



Stratford Welcomes Refugees

<https://www.facebook.com/Stratford-Welcomes-Refugees-1630074720586650/>
stratfordwelcomesrefugees.ca

Draft: Dec 2, 2015

Project Resources

- ❖ Health
- ❖ Adult ESL and Language Housing
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Housing
- ❖ Employment
- ❖ Volunteers
- ❖ Social/Recreational/Faith
- ❖ General and Comprehensive Services
- ❖ MCC Contacts
- ❖ How to Make Donations to Community Project
- ❖ Business and Community Group Contacts
- ❖ Additional Resource Links (*nb*: Child Benefit Calculator)

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- B. Household Itemized Checklist
- C. Community Resources for Newcomers to Huron-Perth (United Way)
- D. Social Research Planning Council Living Wage and Quality of Life reports
- E. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Refugee Presentation
- F. MCC and General Refugee Sponsorship Information including Agreements and Settlement Plan
- G. RSTP Handbook for Sponsoring Groups (Government of Canada)
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- I. Education Resources for Teachers and Schools
- J. Media Release – Refuge Hamilton Centre for Newcomer Health
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Health

HPHA

Contacts:

Andrew Williams
andrew.williams@hpha.ca

Dr Sergio Lappano
slappano@mitchellfamilydoctors.ca

Dr Anisa Mnyusiwalla
anisa.m@gmail.com

Dr Lappano and Dr Mnyusiwalla are acting as liaisons to the local medical community and also to resources in Kitchener Waterloo that specialize in refugee health including mental health. Dr Lappano has made connections with Dr Neil Arya and his partner Dr. Carolyn Beukeboem who run the Refugee Clinics in Kitchener-Waterloo and London, respectively. They have offered to assist (are available to do the initial health screen is required) and be a resource for our families. The clinic contact information is below.

<http://family-medicine.ca/>
<http://family-medicine.ca/events-and-clinics/clinics/refugee-health-clinic/>

Contact Dr Lappano for a list of local family physicians who have offered to take on patients and for the name of a new HPHA Doctor who is a native Arabic speaker and is available to translate for the physicians

Dr Lappano has a number of medical fact sheets in Arabic that may be useful. They include things like Immunizations, TB, Mental health and a variety of medical conditions.

Additional Resources, Searchable and Direct Databases for Health Fact Sheets in Different Languages:

<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/languages/arabic.html#H>

http://www.refugeehealth.ca/handouts?tid_topic=147&tid_language=119

TB:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/tb/factsheets/tstarabic.pdf>

<http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=02195dc06f002410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>

Immunizations:

http://www.immunize.org/vis/vis_arabic.asp

<https://healthreach.nlm.nih.gov/Search.aspx?source=homepage&SearchAllText=H1N1>

Mental Health:

<http://www.heretohelp.bc.ca/other-languages>

<http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/healthadvice/problemsdisorders/posttraumaticstressdisorder.aspx>

PDHU

www.pdhu.on.ca/

Contact:

The best contact at PDHU for information about all PDHU programs and services is the Health Line. It is staffed by Public Health Nurses Monday to Friday from 8:30-4:30 pm. The number to call is 519-271-7600 or 1-877-7348 ext 267.

Some of the more relevant PDHU programs are found in the Appendix.

Teresa Barresi

TBarresi@pdhu.on.ca

Chair of PDHU Board but also with the Star Family Health Team

Stratford and District Dental Association

Contact:

Dr Mariela Anderson

President SDDS 2015-2016

manders1@uwo.ca

519-273-4466

Dr Anderson will be presenting to their members a request for a list of local dentists with openings for the families. Dr Stephen Barlow has already indicated that he and Dr Smisek are open to accepting a family into their practice.

Optometrists

There are a number of optometrists in Stratford and we are not aware of any difficulties in finding a practice willing to take new patients. This is one area where it may be good to have someone in the sponsor group contact their own optometrist.

SouthWesthealthline.ca

SouthWesthealthline.ca

Barbara Hagarty

Regional Community Partnership Coordinator
Huron, Perth, Oxford, West Norfolk

barbara.hagarty@thehealthline.ca

519-271-7730 ext 229 226-377-4372 (cell)

c/o The United Centre

32 Erie Street, Stratford, ON N5A 2M4 | @THLhpon

There are a vast range of services and assistance available through the SouthWesthealthline. Contact Barbara for help in accessing all that is available. Barbara is very willing to help.

IFHP and OHIP

The Blended Visa-Office Referred (VOR) Initiative - a program designed to resettle refugees identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and submitted to Canadian visa offices abroad. It is referred to as a "blended" program because it is a cost-sharing arrangement whereby Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and The United Church of Canada both contribute to financially supporting the refugees.

How Does the "Blended" Model Work?

Refugees resettled under the Blended VOR Initiative will receive income support during the first 6 months after their arrival through the federal government's Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP). They are also fully covered under the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) for a full 12 months in addition to provincial health coverage. Sponsors will be responsible for the remaining 6 months of financial support. The SAH and its congregations/pastoral charges also have the responsibility to provide settlement and emotional support for the refugees for the 12-month sponsorship term. If the newcomer(s) are sponsored through the Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) program, the application for IFH will be done during their Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) interview with CIC. At least one member from the sponsoring group must be present at that interview.

Details on how to apply for the IFHP can be found in the RSTP – page 65.

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/summary-ifhp.asp>

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/arriving-healthcare.asp>

OHIP

There is normally a three-month wait period for OHIP coverage. This does not apply to refugees that become permanent residents at arrival, as all Privately Sponsored Refugees do, as the OHIP coverage begins right after the application has been approved at Service Ontario. When applying for OHIP the sponsoring group members accompanying the newcomer(s) have to make sure that they are being given this exemption.

To apply for OHIP:

Accompany the newcomer(s) to the nearest Service Ontario office and bring a "Registration for Ontario Health Coverage" form which can be found at: Ontario Health Insurance (OHIP) Registration Form. It is very important that you check the box "Convention Refugee /Protected Person", NOT "Permanent Resident under section "C" on this application form!

In addition to the OHIP registration form you need to bring three additional original documents:

- Proof of Citizenship or OHIP eligible Immigration status.
- Proof of Residency in Ontario.
- Support of Identity.

IFHP Type 1

Basic Coverage, Supplemental Coverage and Prescription Drug Coverage

People covered include:

- individuals who **are or were** receiving monthly income support through the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) or its equivalent in Quebec, including:
 - Government-Assisted Refugees
 - Joint Assistance Sponsorship Program Refugees
 - certain people who are being resettled in Canada as a result of a public policy or humanitarian and compassionate considerations on the Minister's own initiative
 - Visa Office-Referred Refugees who are part of populations nominated for blended funding arrangements where Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and private sponsors jointly provide funding support
 - certain refugees sponsored by organizations with whom CIC has entered into cost-sharing agreements
- victims of human trafficking who have a valid temporary resident permit (under section 24(3) of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA)*)
- children eligible for IFHP (under 19 years of age)

Basic coverage under **Type 1** includes most services that insured residents are covered for under their provincial or territorial (PT) health insurance plans, such as hospital services and services received from a doctor. The level of coverage provided through the IFHP for supplemental benefits and prescription medications is similar to the level of coverage that may be provided by PT governments to certain residents, including residents receiving social assistance.

Basic Coverage:

- in-patient and outpatient hospital services
- services of medical doctors, registered nurses and other health-care professionals licensed in Canada, including pre and postnatal care
- laboratory, diagnostic and ambulance services.

The benefits above are subject to certain limits and the prescribed maximum dollar amounts included in the **IFHP Basic Coverage Benefit Grid** (**see attached grid**).

Supplemental:

Certain supplemental health-care benefits (including both services and products) listed in the [IFHP Supplemental Benefit Grid](#) (see attached grid), such as:

- limited dental and vision care
- home care and long-term care
- services by allied health-care practitioners including clinical psychologists, occupational therapists, speech language therapists, physiotherapists
- assistive devices, medical supplies and equipment, including:
- orthopedic and prosthetic equipment
- mobility aids
- hearing aids
- diabetic supplies
- incontinence supplies
- oxygen equipment

Drug:

Coverage for prescription medications and other products listed on PT public drug plan formularies and certain products included in the [IFHP Prescription Drug Coverage](#).

Dental:

Only emergency dental is included in the plan (see attached document).

Adult ESL and Language

Adult ESL Resources and Professional Translation Services:

*See the **United Way Resources for Newcomers** document for translation services and adult ESL courses.*

Centres for Employment and Learning

220 Oakdale, Stratford

519-271-4896

www.thecentreforemploymentandlearning.ca/

Adult ESL training

Adult ESL instructor

Schoemaker, Marjorie

marjscho@fc.amdsb.ca

519-271-4896

Teaches at CEL, Stratford Northwestern

Settlement Counsellor

Contact:

Shetha Roomi

sroomi@lcllc.org

519-902-5108

In Stratford once per month from London, speaks Arabic and willing to help with translation.

Willing to help with paperwork for government documents e.g. OHIP

Volunteers for Casual Translation

Abbas, Husam
husam332@hotmail.com
519-272-6119
519-273-0330

Almohammadi, Aziz
aziz.almo@gmail.com
226-921-5990
UW student

Ganaba, Marim
mariganaba@gmail.com
519-502-8610
UW student

Eisa Estanobouly (Stratford Muslim Association member, Syrian)
Cell: 519-801-4110
info@redleafpainting.ca

Mohammad Qaimeh (pronounced kime, rhyming with time)
226-921-6088 (home)
226-921-1136 (cell)

Mohammad and his wife are from Jordan. They have young children and are willing to help with language and also social.

Qasem Yousef
H 519-273-4454
C 519-301-1290

He said that anyone can call him. He lives with his wife in Stratford and said that he will be retiring as of the end of January. He is happy to help now and will be especially happy when he retires.

Housing

SGH Nursing Residence (transitional housing if needed)

Andrew Williams
andrew.williams@hpha.ca

Hiller Realty

Dave Harwood (Property Management for Rentals)
519-273-1650

Perth Properties Ltd

John Fisher
52 Albert St, Stratford
519-271-0210

Perth Properties is a local company. They have mostly 1 and 2 bedroom units but John is a good resource for the local rental conditions.

Opportunity Lives Here

<http://opportunityliveshere.ca/real-estate/>

Employment

Partners in Employment

Contact:

John Devlin

272-1946

jandl@wightman.ca

John is working with newcomers to the area and is also involved with refugee resettlement projects.

Conestoga Employment Centre

Provided a folder of Hardcopy Resources – available with each binder

Contact:



CONESTOGA

Connect Life and Learning

Christy Bertrand

Customer Service Liaison
Conestoga Career Centre
cbertrand@conestogac.on.ca

130 Youngs Street
Stratford, ON N5A 1J7 Canada
T: 519 271-5700 x7224
F: 519 272-0943
Toll Free: 1-800-463-0796
www.conestogac.on.ca

Conestoga College Institute
of Technology and Advanced Learning

*Christy will arrange for one-on-one resources that match needs.
Employment and Adult Education Resources*

Centres for Employment and Learning

220 Oakdale, Stratford

519 271 4896

www.thecentreforemploymentandlearning.ca/

*Employment resources, employment counselling, online learning, high school diploma,
computer training, skills upgrading*

Opportunity Lives Here

<http://opportunityliveshere.ca/work/>

Volunteers

If a sponsor group needs volunteers for on the ground support such as driving, shopping, goods donations or errands we have a database of volunteers available. Please have your volunteer coordinator contact Jane Eligh-Feryn if you would like access to volunteers

Volunteer Committee

Margery Leggott
sasklady@hotmail.com
519-273-4164
Establish and Maintain Database

Jane Eligh-Feryn
elighferyndesign@gmail.com
Liaison with Sponsor Groups

Sarah Bandey
sarahbandey@rogers.com
519 273 4862
Recruit and Register Volunteers

Education

Liaison

Geoff Williams
g_will@sympatico.ca

Contact Geoff to help make connections to local schools.

School Boards

AMDSB
<http://yourschools.ca/>

HPCSB
<http://huronperthcatholic.ca/>

ETFO – Teachers Union

Ann Cook
anncook@sympatico.ca
519-271-9962/519-274-4262

University of Waterloo, Stratford Campus

Contact:
Perreault, Leanne, U.W. liaison
leanne.perreault@uwaterloo.ca

Liaison - students and faculty - volunteering, fundraising and joint projects.

Social/Recreational/Faith

Faith/Social

Organizations

Stratford Mosque & Muslim Association

Main Contact:

Omar Alshehri, Imam
o.d.alshehri@gmail.com

Faith, Language, Integration, Fundraising

Council of Churches

Contact:

Sue Orr

sdcouncilofchurches@gmail.com

Faith, Sponsorship, Integration, Fundraising

Multicultural Society Perth-Huron

Contact:

Gezahgn Wordofa

multicultural.perthhuron@gmail.com, gwordofa@gmail.com

Integration, Fundraising

Other Services

Blessing Babies

Contact:

Natasha DeVries

natashadevries@quadro.net.

Already working with Avon Mennonite to provide baby basics for the baby and would be more than happy to assist with future families.

Stratford & Area Chapters of Blankets for Canada

Contact:

Marcy Martin

Chapter leader

(519)274-5858

Marcy@frankie.ca

We have a mandate to provide blankets to any individual in need of warmth. We are donation based & volunteer driven to provide the blankets we make for no cost. We are able to provide blankets that are made of acrylic yarn that have been knitted &/or crocheted. Our general size makes a blanket that is 48" x 64" but we try to accommodate any size requests we receive. We are United Way partners & have been in the community since fall of 2008.

Please let us know if we can be of any assistance to the Syrian refugees expected.

Individuals and Families Willing to Help

Mohammad Qaimeh

(pronounced kime, rhyming with time)

226-921-6088 (home)

226-921-1136 (cell)

Mohammad and his wife are from Jordan. They have young children and are willing to help with language and also social.

Mahmoud Alshared

519-301-1681

mahmoud.alshared@ gmail.com.

Mahmoud is from Syria and lives in Mitchell with his wife and eight year old. He is willing to support the families and help them build a social network (have them over for dinner and so on).

Eisa Estanobouly

519-801-4110 cell

info@redleafpainting.ca

Eisa is Syrian and has been in Canada since the early 90s. He has helped settle families in K-W and is willing to help in any way needed – language, cultural etc.

Qasem Yousef

H 519-273-4454

C 519-301-1290

He said that anyone can call him. He lives with his wife in Stratford and said that he will be retiring as of the end of January. He is happy to help now and will be especially happy when he retires.

Art & Recreational

According to Wikipedia the most popular sports in Syria are football (soccer), basketball, swimming, and tennis.

Stratford Soccer Association

<http://www.stratfordsoccerassociation.ca/>

Contact:

Graham Bunting

blfstmn@gmail.com

Welcome both children and adults into their leagues with registration support for a year.

Stratford-Perth YMCA

<http://www.stratfordperthymca.com/>

Contact:

Mimi Price

mimi_price@ymca.ca

The Y will supply memberships to our refugee families to help them engage more in the community.

Hoops for Fun Basketball

<http://stratfordbasketball.com/>

Contact:

Janet Keen, SOBA president

519-271-0030.

SOBA let us know that they would be happy to be included in the resource list. Given timing it would likely be for next season. As a board they will decide how to help as the request comes in so contact Janet if any of the children would like to play basketball.

Stratford Badminton Club

<http://www.stratfordbadmintonclub.com/>

Contact:

stratfordbadmintonclub@sympatico.ca

Club (519) 271-0500

Ric Oliver, Manager

Dave Yates, President

Club is open to families and individuals of all ages and are offering a membership for a season to the families if they wish.

Stratford Tennis club

Club Board meets in January 2016 and will get back to us about support.

Gallery Stratford

www.gallerystratford.on.ca/

Contact:

Angela Brayham, Director
abrayham@gallerystratford.on.ca
519-271-5271

Gallery Stratford is offering a family membership to each family. Kathy Vassilakos is meeting with Angela to see what other programming may be available to families.

Heavenly Hoops Basketball

bethelstratford.org

Contact:

Chad McLaren
chad@bethelstratford.org
519-273-0050

Bethel will welcome children into their basketball program.

Police Checks

The MCC requires police checks for volunteers working directly with refugee families:

“Working with Vulnerable Populations

Because resettled refugees are considered a vulnerable population, all members of the CG who will work directly with PSRs are required to authorize MCCO to obtain a criminal background record check and a child abuse registry record check, as a pre-condition for MCCO submitting the Sponsorship Undertaking to CIC. MCCO will maintain files related to background checks and will advise the CG of any concerns.

The only exception to this requirement will be for CG members who have already undergone such a background check within the last six months by another charity (such as a church congregation) which is supporting their refugee sponsorship effort. For such individuals, the CG members working with the refugee(s) will be considered the volunteers of those congregations or registered charities, and not as volunteers of MCC.”

A few notes about the checks:

- The Stratford Police (SPD) do not do the checks for free - this is an OPP policy. The OPP also have an online system but we do not and so each individual has to go to the station.
- The checks are \$25 (cash only) for volunteer organizations. The person needs to go into the station with 2 pieces of government issued ID. Only residents of Stratford can go to the SPD. Outside of Stratford they go to their local police or OPP office.
- The letter requesting the check and reason for it should also come from the sponsor group, on letterhead if possible. A short letter with the MCC MOU attached will suffice as a letter.

General and Comprehensive Services

211

<http://www.211ontario.ca/>

Information and referral helpline to community, social, government and health services

Call 2-1-1 for:

•Non-emergency police number •Food banks •Walk in clinics •Alzheimer support •Mental health help •Meals on Wheels •Emergency shelters for homeless •Services for domestic violence victims •Public health •Telehealth Ontario •Crisis services •Provincial and local helpline phone numbers •Settlement help for newcomers •Housing help centres •Youth drop in programs •Child, youth and family counselling •Emergency utility assistance •Understanding which government service might help or assistance •Disability support programs •Parenting programs

Settlement Counsellor

Contact:

Shetha Roomi

sroomi@lcllc.org

519-902-5108

In Stratford once per month from London, speaks Arabic and willing to help with translation. Willing to help with paperwork for government documents e.g. OHIP

Huron Perth United Way

Contact:

Ryan Erb

rerb@perthhuron.unitedway.ca

See attached document for the services available through the United Way

Opportunity Lives Here

<http://opportunityliveshere.ca/>

<http://opportunityliveshere.ca/newcomers/>

Contact:

Kristin Sainsbury, Economic Development Coordinator

Corporation of the County of Perth

1 Huron Street Stratford, ON N5A 5S4

Email: ksainsbury@perthcounty.ca

This site has google translate and a wide range of services for newcomers!

Canadian Red Cross

Contact:

100 Gordon St., Stratford ON, N5A 7T8

Tel: (519) 273-9339

519-273-9339

<http://www.redcross.ca/in-your-community/ontario/ontario-find-a-branch/stratford-branch>

The Red Cross is a valuable resource for helping families find other family members worldwide through the Restoring Family Links Program. They also offer a wide range of other services:

Government of Ontario

Contact:

Randy Pettapiece

randy.pettapiececo@pc.ola.org

Business and Community Group Contacts

Chamber of Commerce

Contact:

Brad Beatty, General Manager

Hopefully attend a CoC event to discuss the project and also get support for newcomers from the business community.

Compudoc

Contact:

Jeff Walsh

Donation of a computer to each refugee family and if the family is in an area covered by Switch they will give them WiFi for a year.

S Feryn Designs

Contact:

Seana Feryn

647-389-0492

seanaferyn@gmail.com

<http://www.sferyndesigns.com>

Project Website Design

Mindy Gough

Contact:

www.photographsbymindygough.com

Mindy will provide each family with their very first Canadian family portrait. Each family, if they would like, will receive the shoot and an 8x10 archival print at no charge.

From Mindy:

In my previous career as a social worker, I saw the power of photographs to help tie families together, and I think it's an important message - "Here we are, we've survived together, and we're making a fresh start together!"

Irene Miller Photography

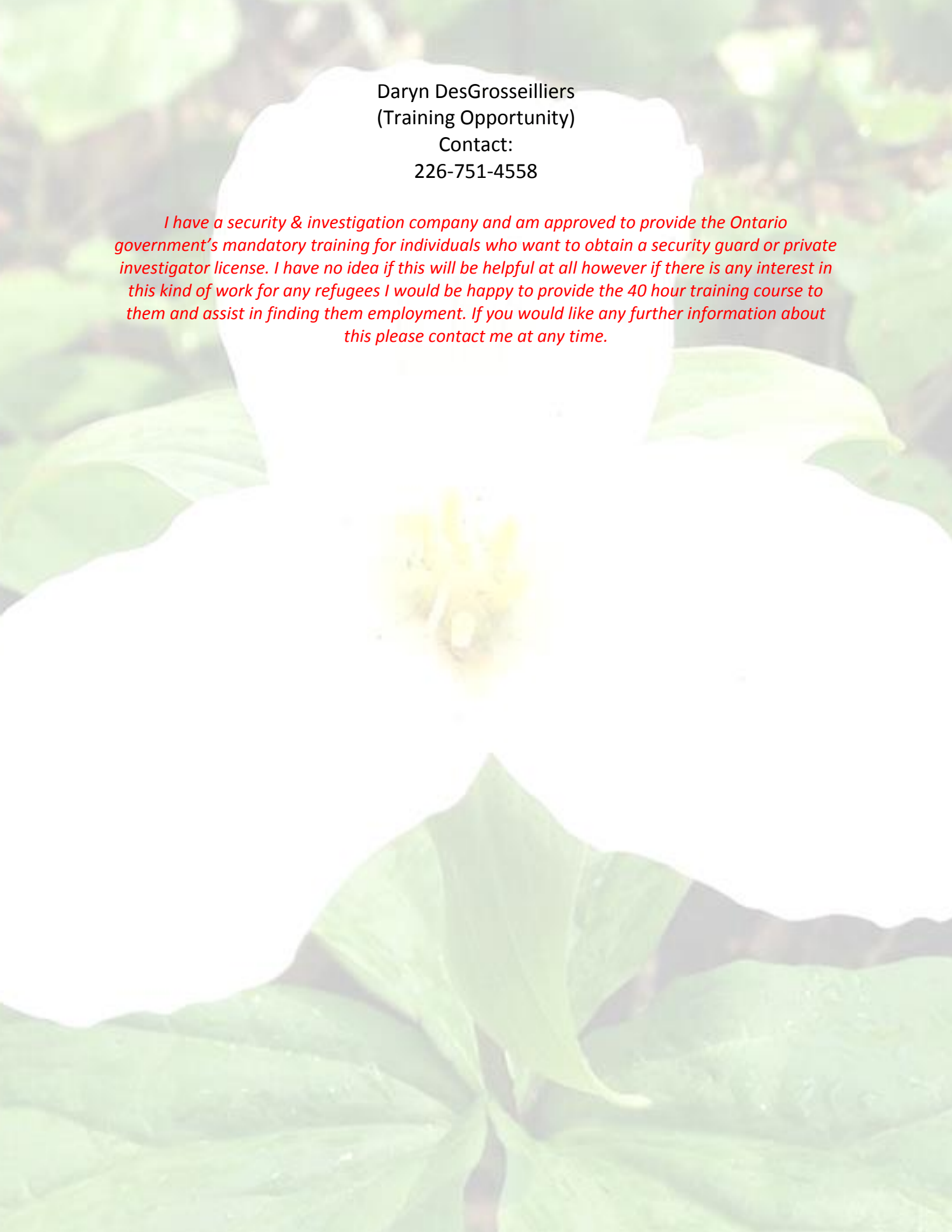
Contact:

(519) 271-6500

info@imillerphoto.com

<http://www.imillerphoto.com/>

I would be very happy to offer my photography services for family portraits, prints and head&shoulder photos for social media use and employment requirements.



Daryn DesGrosseilliers
(Training Opportunity)

Contact:
226-751-4558

I have a security & investigation company and am approved to provide the Ontario government's mandatory training for individuals who want to obtain a security guard or private investigator license. I have no idea if this will be helpful at all however if there is any interest in this kind of work for any refugees I would be happy to provide the 40 hour training course to them and assist in finding them employment. If you would like any further information about this please contact me at any time.

Mennonite Central Committee

Contacts:

Moses Moini

MCCO Refugee Program Coordinator
22 -595 Carlton St. St. Catharines, ON L2M 4Y2
Tel.: 905-646-3161, Ext 267
Cell: 905-324-5784
mosesmoini@mcco.ca

Peggy Pickett

Refugee Program Assistant
Mennonite Central Committee Ontario
22-595 Carlton Street, St. Catharines, ON L2M 4Y2
Phone: 905-646-3161 ext. 268
1-800-313-6226 ext. 268
PeggyPickett@mcco.ca

<http://ontario.mcc.org>

<http://mcccanada.ca/>

<http://mcccanada.ca/stories/refugee-resettlement>

How to Make Donations to the Community Project

Online

mcco.ca/stratford

Cheque

Donation cheques should be made out to MCCO or Mennonite Central Committee Ontario and the Memo Line should reference the registry Stratford Welcomes Refugees, # 622058. Both the name and the number together are the optimal. Either one should work on its own, but together are best.

Send to:

Mennonite Central Committee Ontario
203-50 Kent Avenue
Kitchener, ON
N2G 3R1

Additional Resource Links

Syrian Refugee and Cultural Information

<http://www.vagabomb.com/The-Syrian-Refugee-Crisis-Explained-Perfectly-With-a-Simple-Animation-Video/>

<http://www.culturalorientation.net/content/download/3970/21954/version/2/file/CAL+Backgrounder+08+-+Syrians+FINAL.pdf>

Information for Sponsoring Groups

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/resources/handbook-for-sponsoring-groups/>

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/g5assessment/>

<http://mcccanada.ca/sites/mcccanada.ca/files/media/common/documents/blendedvorfrequentlyaskedquestions.pdf>

<http://mcccanada.ca/sites/mcccanada.ca/files/media/common/documents/responsibilitiesofasponsoringchurchandnewcostofsponsorship.pdf>

Process and Screening of Refugees

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/index.asp>

<http://www.refworld.org/protectionmanual.html>

Government Services

Ontario Newcomer Settlement Program which offers settlement services.

<http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/english/keyinitiatives/newcomer.shtml>

For the families themselves, there is information available at:

<http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/english/newcomers.shtml>

Child and family benefits calculator

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/clcltr/cfbc-eng.html>

This is a very important tool for determining the amounts the families will receive monthly from the government.

Appendices

