



# Welcome Home Page

Refugee Housing Community Newsletter

February 2011 | WELCOMEHOME.ITEAMS.CA



## Making It Personal

Sharon Schmidt  
with Jenn Krulicki

They're a group of young families- not seniors yet, definitely not youth any longer- who enjoy each other's company AND want to make a difference! The Inbetweeners' Group at Kitchener MB Church adopted Welcome Home as their local mission project for 2010.

"As a group we have found that our fundraisers have not only brought us all together as a group, but have really given our group a purpose.

One of the great opportunities in doing a local project is to connect with the people we are raising the funds for. In May we held a coffee house event for the refugees who are living at Welcome Home. We played basketball and hockey in the gym and then shared yogurt parfaits and coffee. It was amazing to see everyone mingle with each other, even the children."

These young families also hosted a scrumptious fundraising banquet, where a Honduran refugee shared her heartbreaking story. Finally, they launched a team of adults and kids in the Ride 4 Refugees, resulting in a generous boost to Welcome Home's budget.

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## Breaking Up is Hard to Do!

Aziza with Sharon Schmidt

I was born in the North of Sudan, in Khartoum. I am a refugee to Canada for political reasons. I'm happy to let people know about Sudan.

The referendum is about letting the South separate from the North. This is what the South has decided. I'm so sad- we grew up all one country, Muslims and Christians living side by side and loving each other, but if they want, we will let them go. The problems are with the government,

not between us personally. Maybe the West will decide to separate too? I feel so sad because all my family and friends are there. I can't be happy here if they are not happy there. I'm afraid for my family.

This referendum will mean change. The oil is in the South. The good soil and weather to grow crops is in the South. The economy will go down. There will be no freedom. People are hoarding, they are afraid.

There is no way to talk to the government. If you open your mouth, protest, you will die. You don't have freedom. It's not fair if the rest of the world stands by and lets North Sudan do everything they want. I want the world to try. Everyone expects a war to come, especially over the oil.

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# FOCUS

## Churches in Mission with Welcome Home

...welcoming refugees, praying, volunteering and supporting us financially.

- Bethany EMC
- Calvary United (St. Jacobs)
- Creekside Church
- Elevation
- Glencairn MB
- Kitchener MB
- The Meeting House-Waterloo
- Stanley Park Community

**Thank You!**

*A vibrant community the refugee can truly call home*

### Lessons Learned:

Threat of Bed Bugs— No more used mattresses will enter Welcome Home, as a preventative measure.

### Looking Ahead:

**\*\*Furniture Redistribution Project—**  
A convergence of

- Frequent offers of used furniture
- Refugees setting up their first home with many needs
- Apple Self Storage's offer of a free storage unit
- An emerging volunteer team— ready to run this project

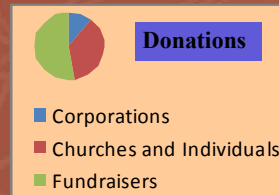
**\*\*Additional Program Development Role** for Marcée Groen until Aug. She's a gifted communicator who will add a lot to our team in this capacity.

## News

Budget 2010: \$150,000

Income: \$155,503

Expenses: \$124,284



## A Great Fall!

- 38 Refugees at Welcome Home in 2010
- 30 Active Volunteers
- 10 Church Visits
- 16 Church Leaders networking at Refugee Roundtables
- 3 "Spring Cleanings"
- \$4000 donated, bought 18 new mattresses
- English Café every Tuesday, Bible Study every Wednesday
- 1 House Dinner/Month + 1 Event/Month = LOTS of LOVE! (Thanks to our hosts!)

### "Breaking" Continued...

I'm not afraid of the Sudanese government anymore because I have a Canadian passport. However, if President al-Bashir is still there, I will not go visit Sudan. He will bring in Sharia Law—the only language everyone can speak will be Arabic. Women will have no freedom.

"How can you force others to do something they don't want??" The North has

both Muslims and Christians living there, but all the Christians will move to the South.

"How can the government say it is okay to separate, to speak for us?"

**We** are Sudan, we want to stay together! We love each other. If the government wants it to be different, it's them who should move! He will die one day and we will be left with the results of his bad decisions."



### "Personal" Continued...

"It was great to make connections and start friendships through the year. This allowed for the fundraiser to become more than a campaign; it is personal. We have connected with the people who will benefit from the funds we have raised, and relationships are being built that will last a lifetime."



### Our Mission

To provide short-term housing along with emotional and spiritual support for refugee new arrivals.

### Our Goal

To develop partnerships with local churches who will welcome refugees in the Name of Jesus.



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Donate online at [welcomehome.iteams.ca](http://welcomehome.iteams.ca). Cheques can be made payable to "International Teams" and designated to "Welcome Home". Send to: International Teams Canada, 1 Union St. Elmira, ON N3B 3J1. A Ministry of International Teams Canada ([www.iteams.ca](http://www.iteams.ca)). Tax receipts will be issued by International Teams Canada.