



Sanctuary Refugee Health Centre (SRHC), under the direction of “Dr. Mike” (Dr. Michael C. Stephenson) began with 6 patients in a church basement just over 4 years ago; within a few months it moved to a house on King St W. Now that patients number in excess of 1850 people it must move again, and will do so on May 23 to an ideal location in Downtown Kitchener adjacent to Kitchener Market, above King Pharmacy. We estimate that over 300 refugee newcomers in Kitchener alone are without primary care, despite unprecedented region-wide efforts to expand access. **With this move and your help, SRHC can increase its capacity to address their health issues, foster social and economic wellbeing, and help refugee newcomers become more engaged citizens.**

SRHC is the only health care centre in the region devoted entirely to refugee newcomers. With the liberal support of other health care professionals, many of whom donate their time, Dr. Mike gives generously of his expertise, both to other agencies to educate and reduce barriers in accessing the system and to refugee patients. Many of the services offered at the clinic, essential to the health and wellbeing of refugee people, go beyond federal/provincial health insurance coverage, meaning that costs cannot be recovered from those sources. No patient pays for services received at SRHC even those who do not have insurance coverage. To date, SRHC has no regular income from government sources and must depend on time limited grants, the goodwill of partners and community support to meet expenses.

The needs of refugee newcomers are often complex and ongoing. In many cases, the most appropriate care can be given by a nurse practitioner or another allied health professional. **The Canadian Medical Foundation (CMF) has agreed to issue charitable receipts for donations made to benefit SRHC which is a recognized charity in Ontario. Initially, donations made through CMF will go to building a fund to sustain the employment of a full time nurse practitioner.** The link to their donations page follows. In the “message” section under general donations, specify to be directed to Sanctuary Refugee Health Centre. ([https://www.beanstream.com/secure/TheCanadianMedicalFoundation/1\\_cmf\\_form\\_en.asp](https://www.beanstream.com/secure/TheCanadianMedicalFoundation/1_cmf_form_en.asp))

Organizations and individuals less concerned with charitable receipts can support SRHC by absorbing some of the moving expenses. Donations can be well recognized in the new clinic and at an “Open House” event being planned for early September. **If you, your organization or faith community has benefitted from SRHC services in your recent support of refugee newcomers, this is your opportunity to show appreciation. Sponsoring groups still waiting to be matched with a refugee newcomer family have the chance to redirect their goodwill in the interim. If you and others within your social circle want to demonstrate the continuing welcome offered to refugee newcomers by the people of Waterloo Region, your support of SRHC can provide another avenue for your generosity.**

Cheques may be made payable to Sanctuary Refugee Health Centre. For other options and for more information contact Margaret Brockett, Associate Director at 226 336 1321 or [margaret.brockett@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.brockett@gmail.com)

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**From May 23, 203-310 King Street East, Kitchener, ON N2H 2V5**  
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[www.sanctuaryrefugee.ca](http://www.sanctuaryrefugee.ca)