

JOIN THE 2021 RIDE!

Find more information online at journeyhomecommunity.ca

Housing

January 2020 to June 2021

New Intakes and individuals housed

106 People

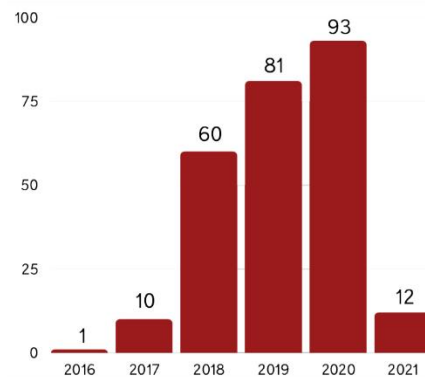
59 Adults

47 Children

Housing Plus Supports

January 2020 to June 2021

Helped - Year of Arrival



257 People

vancouver foundation

sparc bc
people. planning. positive change.

Canada

Partially funded by the Government of Canada's Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy

EMERGENCY COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF CANADA

FONDATIONS COMMUNAUTAIRES DU CANADA

Journey Home Community is supported by the Government of Canada's Emergency Community Support Fund

T H A N K Y O U

DONORS



VOLUNTEERS



18 Month
Report Back



JANUARY 2020 - JUNE 2021



BE THE WELCOME

JOURNEY HOME COMMUNITY

7175 ROYAL OAK AVENUE
BURNABY, BC V5J 4J3

(604) 568-4892

JOURNEYHOMECOMMUNITY.CA

Leaving my family was the hardest decision I ever made

"As an adult, the day I became sure that there was no safe life for me in my home country, I knew I had to leave. Leaving my family was the hardest decision I ever made.

My goodbye with my parents was something I never thought about before. The hug from my old father silently expressed his concern that he may never be able to see and hug me again. I could just apologize to my mom with a shaking voice and my eyes full of tears.

Leaving my family was the hardest decision I ever made.

As a child, I had spent 14 years of life as refugee in one of the Asian countries. I have many bad memories when I had to sleep hungry for days. I had no good clothes to wear and no toys to play with. We were treated differently, with no access to health care and social support.

When I first arrived in Canada, these memories of my childhood increased my worries. I heard much about shelters from friends in Canada and their experiences when they arrived as refugees. The shelters made them leave and go out to the streets during daytime. They were supposed to stay at nights there only. They were put with different people with different behaviors.

The day I crossed the US-Canada border into BC, through a friend, I connected with Journey Home and Tenth Church. I moved to a well-furnished house of one of the Church members. It was unbelievable for me. They provided me with all the help and resources I needed – groceries, clothes, refugee support, even taking care of my mental and social health.

As well as their warm welcome, they connected me with other members from different backgrounds, ethnicities, and religions. I am someone from a different religion and different culture, but each of the Journey Home members respected my culture and accepted me for who I am. They are helping many other refugees like me. I invite you to join us and also invite your families and friends. I will be there as well."

Mina came to Canada with a rich and varied professional background. Our staff are delighted that she has chosen to chair the newly formed Refugee Advisory Council. This group is made up of community members who have lived through the settlement journey. They are advising staff and board on all aspects of how we walk alongside arriving refugee claimants.



A Good Transition



When James Grunau, Journey Home's Executive Director and founder of the organization, announced that he will be stepping away on June 30, we all felt the impact.

After all, James was here on day 1, he established the vision and values, and he has been the soul of Journey Home Community. How do we move ahead without him?

This question, and others like it, have been on our minds. And every day, answers emerge in the people that make up Journey Home. James chose the word, Community, to be part of the name. This was selected with purpose.

Journey Home is the sum of many parts: refugee claimants, volunteers, financial supporters, board members, prayer people, and staff. And although James is leaving us, what remains is a collective of passionate, cause-driven, and generous individuals who will move ahead, together. This is good transition.

Thank you, James for your passionate 15+ years of service and for leaving a legacy we can build upon.

Brad Kinnie
Executive Director



More than Refugees

Jarec fled Honduras with his family. But he is more than a refugee; he's a businessman and a family man. We share much in common. In many ways, Jarec's family life in Honduras sounds the same as many of ours.

Jarec and his wife earned a living to put food on the table and provide shelter for their three children. They lived with their extended family surrounding them, generations of shared memories ground them to the country's history. Like those of us living in Canada, they hoped their children, the next generation, would grow and flourish in the country as they had.

This safety is not a reality in many parts of the world, and it was not for Jarec and his family. Jarec's role as provider was threatened. Running a business where Jarec and his family lived could put persons' lives in danger. Gangs' weekly "tax" demand from Jarec's business came in the form of threats. Noncompliance could lead to harm to family members. Jarec and his family had to flee.

This is where Jarec's story diverges from that of immigrants, he did not leave by choice and with careful planning. Jarec's family was forced to leave the home and community they had known all their lives. They had no option.

While immigrants come with anticipation, refugee claimants come with anxiety and uncertainty. Unlike immigrants, many bring little with them. Unlike Immigrants, they have not yet been accepted to stay, but must prove why they fled.

Journey Home Community does our best to fill the gap of welcome in the first stress-filled days of arriving in Canada. We are assisting families like Jarec's find housing and take steps towards self-provision.

More needs to be done to fill the gap. What if increased numbers of our community welcomed refugees?

If you were to be a part of a welcoming community, you might discover that Jarec is more than a refugee.

You may just find out that Jarec is tough to beat in a soccer scrimmage and will engage in lively debate over who is the best soccer player ever. Messi, of course!