



NOVEMBER 2010

OUR MISSION:

WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS WHO SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST WITH A FOCUS ON SERVING REFUGEE CLAIMANT FAMILIES IN METRO VANCOUVER.

JHC Celebrates **5** Amazing Years!

IT WAS SEPTEMBER 2005 when some volunteers from a church home group joined together to house and care for two refugee claimant families. They incorporated as Journey Home Community Association in December 2005 and since then have grown to three full-time and one part-time staff, a band of some 40 volunteers, and multiple donors and supporters. **What has been accomplished in these past five years?** JHC has provided housing and furnishings, **full resettlement** care and friendship for **45 families**, and some form of assistance for an additional 10-15 families, all arriving from **12 different countries** around the world.

To date, 20 families have had their claim heard by the IRB, with six receiving a positive determination and in the process of applying for Permanent Residency. Fourteen have received negative determinations; some have returned to their country of origin and six are in various stages of the

appeal process. As we have come alongside these almost 60 families, and been part of the transformation of many of them, we have noticed our own lives have also been changed in the process. To God be praise for all that HE has done! We have stayed true to our mandate of assisting newly-arrived refugee claimant families with children, and to our vision of being relational with a **focus on people rather than programs**.

Come celebrate these five years with us as we gather on Saturday, December 11 for our Anniversary and Christmas event (see details below).

We send a big **THANK YOU** to all of you who have partnered with us in this journey of hope for many refugee families. We could not have done it without your involvement in the JHC family—God bless you all! ■

James Grunau, Executive Director

Christmas & 5th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, December 11 2:30-6pm
Includes dinner, music & activities!

John Knox Christian School
8260 13th Ave, Burnaby

RSVP by December 6
604.568.4892 or
brad@journeyhomecommunity.ca

A Better Future



MY NAME IS LORENI*. I came to Canada seven months ago, and ask for refugee because of the situation in my country was terrible in order of violence and corruption.

My family and me decided to immigrate to Canada, and was really hard because we didnt have any family or friends here. I was so sad and felt devastated.

For my family and me JHC was an invaluable help in the whole process, as newcomers to settle in a foreign country. At the beginning we didnt have a place to live, and I remember how Gordon helped us with looking for a house an then helped us with the furniture, and esencial things such as pots and pans to cook. They helped us with the process of asking for help in the Income Assistance Office.

“I know that it is a large journey, but I feel that I already have a life here”

Brad come with me to my childrens school and helped us with the registration process, as well as the support they bring for my family and me. I can always come with some question or problem if I dont know what to do. And they always brought unconditional friendship as well. Now I feel that the hardest part is gone, I know that it is a large journey, but I feel that I already have a life here, my daughters are going to secondary school, they are both honour roll students and that makes me so proud, my little son is going to a preschool.

My stepson is working, as well as my stepdaughter and they feel good about it. My husband and me are going to english classes, to improve the language. My husband hasnt found a job yet, but I know that we need to have faith, because things are getting better and better.

In my country I was a clothing store owner, so I am really happy to hear about the opening of the new thrift store, and I'll be glad to bring my help and knoledge to the new store. I want to encourage all people or institutions that can help and support JHC in its great and invaluable work, helping people like my family and I that came to this country looking for a better life and future. ■

**name has been changed to protect identity*

THROUGH THE EYES OF A VOLUNTEER

Paying it Forward

MY NAME IS ANGEL and I grew up in Colombo, the capital city of Sri Lanka. In my mid-teens racial tensions were growing in our country. In 1983 the problems reached a breaking point and rioters began terrorizing the Tamils, the minority population of Sri Lanka. We were forced to flee from our home and watch as our belongings were looted and our house was burnt to the ground. Our family carefully made our way to safety in a local church knowing that if we were caught we would be raped or killed.



Hearing of the atrocities in Sri Lanka, the Canadian government opened a special immigration program and my family and I were sponsored to come to Canada. When we arrived, we had few possessions and almost no money. My Aunt and Uncle and her local church took charge of caring for our needs, outfitting our home with basic household items, furniture and clothing, while also helping us acclimate to Canada.

Now many years later I'm a volunteer with Journey Home Community. I have been serving as a refugee family care team member and translator, and can honestly say this has been the highlight of the Fall for me and my family. What a great privilege to interact with these newcomers, help meet some of their practical needs, hear their stories and especially be inspired by their obvious resiliency. They repeatedly speak of their gratitude to JHC for the support and care they've received. They truly hold JHC in the highest regard. ■

Tamil Outreach

WHEN JHC WAS ASKED to receive 10 Tamil families from Sri Lanka, we knew this would stretch us far beyond our normal capacity. So we sent out the call to various churches and groups and we prayed.

We have been excited to watch God provide resources in some marvelous ways:

- housing units in the same building to create a small Tamil community
- Tamil interpreters
- new volunteers
- donations of household goods, school backpacks, clothing
- extra funds

THANK YOU to all who have contributed of your time and resources so generously. It has been truly heartwarming. ■

The Journey Home Link

...where buying is sharing

AFTER ALMOST A YEAR of research and planning, in October the JHC Board unanimously and enthusiastically decided to forge ahead and raise capital for a thrift store, The Journey Home Link. We already have a good source of donated goods—including furniture and household items—and we have a growing list of volunteers.

Primarily we see this as an additional source of revenue for the organization, which can provide long-term sustainability for JHC. The store will also be a place for refugees to volunteer, gaining Canadian work experience while practicing their conversational English.

At a capital campaign kick-off event in late October we revealed that the thrift store project needs capitalization of \$100,000 and has a projected return for JHC after the first

year of operation. It's exciting to report that we now have 40% of the capital raised and will only commence operation once all the funds are secured.

Consider becoming a founding investor in The Journey Home Link through a donation or an unsecured, interest-free loan. The full business plan and financial projections are available for anyone interested in more information—just call the JHC office (604.568.4892).

As mentioned at our kick-off event, this is more than an investment in a store, it is an investment in the lives of people—helping to fund the resettlement of those seeking asylum in Canada. The goal is to make donors/investors and clients aware that they are active participants in touching the lives of others. ■

How Your Partnership Helps

Your donation has provided people from **Afghanistan, Colombia, Czech Republic, Guatemala, Hungary, Iran, Kazakhstan, Mexico, North Korea, Sri Lanka** with:

- housing
- emergency food
- complete apartment furnishings
- connection to income assistance, legal, education and medical services
- prayer
- friendship

all expressions of the love of Jesus Christ as declared in our mission statement.

Your ongoing involvement is valued

- as a **volunteer** with a refugee family, with JHC events & tasks, or with the Journey Home Link
- as a member of the **prayer team**
- as a **donor** (options include one-time cheque or online, monthly donation, or Link investor)

To **volunteer** or join the **prayer team** contact James at 604.568.4892 or email james@grunau.ca

Donate online at www.journeyhomecommunity.ca (click on “donate online now”) or mail a cheque to the office. For Link investments, contact the JHC office.