



Welcome Home Page

Refugee Housing Community Newsletter

August 2011 | WELCOMEHOME.ITEAMS.CA



FURNITURE, FRIENDSHIP, AND FULL HEARTS

Darlene Russell

The year was 1980. Our church in Milton was eager to sponsor a refugee family. However, we were given only two days notice before they arrived. Their home wasn't ready, so we offered to have the family of six move in with us. During that time, God developed a heart of gratitude in me, resulting in an ongoing passion to help people in distress. And now we are thrilled to be serving with many others who have that same desire.



Playing Kubb at Guelph Lake

KARIBU by Robert*

From the Pyramids of Egypt
To the green valleys of South America
From the splendid mountains of Asia
To the oil reserves of Middle East
From Eritrean religious discrimination
To Sudanese civil conflicts
From Iranian social injustice
To the Taliban resistance
From the Columbian drug cartel
To the Mexican drug lord
From the Congolese tussle for mineral resources
To the Iraqi cold war
We are all on the sprint
Escaping torture and persecution
In defense of human rights values
We at last meet in Canada
At *'Welcome Home'*
That's why it is called a home far away
from home
For diverse nations of the world
Meet in one place and learn to live
together

No more war or hatred
No more racism or nationalism
Everybody is one
One race and one nation
Ready to start a new journey
That calls for support and help
Children, women and men
We all praise the Lord
For giving us a home and a voice
Allowing us to say to the entire world
To all religions
To all people
To all races

KARIBU , welcome home
This is a Swahili expression
A symbol of love and unity
A pictogram of generosity and
hospitality
That's the spirit we promote at Welcome
Home
Let's all be part of it
And say very loud to the new
immigrants in Canada:
KARIBU



Six months ago Apple Self-Storage in Waterloo donated a storage unit, and shortly afterward the Furniture Redistribution Team began to take shape. While refugees prepare to move out of their Welcome Home apartments, our teams pick up furniture donated from various people.

On moving day, our volunteers put their trucks, trailers, and muscles to work, gathering the needed furniture from our storage unit, picking up whatever personal belongings the refugees have at Welcome Home, and delivering everything to their new

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*not real name

Tidbits

6 Month Update

2011 Budget: \$143,000
Income to date: \$58,453
Expenses to date: \$71,072

Thank You!

Donors, hosts, movers, cooks, cleaners, golfers, and prayer partners!

Lessons Learned:

Group events are great relationship starters, but do not always lead to one on one friendships. We want to keep working toward that goal.

Looking Ahead:

- 15 teams, \$25,000 through October's Ride 4 Refuge;
- continue building partnerships with churches;
- launch our Advisory Council



Golf Tournament

- 26 Golfers
- \$3395 raised

Our sponsors:

- * Blue Sea Philanthropy
- * Dearborn Health
- * Donovan Insurance Brokers
- * Integrated Digital Solutions
- * Kool FM
- * New Electric Enterprises
- * Rebel Creek Golf Course

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.

IMPACT!

- Bethany EMC
- Calvary United
- Elevation
- Glencairn MB
- The Meeting House-Waterloo
- Stanley Park Community Church

31 active volunteers mobilized to love refugees

12 new volunteers

129 potential new friends

14 church-based events

"FURNITURE" Continued...



location. Piece by piece, these donated items start to fill up the apartment, the beginnings of a new home for our friends who have traveled from so many different places around the globe, each one with a different story. Their deep appreciation shows even in their body language as they see donated couches,

beds, and dressers being offloaded from our volunteers' trucks or trailers.

It's very satisfying to see new homes taking shape for our refugee friends. Sometimes they feel they cannot adequately express their appreciation, but there's a great solution for that: pay it forward! At some point in the future, when someone else has a need, our friends will be in a better place to lend a helping hand. And I know they will welcome new opportunities to say thank you. Hearts full of gratitude always do.

Six Months of Muscle

- 16 refugees moved into new homes
- 27 volunteers -77 pieces of furniture
- from 20 donor homes

Who is Robert*?

Articulate, funny, and fluent in five languages, Robert is one of the newest arrivals at Welcome Home. His brilliant attitude is refreshing, considering how quickly he had to leave his home. While he was working for an international company as an accountant and advisor, his eyes were opened to the dreadful reality of child labour. With an agreement that he would remain anonymous, Robert blew the whistle on the conditions he had seen. Unfortunately,

his identity did not remain a secret. His property and family fell into immediate danger. Miraculously, they all escaped and found asylum.

Robert flew to Canada, leaving his wife and children behind. He intends to advocate on behalf of the injustice he saw, but not before his loved ones are safely here. Please pray that they will arrive soon. We hope you enjoyed KARIBU, the poem that Robert wrote about Welcome Home.

*Name is changed and details are vague in order to protect identities.



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Donate online at welcomehome.iteams.ca. Cheques can be made payable to "International Teams" designated to "Welcome Home" Send to: International Teams Canada, 1 Union St. Elmira, ON N3B 3J9. Tax receipts will be issued by International Teams Canada. (www.iteams.ca)