



We are a community of friends who share the love of Jesus Christ with a focus on serving refugee claimant families in Metro Vancouver.

Footsteps along the JHC Refugee Highway

The “**refugee highway**” spans the globe and is filled with stories of human suffering. The challenges encountered along the highway are complex, and include meeting spiritual needs, dealing with emergency crises, providing physical necessities, healing emotional trauma, and advocating for justice. For some refugee families, **Journey Home Community** is the end of the highway.

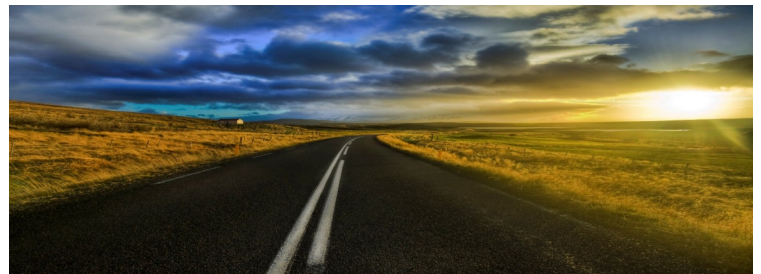
On May 6, JHC held its annual general meeting. Much more celebration than a business meeting, the evening focused on the stories of three families who have travelled the refugee highway to Vancouver. It was amazing to have a Hindu family (Tamil, from Sri Lanka), a Muslim man (from Afghanistan), and a Christian couple (from Iran) share their experiences on this highway.

SRI LANKA

The Sri Lankan family talked about the conditions that caused them to flee to Canada. Having lived through civil war, with bomb and gun shot wounds to prove it, provided a sobering picture of what the family had experienced. They gave us a snapshot of the conditions on the cargo boat that was used for the journey to Canada. Limited food and water rations and one bathroom for all 400+ people on board painted a picture of a gruelling voyage. Ongoing medical appointments are now part of their way of life here in Canada.



Our Sri Lankan family at the AGM



AFGHANISTAN

The Afghan man expressed the sense of relief that refugees experience when they arrive in Canada. We may think that coming to a new country where you do not speak the language would create much anxiety, especially when you do not know anyone and have no idea where your family will live. However, his answer suggested otherwise. He was actually relieved to land in Canada! We are so pleased that this family has become permanent residents of Canada and can now prepare for their future with much more certainty and permanence.

IRAN

The family from Iran provided an amazing story of divine guidance. The tension of travelling to Canada to make a refugee claim was overwhelming for them. There was a sense that at any moment they could be arrested and sent back to Iran. In the middle of this tension, a dream provided a message from God that gave the confidence this family needed to continue. There was an audible gasp in the audience when he shared about his dream in which Jesus appeared to him and wrote "Jesus Christ" on the sole of his shoes. This provided a sense of God's leading and protection over the family, ensuring that they would find their way safely to Canada. What a gracious God we have!

Journey Home Community Thrift

The manager is in place, the store lease is arranged, the donated goods are being collected— **THE JHC THRIFT STORE IS A GO!** We anticipate opening for business in September and Carla Wilson, our new store manager, would be delighted to hear from you. She brings to this project a wealth of related experience and is anxious to put her creative talents to work. Please contact her at the office or by email: Carla@journeyhomecommunity.ca if you would like more information or wish to be involved.

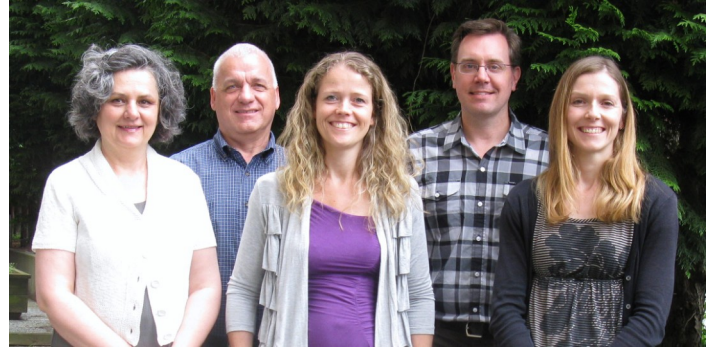
Our newly acquired location (the former Kitchen Corner) is at:
7337 Edmonds Street at Kingsway Avenue in Burnaby.



Look for an upcoming announcement on our grand opening this fall.

Notices

The JHC staff includes some new additions:



From left to right: Carla Wilson (Thrift Store), James Grunau (Director), Esther Barber (Settlement Worker), Brad Kinnie (Program Manager), Jen Sachs (Housing and Employment Developer). Missing: Bonnie Burke (Bookkeeper).



July 16, 2011

Come to our annual Journey Home Community Summer Picnic and join with JHC supporters and refugee families. The picnic invitation will appear on our website. Check it out for more details.



October 15, 2011

This annual fundraiser is a family friendly event in cycling-friendly Richmond. Last year, 10 JHC teams raised \$14,000. Join us this year as we attempt to double our efforts and raise...

\$30,000!

...become a team captain, rider, donor, or volunteer.

Register today at www.rideforrefuge.org

For more information on either of these events, contact the JHC office.

Your involvement in JHC is valued

Please indicate below:

- Become a volunteer
- Assist with the JHC Thrift Store
- Join the RIDE for REFUGE
- Subscribe to the mailing list for news updates
- Make a donation by cheque or online

THANK YOU for your support! Registered Charity: 81020 7548 RR0001

Please mail to:

Journey Home Community
#105 - 6125 Sussex Avenue Burnaby, BC V5H 4G1 / Phone: 604.568.4892
Email: info@journeyhomecommunity.ca / Website: www.journeyhomecommunity.ca

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