Crushed walnut
- 1/2tsp Allspice
- 250ml Chicken stock
- 5tbsp Tahini
- 1tbsp Clarified butter
- One clove of garlic
- One lemon
- Salt and pepper to taste

Brown the meat in the butter. Slice and add the onion, simmering until soft. Prepare the pumpkin by removing the seeds, peeling the outside, and chopping the white parts into small chunks. Quickly fry the pumpkin, and add it to the browned meat. Mix in the chicken stock, allspice, garlic, and walnuts. Bring the mixture to a boil, then reduce to a simmer. Cook covered for one and half hour. Do not stir as this may break apart the pumpkin pieces.

Combine the tahini, salt, and half a lemon juice in a mixing bowl. Continue mixing while slowly adding water. It needs to be very smooth but not runny. Serve cooked pumpkin in a large dish, and pour the tahini over the top. Serve with rice or noodles.

Enjoy!





AGM 2017

Annual General Meeting and Volunteer and Sponsor Appreciation Night

The Annual General Meeting of the Multicultural Council of Windsor & Essex County took place September 26th. The board of directors of the MCC, along with the organization staff and volunteers welcomed partners and representatives of numerous ethnic communities to an evening of information, celebration, and recognition.

Following the official Multicultural Council AGM, at which new board members Kimberly King, and Natasha Feghali were elected, event co-emcees Multicultural Council Board of Directors President Patricia Reid-Crichton and Multicultural Council Director of Programs and Development Fred Francis led the annual Volunteer and Sponsor Appreciation Night.

"Our volunteers are a vital part of the services we provide to the community every day. This wouldn't be possible without each and every one of you generously donating your time", explained Mrs. Reid-Crichton, "the dedication and effort of our volunteers helps us to fulfill the MCC's mission of creating a welcoming community for all through education, community engagement and the promotion of diversity and equality."

Volunteers Mr. Oday Al Taie, Mrs. Fatima Asad, Mr. Conrad Dippel, Mr. Raad Ibrahim, Mrs. Margarida Issa, and Mr. Nawar Qadas, were each recognized personally for their commitment and dedication, and were presented with certificates of appreciation from the Multicultural Council.

Mrs. Aruna Koushik, Carrousel Chair, thanked the sponsors and participants of the 2017 Carrousel of the Nations, expressing the gratitude of the Board of Directors and MCC. Mrs. Koushik then revealed the results of the anonymous judging to the expectant crowd:

1st Place: Serbian St. Dimitrije Village

2nd Place: Slovak Village

3rd Place: Bavarian Village

Honourable Mention: Ukrainian Village

Finally, Executive Director of the Multicultural Council of Windsor & Essex County, Ms. Kathleen Thomas acknowledged those responsible for assisting with the Annual General Meeting and Volunteer and Sponsor Appreciation Night; All Saints Church for providing the venue, Koolinis for providing the food and desserts, and the organizing staff who put the event together.





Awarded volunteers with Executive Director of the Multicultural Council Kathleen Thomas and President of the Board Patricia Reid Crichton.

From left: Conrad Dippel, Margarida Issa, Kathleen Thomas, Fatima Asad, Nawar Qadas, Oday Al-Taie and Patricia Reid Crichton.



Slavko Vrhovac accepted 1st place Award on behalf of Serbian St. Dimitrije Village.



We asked our clients...

Your thoughts about Christmas
and what is your talent



Rand Yousif CLB 5 Reading and Writing

Christmas was always (when I was a child) the best time of the year when we gather with the whole family to have a delicious lunch and many, many sweets for the rest of the day. Also, it is the time when you will get rewarded for doing your homework seriously for this year by looking under the tree and finding the gifts from Santa.

Today, Christmas means much more than a gift or a family gathering. It is now more about hope and anticipation, a new beginning, a new life coming by celebrating the birth of Jesus every year, and this will bring us joy, success and blessings.



Daniella Atosha - CLB 5 Reading and Writing

My name is Daniella. I'm a fashion stylist. It is my pleasure to present to you my talent. How did I become a fashion stylist? In my childhood my mother used to make baby clothes, I fell in love with her work. My mother showed me how to make bibs, socks for babies, and other small stuff like toys with materials. So, when I went to elementary school my dream was to become a fashion stylist. In high school I took design and graduated in the same program. I took the program for three years at university to become a professional dressmaker and today I have my own business at home. I make women's, men's and all ages of baby clothes. My dream is to have a textile company in Ontario



Begard Sinjari CLB 6 Reading and Writing

As I am a muslim, we don't celebrate Christmas but, I hear from my friends which they are Christian they celebrate on the 25th of December.

All their families visit each other and they make special dinner like turkey and they give gifts to each other and always they are celebrating. But always I like the way they are celebrating and I am happy they invite me at Christmas and I like to share with them.



Michel Mako CLB 3 Reading and Writing

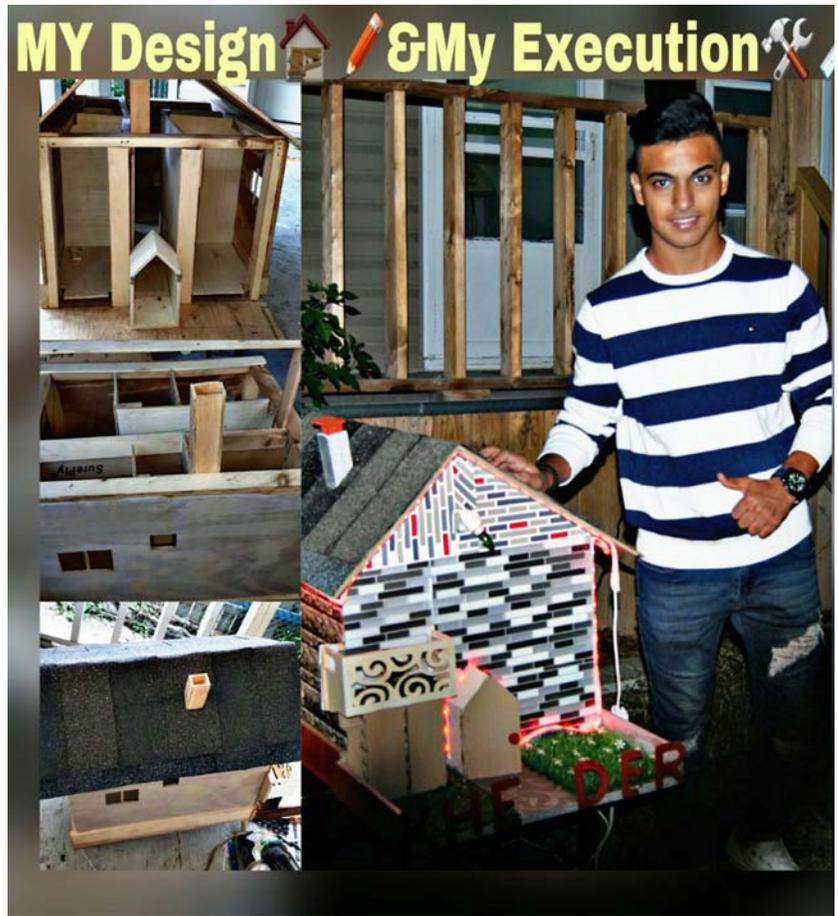
My favourite holiday is Christmas. I like Christmas because we celebrate the birth of Jesus. I like Christmas because it is a nice holiday. I spend time with my family. I like Christmas because I like giving gifts to my kids and make them happy on this day. One thing I do not like about this holiday is everything is very expensive.

Khedr Al-Khalifa- CSS Client

Since his arrival on December 22nd, 2016, Khedr AlKhalifa has demonstrated significant interest and great motivation to improve his language, excel in academia, participate in civic engagement and reach his goals.

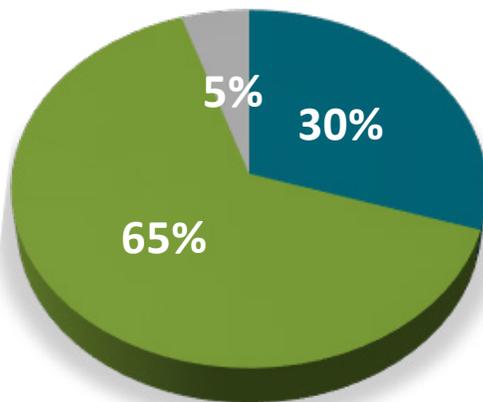
Khedr has been actively engaged in all youth activities organized by the MCC and other partnering agencies. He has been wonderfully working towards achieving his goals in multiple areas. In terms of language development, Khedr has continuously practiced English with his surroundings, within the youth activities at MCC, and has dedicated a major part of his summer break to advance his English language with different resources. Khedr continues to excel in academia. Khedr's goal is to complete a degree in civil engineering at the University of Windsor or engage in architectural studies and potentially work in the field. One significant achievement Khedr shared with the CSS Case Manager working with youth is the pictured model house that he built during summertime.

Khedr has put significant thought and effort into designing and building the model house and is proud of his achievement. Khedr has potential goals of registering in school and obtaining part time employment.



Multicultural Council student survey

There has been a lot of talk among our students about the recent changes in the requirements for people who wish to apply for Canadian citizenship. We asked students what the most important change was for them.



- Age Requirements: 14-64 -> 18-54 years of age
- Residency Requirements (years in Canada) 4 -> 3
- Minors can qualify for citizenship without Canadian parent

NEW CANADIANS FIND PEACE IN ROTARY SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP

by: Danielle Breault Stuebing

When Zakieh Zarabi and her family immigrated to Canada in January 2002 because of the civil war in Afghanistan and the emergence of the Taliban, little could she imagine her future in Canada would be dedicated to a motto of service above self.

"We chose to immigrate to Canada to find a new home; to secure our children's future; to find stability; and to feel like we belong somewhere," she recalls. Since 2005, she has been assisting others find this sense of belonging as the Newcomer Settlement Advisor for the YMCA of Windsor and Essex County. In 2016, she joined the Rotary Club of LaSalle Centennial.

"Having experienced the life of a refugee and immigrant, I wanted to be part of a group whose mission was focused on community building and contributing to the world free of judgment; a group culture rich in humanitarian efforts and great causes that benefits people of all backgrounds, age and profession," she says.

Rotary is the world's largest service organization, with more than 1.2 million members around the world. Through Rotary, people from all continents and cultures come together to exchange ideas, form friendships and professional connections while making a difference in their backyards and around the world. Locally, there are ten active Rotary Clubs in the Windsor-Essex region. "Joining a Rotary club will bring you a strong sense of belonging to Canada and your community specifically," Zakieh says. "I would tell other new Canadians that joining a Rotary club will provide great personal reward that comes from working closely with



Zakieh Zarabi helps feed the hungry at the soup kitchen.



other amazing people toward excellent causes. I would also tell them to join to have fun - the Rotary club activities are a great break from everyday routine life."

Anna Jurak, President of the Rotary Club of Windsor St. Clair, says Rotary can provide a lot of benefits for new Canadians. "Fellowship through service and fun are two key elements of Rotary," she says. "Through Rotary, you get to meet new people, connect with your community, improve language skills, and bond with friends doing hands-on service projects that provide both local and international benefits."

Beyene Haile immigrated from Ethiopia and in 2015, also became a member of the Rotary Club of LaSalle Centennial. "Service is my passion and Rotary is all about giving service to humanity," he says. For more than two decades, he has also served as a Newcomer Settlement Advisory with the YMCA. "Any one who wants to serve humanity or nature should consider joining Rotary. I am extremely happy that I am a Rotarian."

Projects undertaken by Rotary clubs across our region include the Ganatchio Trail, the Rotary Safety Village, the introduction of breakfast and reading programs in elementary schools, programs to promote peace and many others. International service missions to developing countries to promote health, education and safe drinking water have also been undertaken by local Rotary Clubs, including a current multi-club mission to Ghana.

IN MEMORIAM

Christine Ann Erdmann

The Multicultural Council of Windsor & Essex County is sad to report that in October, long-time President of the Teutonia Club and the past Carrousel chair for the German village, Mrs. Christine Ann Erdmann passed away.

Mrs. Erdmann played an essential role in the development, planning, and promotion of numerous cultural programs here in Windsor-Essex. A staple of the local German-Canadian community, Mrs. Erdmann spent countless hours volunteering selflessly with events in and around the city.



Senad Alicehajic

Senad Alicehajic, a former staff member who participated in, and then was the Coordinator of the Multicultural Youth in Action Program passed away on November 22, 2017. He was married and had four children. He was 38 years old. In 2011 he received the Queen's Jubilee Medal for his contributions to the community. Senad held various positions at our agency including Host Program Assistant and Host Program Youth worker.

Please join the Board of Directors, management, and staff of the Multicultural Council in offering our condolences to families and friends of both, Christine and Senad.



For Upasana Jain, becoming a Rotarian is literally a dream come true. "When I was about 12 years old, my uncle, a Rotarian in New Delhi India, took me to his special meetings and asked me to decorate with flowers and rangoli and ensure other arrangements were done properly. But, just before the meeting would start he would send me back home," she remembers. "I always wondered what they did in those meetings. One day in my first year of University I asked my uncle if I could be the member of the club and he said that women are not allowed. Since then, it was my dream to become a Rotarian and wear the blue and gold pin of Rotary service."

Upasana's family came to Windsor from India in September of 2010, and in July of 2012, joined the

Windsor-Walkerville where this year, she was chosen to serve as the club's President. In 1989, Rotary International changed its constitution to eliminate the "male only" provision, and since that time, women have become members and leaders of clubs and districts throughout the world.

"As a newcomer to Canada, I am happy that my family and I are safe and have achieved our goal of living a better life," concludes Zakieh. "Being a Rotarian makes me feel happy for being a part of an organization where members share their time, knowledge and help with people of their community, country and the world so ever generously. The Rotarians are exemplary people. They are bright, kind and resourceful. Being a Rotarian, I feel awesome about life."



Byeyene Haile with fellow Rotarian on a service mission to his birth village of Axum, Ethiopia in 2017.

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