



By Laura Brook

As a staff person at Journey Home Community, I accompanied newly arrived refugee claimants to legal appointments downtown. I would intentionally travel through the Downtown Eastside (DTES) to start a dialogue about poverty, homelessness, addiction, and mental health - a sad reality of our society. Many newly arrived refugee claimants adopted the common moral model of blame.

One particular conversation stands out. Sirwan stated he did not want *his* family to live near *those* lazy people. I explained Canada's dark history of residential schools and policies that warehoused the poor in one of the poorest postal codes in Canada. Seeing Sirwan's capacity to wrestle with difficult topics, our conversations continued.

Jump forward three years and I am enjoying a wonderful dinner with Sirwan, Shanaz and their two children. I asked them about community in their current housing complex.

Sirwan comments *his* community is in the DTES. I think to myself "hold the phone...didn't you think that all those people were lazy and now you are telling me this is where you feel the most at home?"

Now a Team Empowerment Leader at Mission Possible in the DTES, Sirwan helps residents train for and access employment. Sirwan has experienced first-hand the paradox of pain and joy, poverty and richness, vulnerability and strength of this neighborhood.

Sirwan has found strength and connection, while many of us just turn a blind eye.

Thanks Sirwan for sharing your journey to Do Justice. Love Mercy. Walk Humbly.

What a gift when community inspires community.

OUR VISION

We envision a society where all refugees experience hope and belonging as they engage in meaningful participation in their community and flourish in all aspects of life.

2019 & BEYOND

Over the past year, Journey Home has been involved in a sector-wide project to create a more comprehensive strategy for how agencies can work cooperatively in providing the best support for refugee claimants. This includes a plan to meet a wide range of housing needs.

Finding ways to assist even more of the 2,300 refugee claimants who arrive annually requires a plan that increases capacity while at the same time safeguards the development of 'community'.

Your help in pursuing this dual focus will go a long way in seeing refugee claimants belong and flourish in all aspects of life.

Board of Directors 2018

John Dyck - Chair
Ann Barnard Ball
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Brenda Goossen
Ron Hammell
Michelle Krenzler
Jeff Svanhill
Kim Tran
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WITH THANKS

To our many loyal and generous partners, individuals, churches, & businesses in 2018



TOGETHER WE DID IT!

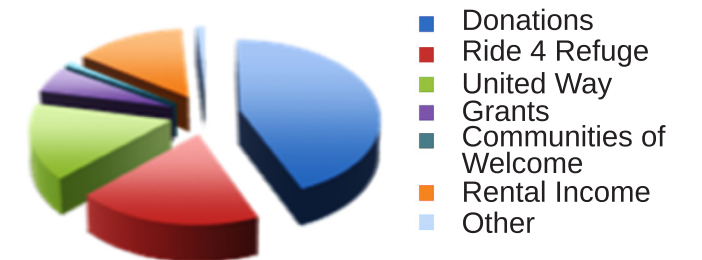
In so many ways, 2018 was Journey Home Community's most dynamic year-to-date! We assisted more refugee claimant new arrivals in a one-year period than ever before. We saw the largest revenue report in our 13-year history. **And we saw true community built amongst refugee families.**

Our "Communities of Welcome for Refugee Claimants" program, which trains and coaches churches and community volunteer groups, is gaining momentum and we continue to find housing options even in this very tight market.

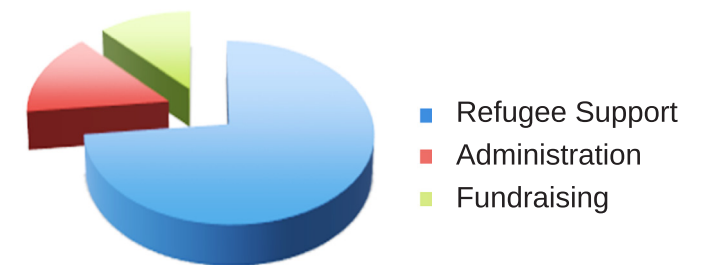
While our strong board and staff team is essential to this growth, such growth is not possible without the help and support from our larger TEAM – our volunteer contingent and all of you who contribute your financial gifts. **Thank you and praise be to God for an amazing year!**

The number of newly arriving refugee claimants to BC in 2018 (2,310) held steady from the previous year so we know our work of providing housing, settlement support and relational care for this vulnerable population group cannot diminish. **I invite you to review the enclosed highlights and join us as together, we bring justice and peace to our world.**

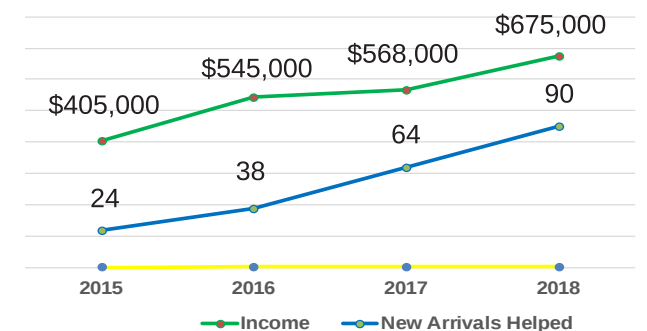
2018 Revenue \$675,000



2018 Expenses \$645,000



4 Year Overview



Let's dream even bigger for 2019!

James Grunau | Executive Director



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Read *more about the Impact of your Involvement* inside



WHY REFUGEE CLAIMANTS ?

What pushes a refugee claimant to leave their culture, family, successful vocation, and comfortable lifestyle to experience the discomfort of a new culture, lower skilled employment, isolation and loneliness? **In short, persecution and survival.**

People flee the country they love because they face persecution, threats and possible death due to their race, religion, nationality, social group and political opinion and we have heard the stories concerning all of these reasons.

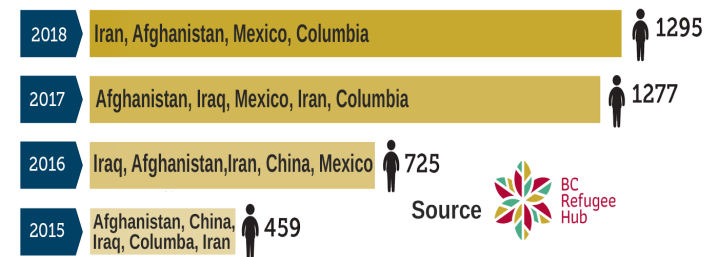
Refugee claimant parents tell us that even though they may be willing to endure the persecution themselves, **they do not want to subject their children to a dangerous and uncertain future.**

We have the opportunity as a nation, and as an organization, **to help them discover a different life for them and their children.**

CLAIMANTS ARRIVING IN BC

Total # of refugee claimant arrivals in 2018 - **2,310**

Year Total # arriving from Top Source Countries



5 TOP NEEDS OF ARRIVING FAMILIES



JHC WELCOME HOUSES

At JHC, we welcome refugee families. How do we do that? Refugee claimant families with children, **who are vulnerable and homeless**, are welcomed into one of three welcome houses.

Each home is fully equipped, providing safety and security. From this starting point, our staff and volunteers provide support, information, accompaniment, and resources to help families settle in Canada. This includes referrals to legal assistance, financial support, and English language learning. Staff and volunteers provide friendship and connection. **After three-months in a welcome house, we assist families to move into second stage housing for long-term settlement.**

HOW WE RESPOND

Housing

Our Welcome Houses
Initial Rent Assistance
Partnerships with Affordable Housing Providers

Basic Necessities

Emergency Assistance
Housing Essentials & Moving
Accompaniment to Appointments

Claim Preparation

Understanding Claim Process
Lawyer Referrals
'Ready Tour' Referrals

Orientation

Information & Resource Referrals
Orientation to Canadian Culture & Practices, Rights & Responsibilities for Tenancy

Community

Walk Alongside Support
Community Meals & Events
Link to Faith Communities
Mental Wellness

COMMUNITIES OF WELCOME FOR REFUGEE CLAIMANTS

Our staff receive referrals for many more families than we can assist. **To expand our reach, we created the Communities of Welcome for Refugee Claimants initiative.** We engage church and community groups and train them to do what we do - welcome refugee claimant families by offering housing, settlement support and relational care.

This initiative mirrors Canada's Private Sponsorship Program except that it supports refugee claimant families already in Canada. We provide the training, resources and ongoing mentorship that a church or community group requires to welcome refugees well. **This community provides the care and accompaniment that a family desperately needs.**



5 COMMUNITY BUILDING SNAPSHOTS

Picture...

- Families facing looming separation making new memories of snow angels and gingerbread houses with our core host volunteers.
- Two partner churches starting their own bi-weekly refugee family community dinners.
- A young couple who once lived in our welcome houses purchasing their own apartment in the same neighborhood.
- Over 1,000 people making an impact locally and globally through the Ride for Refugee.
- Our annual refugee Thanksgiving gathering, celebrated this year in our back garden, under the October sunshine with warm blankets and warm hearts.



Do you feel safe? **"Yes, we can close our front door, lock it, and no one will come in to hurt us."** Marid | 7 year old refugee from the Middle East