

SOJOURN HOUSE



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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SOJOURN HOUSE

Sojourn House provides Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing services to refugees coming from all parts of the world. We provide a safe environment for newcomer refugees who have undergone difficult and traumatic pre-migratory experiences, including exposure to war, torture, violence, targeted persecution, forced migration and family separation. We are dedicated to provide the best possible care, services and programs tailored to effectively address their particular needs. Sojourn House has served thousands of refugees over our 29 years of service. With decades of experience, we take pride in being one of the first and largest refugee housing agencies in Toronto and a leading organization in refugee care.



In 2015 we served people coming from 45 countries including:

Afghanistan	Congo	Haiti	Morocco	St. Lucia
Algeria	Croatia	Honduras	Nigeria	Sudan
Azerbaijan	China	Hungary	North Korea	Syria
Bangladesh	Egypt	India	Pakistan	Tanzania
Barbados	Eritrea	Iraq	Rwanda	Turkey
Burundi	Ethiopia	Iran	Saudi Arabia	United Kingdom
Burkina Faso	Ghana	Ivory Coast	Serbia	Uganda
Cameroon	Greece	Kenya	Somalia	Vietnam
Colombia	Guinea	Libya	Sudan	Yemen

OUR MISSION

To provide a safe place and create an inclusive environment where refugees are supported and empowered to pursue a life in Canada.

OUR VISION

A safe world and a better future for refugees

OUR CORE VALUES

- **Social Justice:** we advocate respect for human rights in the face of oppression and discrimination
- **Diversity:** we encourage and celebrate differences and inclusion
- **Compassion:** we support our clients in a caring, rational and informed manner
- **Mutual respect:** we treat others with dignity and hold one another accountable for how we act and behave
- **Client-centred approach:** we focus on inclusive, culturally-sensitive programming that values the right to self-determination and promotes independence
- **Integrity/Transparency:** we hold a privileged position of trust with our stakeholders. We act with honesty and professionalism, guided by the highest standards of ethical conduct
- **Entrepreneurial spirit:** we seek opportunities to learn, innovate, change and grow

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DEBBIE HILL-CORRIGAN
Executive Director

Following many years of challenging and mean spirited government policies towards refugees 2015 experienced a bright light with the election of a Liberal Government and a renewed spirit of who we are as Canadians. There was much celebration throughout the refugee advocacy sector and hope of good things to come.

At Sojourn House we are hopeful that rescinding negative aspects of the legislation will result in renewed access to health care and expedited hearings for the many former clients who have been waiting for their hearings for more than two years; delaying bringing their families who may remain in situations of risk. Not to mention the fear and guilt of leaving loved ones behind. Long waits

create a period of unsettlement for refugees who are anxious to get on with their lives. Regardless, they continue their journey and demonstrate incredible resilience in the face of adversity.

Sojourn House continued to welcome asylum seekers from countries throughout the world experiencing conflict, political upheavals and incidents of wide spread oppression, religious and gender persecution and human rights abuses. Ethiopia, Eritrea, Nigeria, Burundi, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq to name a few. A high percentage of arrivals are separated youth sent by their families to avoid conscription and deportation to countries where they have never lived having been born in countries where their parents had to go for safety and work but where they will have no status.

The Transitional Housing program has for the past few years responded to the wave of separated youth by prioritizing them for the program. This has been very successful in giving youth a stable and supportive environment in place of family. The majority of the youth are in school and working part time. They have goals of higher education and are well on their way to achieving them. A former client featured in previous reports is now in her 3rd year at York U working towards her degree in psychology.

In closing I extend my sincere thanks to the Board of Directors for their strategic leadership, our donors and funders who continue to support the important work that we do, our management team for their commitment to excellence and to all of our frontline staff who provide a home and compassionate environment for newly arrived refugees.



OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

Sojourn House's Board of Directors undertook a strategic planning session in September 2015. It was through this strategic planning meeting that 5 outcome goals were identified. Through the years of 2016-2018 we will work towards implementing the following:

1. We will provide more housing and shelter to refugees.
2. We will meet emerging needs by providing responsive programs, with partners where appropriate.
3. We will increase and diversify our funding to better respond to emerging refugee needs.
4. We will effectively advocate for refugee rights.
5. We will strengthen our organizational capacity to achieve our goals.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



GLORIA NAFZIGER
*President of the
Board of Directors*

2015 was a good year for Sojourn House as it continued to maintain a strong and healthy financial position with a strong leadership team who are committed to ensuring excellence in the delivery of programs and services while maintaining a welcoming environment for our clients.

The Board has undergone changes this past year and regretfully accepted the resignations of Ann Francis Rundle and Dawit Hailu, Karoosh Eslami and welcomed the addition of Hue Nguyen and Teonest Kabanda. One vacancy was outstanding at the end of the year, with a plan to recruit in early 2016. We are so fortunate to continue to have a variety of board members with diverse backgrounds who oversee the governance of the organization.

This past year the board undertook to develop and implement a board evaluation tool, developed a work plan and completed a Board orientation manual. Organizational policies were reviewed and updated. A plan for anti oppression training was identified in line with new policies.

The board engaged in a strategic planning process in September with the excellent leadership of Chris Govern from Management Advisory Service (MAS). The planning process resulted in the identification of five strategic goals for Sojourn House over the next 3 years. This included a plan to:

- provide more housing and shelter to refugees
- meet emerging needs by providing responsive programs with partners where appropriate
- increase and diversify our funding to better respond to emerging refugee needs.
- effectively advocate for refugee rights.
- strengthen our organizational capacity to achieve our goals.

The end of the year saw a realization of our first goal as up to 20 new beds were added to the shelter at a second location in the neighbourhood.

The fundraising program continues to grow. A successful event was held at Sojourn House in October for foundations, donors and special guests. Mario Calla, the Executive Director of COSTI welcomed the guests and spoke about the need to provide welcoming communities to newcomers. In December the fundraising committee held an event at Holy Trinity church with the sale of designer clothing items which had been donated to Sojourn House by Kevin Roher from Higher Ground. The December sale was made possible with the tremendous support of staff and residents of Sojourn House.

I would like to thank the management team and board members of Sojourn House who continue to remain committed to excellence in providing a new home to refugees as they arrive in Canada.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015

Gloria Nafziger - President
*Refugee Advocate,
Amnesty International (AI)*

Ibrahim Absiye - Treasurer
*Executive Director,
CultureLink*

Sophia Weber - Secretary
*CMA University Health
Network*

Jessica Roher - Member
Law Student / Intern

Koorosh Eslami - Member
Engineer

Rene Joergensen - Member
Fundraising Professional

Laura Mandelbaum - Member
*Business Planner, Toronto
Community Housing*

Monica Abdelkader - Member
Manager, COSTI

Dawit Hailu - Member
*MA in Public and International
Affairs*

Hue Nguyen - Member
*Litigation Associate at
Blouin Dunn LLP.*

Teonest Kabanda - Member
*Director of Finance and
Administration, Black Creek
Community Health Centre*

WHERE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE GOING

*With your support,
Sojourn House was able to
care for 326 refugees in 2015!*



Our vegetable garden



After school Homework Club



Birthday Picnic in the park



*Hummus and Chardonnay Fundraising Event
In September 2015 Rebecca and Eyal Liebman organized an extraordinary seven-course fundraising dinner event with proceeds benefiting Sojourn House! Their catering company Chef & Somm in collaboration with Southbrook-Vineyards made Hummus and Chardonnay an enormous success. Thank you Rebecca and Eyal!*

Donations made to Sojourn House help finance services, programs, projects, workshops and activities that support the specific needs of refugees. Donations also finance exceptional refugee needs and circumstances that help them overcome multiple barriers. Services offered at Sojourn House have a significant impact in the refugee's successful transition into the Canadian community. Donations made to Sojourn House in 2015 support the many essential programs and projects in Sojourn House including:

Skills for Life Program: A life skills based program created for youth ages 16-24 years old, who fled to Canada with no family or support. This program offers a variety of hands-on workshops and activities designed to meet the specific needs of refugee youth. Through this program youth develop the skills needed to successfully transition into their new community.

Transitional Housing Program: This is a two year supportive housing program offered to refugees experiencing settlement difficulties and are in need of longer term care.

Shelter Program: Temporary shelter, settlement counselling, assistance navigating the complex immigration process, legal referrals and assistance finding permanent housing are just a few of the services refugees receive from this program!

In 2015 Sojourn House's fundraising efforts focused around responding to clients underlying needs. A "Welcome Package" campaign helped us raise funds to purchase items such as toiletries, bedding and winter accessories for newly arrived refugees. During this year we also solicited donations through our "Fresh Food" campaign to support residents who encountered difficulties accessing fresh fruits and vegetables. Thanks to the generosity of our donors Sojourn House residents have greater access to healthy perishable foods. Lastly, because of Shoppers Drug Mart's Life foundation we were also able to provide female residents with assistance purchasing essential hygiene and personal care products.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2015 DONORS!

The following individuals and organizations made contributions to Sojourn House in 2015. To all of our supporters, we express our sincere gratitude. With your assistance we have been able to care for those refugees who rely on our services!

Core funder

City of Toronto

Organizations

The School Sisters of Notre Dame
St. Marcellinus Secondary School

Foundations

E.K. Morrow Foundation
Ontario Trillium Foundation
The Home Depot Canada Foundation
Jackman Foundation
Shoppers Drug Mart Life Foundation

Government of Ontario

Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and
International Trade
- Newcomer Settlement Program

City of Toronto

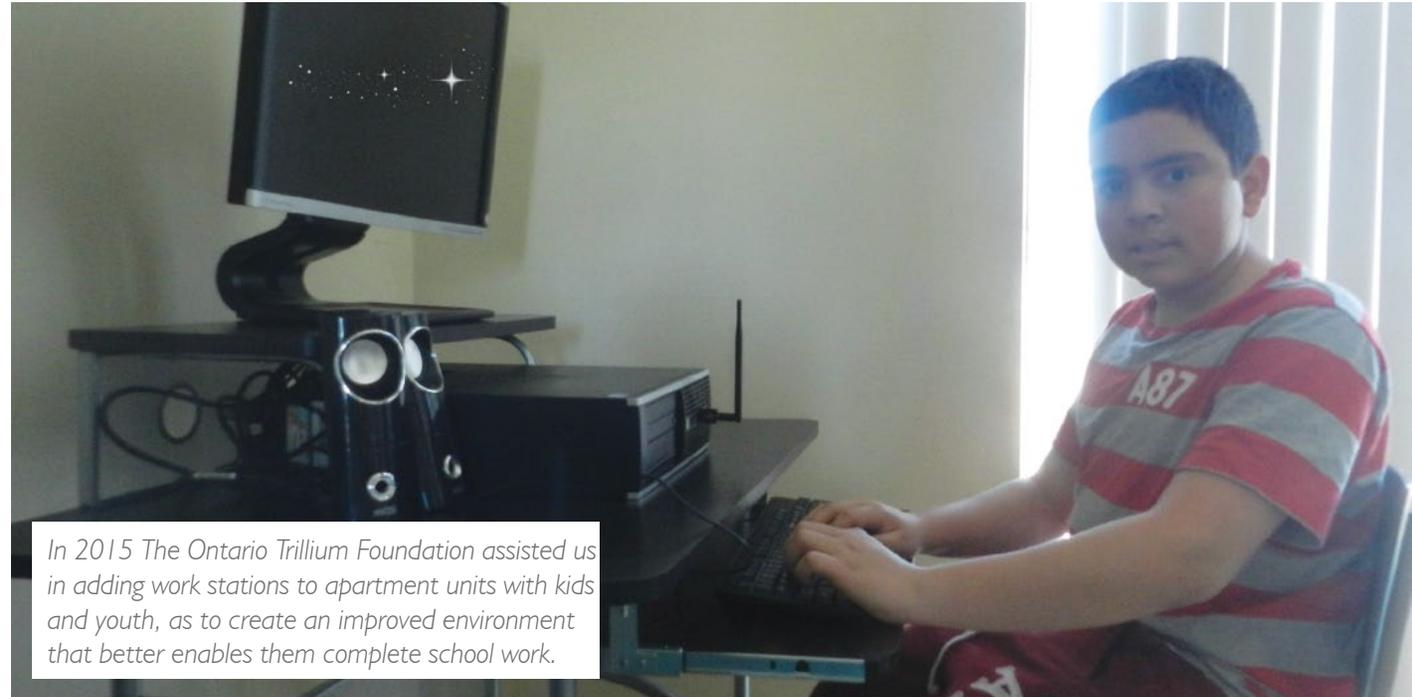
Homelessness Partnering Strategy
Shelter Support and Housing Administration
Hostel Services

Corporations

The Toronto-Dominion Bank
Capstone Infrastructure Corporation
Portal Films
Damien Season I

Gifts in Kind

Higher Ground Limited
Windfall Clothing
Daily Food Bank
Second Harvest



Our Champions

David Walker – The Hugh Walker
Memorial Fund
David Walsh
Dr. Edith Lorimer
Eyal Libman
Fred and Bonnie Martin
Gloria Nafziger
Hue Nguyen
Kathleen Wynne
Kenneth Allen
Kevin Roher
Nicola Mansworth
Patricia Mcnama
Paul Duffy
Simone Jessica Roher
Stephen Allen
Wyndham Bettencourt-McCarthy

Individuals

Alice Balter
Andrew Downing
Angie Joyce
Aniseh Sharifi
Annie Chu
Aoife Allen
Brenton Szabatura
Catherine Lang
Catherine Tafler
Celia Chandler
Christopher Holcroft
Cindy Blazevic
Denise Lebar
Devendra Kalwani
El-Farouk Khaki
Emily Andrew
Jack Bittan

James Anok
James Mair
Jane Graham
Janet Stern
Jennifer Wong
Jerome Perera
Joey Ma
Laurel Dick
Lindsay McIver
Malcome Jolley
Man and Sindy Hung
Mana Sadeghi
Manusha Janakiram
Marlon Andrew
Cunningham
Michael Sun
Nadia Elkharadly
Nancy Post

Naresh Thevathasan
Nikki Milligan
Olga Moltchanova
Olumide Akerewusi
Premila Sathasivam
Richard and Susan Sims
Rob Norquay
Rossana De Campo
Sarah Power
Shamere Gentles
Shaun Bala
Sherry Provis
Sophia Saeed
Sophia Weber
Yvonne Tsui



SHELTER PROGRAM

By: Dan Rutembesa, Director of Shelter and Housing

In the words of Mark Twain: “Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see”. 2015 was a remarkable year where Canada as a country showed kindness and gave hope to thousands of Syrian refugees. Many ordinary Canadians organized themselves in groups and sponsored Syrian refugees to Canada. As a country we are more significant and powerful together as we take care of the most vulnerable in our society. We need each other to succeed.

Last year the Shelter Program served 60 females and 114 male refugees and refugee claimants from 37 different countries. The countries from where we saw most arrivals were: 39 refugees from Ethiopia; 34 from Nigeria; 19 from Eritrea; 18 from Middle East; 15 from East Africa; 12 from Afghanistan; and 37 from multiple other countries. The shelter staff assisted clients with immediate needs such as; supportive counselling; referrals to specialized services and guidance during their refugee determination process.

The Housing Stabilization Social Worker assisted 26 Separated Youth to find housing. Many were housed in our Transitional Housing units and others were housed in the community. Many of our Separated Youth faced emotional challenges due to abrupt separation from their families. For most this is the first time they are separated from their families. The youth Social Worker provided these youth with the needed additional supports.

One of our biggest challenges in 2015 was to find adequate accommodation for our clients. Despite the challenges our Housing Program was able to house 174 clients using a variety of housing resources such as; transitional housing, private landlords and supportive housing. Young single mothers were housed in our Transitional Housing, yet it was a challenge to find supportive housing for our clients with mental health issues.

Our Outreach Program provided exited clients with follow-ups as well as with referral services to other community agencies for emotional, mental health and other health related concerns.

The outreach Social Worker connected 350 clients to the medical staff at our in-house clinic. The program served 174 individual clients with more than 1300 contacts with the Outreach Social Worker.

We worked closely with the following partners: Crossroads clinic, T.D. Bank, YMCA, Regent Park Community Health Services, CCVT, City of Toronto and others to provide multiple services to our clients in order to ease the challenges they encounter during their settlement process.

I want to thank those who continue to make Sojourn House a place to be proud of in which those who are vulnerable and less fortunate can once more become proud of themselves, gain their dignity and move on to a better life.

THANK YOU FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE!

This year we celebrate and appreciate the 25 years Jesus Mejia has dedicated to serving refugees in Sojourn House. Jesus was present at Sojourn House from the very beginning. In 1988 while still in high school Jesus took part in the renovations for Sojourn House by helping with dry walling and painting of the facility. The following year, with Sojourn House being merely one year in operations Jesus carried out his high school co-op placement with us. In 1991 and still a student at the University of Toronto Jesus was hired at Sojourn House as a part time settlement counselor later becoming a full time employee.

During his time at Sojourn House, beyond providing settlement information and supports, Jesus has concentrated on assisting refugees to navigate the complicated legal aspect of the asylum process. On numerous occasions Jesus has appeared before the Immigration and Refugee Board Refugee Protection Division to provide supports and advocacy on behalf of Sojourn House clients.

At the age of 13 Jesus Mejia fled his home country of El Salvador, escaping forced induction into the then notoriously arbitrary Salvadorian military. His personal journey and struggles as a young refugee in Canada fuels his dedication for his work and his commitment towards supporting refugees, in particular youth refugees whom he shares a common experience with.

Jesus is a compassionate member of staff who demonstrates empathy and a strong commitment to his clients. Jesus treats clients with compassion and dignity, filling newly arrived refugees with a sense of trust and real hope for a better future in Canada. Jesus has provided services to over 10,000 refugees, he is an integral part of what makes Sojourn House an award winning organization! For this we thank you Jesus!





TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

The Transitional Housing program (THP) offers a two year subsidized supportive housing program to refugees that have experienced trauma and are in need of longer term supports. During this time the program provides housing stability and services that are tailored to address the complex needs of refugees. Residents receive a range of specialized support services which includes individualized case plan, settlement services to help them with their refugee/immigration case, referrals to medical and legal services, information on education, employment and all aspects of life in Canada. Additionally, the THP offers recreational programs for children and homework support for school age children, youth and adults enrolled in secondary and post-secondary education.

The THP has 52 furnished apartments; 24 single bachelors (single occupancy), 12 double bachelors (double occupancy) and 16 two bedroom apartments (for families of minimum three maximum five people). On average the THP occupancy rate is of 100 residents. Most choose to stay for the full duration of the program which is two years. Referrals to the THP come from organizations and shelters serving refugees.

Status at Intake

Convention Refugees	8	5%
Refugee Claimants	107	70%
Permanent Residents	24	16%
Canadian Citizens*	13	9%
Total	152	100%

Immigration Status/Decisions

Accepted	60	40%
Convention Refugees	8	5%
Pending	11	7%
Legacy/Pending	8	5%
Denied/Appeal	28	18%
Government Assisted Refugees	23	15%
Permanent Resident	1	1%
Canadian Citizens*	13	9%
Total	152	100%

* Canadian Citizens represent the number of children/newborn residents born in Canada

DURING 2015
152 PEOPLE
FROM 34 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

62 SINGLE ADULTS

57% FEMALE 

62 CHILDREN

43% MALE 

28 SEPARATED YOUTH

51 MOVED OUT 

18 Adults
21 Children
12 Separated Youth

21 Adults
20 Children
8 Separated Youth

← **MOVED IN** **49**

TAX CLINIC

In 2015 Wells Fargo Financial Services organized a group of 8 volunteers belonging to the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario. They volunteered their time and expertise to help 65 of our Transitional Housing residents and past residents file their income tax returns. This annual tax clinic is a great way to teach newcomers about Canadian taxes. Thank you to all of the volunteers!

ESTHER'S STORY

In 2010 pregnant and with a young daughter Esther left Nigeria, fleeing from the dangers of gender persecution that put her and her daughter's life at risk. Soon after Esther's arrival in Canada she came to live at Sojourn House's Transitional Housing program. While living at Sojourn House Esther gave birth to her second daughter, it was through this experience that she encountered her biggest barrier as a newcomer to Canada, a grave culture shock, which she recalls as an extremely difficult time. Esther was able to overcome the vast cultural differences in child rearing with the ongoing services and supports provided by the Transitional Housing staff. The Transitional Housing staff worked tirelessly to help her settle, integrate and transition in to the Canadian community.

“Sojourn House helped me understand Canada, they helped me integrate”

One of the many barriers newcomers to Canada encounter is culture shock. Newcomers often experience depression and feelings of isolation due to separation from family members, lack of supports, and loss of culture. Newcomers such as Esther must also learn about their new community, a new language and a new culture.

During Esther's two years at Sojourn House staff helped her with everything from navigating the complex immigration system to finding appropriate schools for her and her daughters.

“Being in a new country, being pregnant and not having the family support from back home I thought I had to go through the process alone, but I wasn't alone, I had Sojourn House”

Esther successfully transitioned out of Sojourn House and is now living in the community, she completed high school and has enrolled in a community college where she became a Personal Support Worker and is now enrolled in hair dressing school. She will graduate this June.

Esther became a Canadian citizen on March 8, 2016 and came back to Sojourn House to celebrate her accomplishment with us. She looks forward to a better future for her and her daughters in Canada.



MAINTENANCE, RENOVATIONS & FACILITY UPGRADES



Behind this important work is a team of very dedicated facility staff

The Maintenance staff enhance the delivery of our programs and services everyday through ensuring that our front line staff and residents can enjoy the best possible working and living environment. 2015 was another busy year for this team, as they worked on necessary renovations and facility upgrades. Facility improvements were possible thanks to the support from the City of Toronto, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and other community partners.

Facility Upgrades	Impact	With the help from
Multipurpose Community Kitchen	Ability to conduct a cooking program designed to benefit separated refugee youth and children in the areas of health/nutrition, work skills and social development.	Ontario Trillium Foundation
14 Bathroom Renovations	Improve the living conditions of residents.	City of Toronto
250 Queen St. / Satellite Program	Increase the number of clients which we can provide services to.	City of Toronto

OUTREACH

The outreach social worker is responsible to work with clients to help them integrate into the community once they move out of Sojourn House. Typically the outreach social worker works with the clients for 1 year after they have left Sojourn House to provide them with assistance with Ontario Works (Legal Aid) the refugee process and connecting them to community resources. During the 2015 year the Outreach office met with 75-80 clients each month and has on average 120 appointments per month.

As clients move into the community the outreach social worker connects the residents with community resources such as the Furniture Bank, New Circles Clothing, Salvation Army, community centres and libraries. These links help the clients to establish themselves in their new community and begin to live more independent lives, yet they also know that they are able to connect with the Outreach Social Worker should they have any questions or concerns.

In addition to meeting with clients one on one, the outreach office arranges the appointments for the in-house health clinic. This clinic addresses the immediate health needs of newly arrived clients and makes referrals to community health resources. Outreach staff also organize guest speakers and facilitate life skills workshops and information sessions to educate clients about all aspects of their new community and country.



SOJOURN HOUSE HEALTH CLINIC

In partnership with Women's College Hospital - Crossroads Clinic and Regent Park Community Health Centre

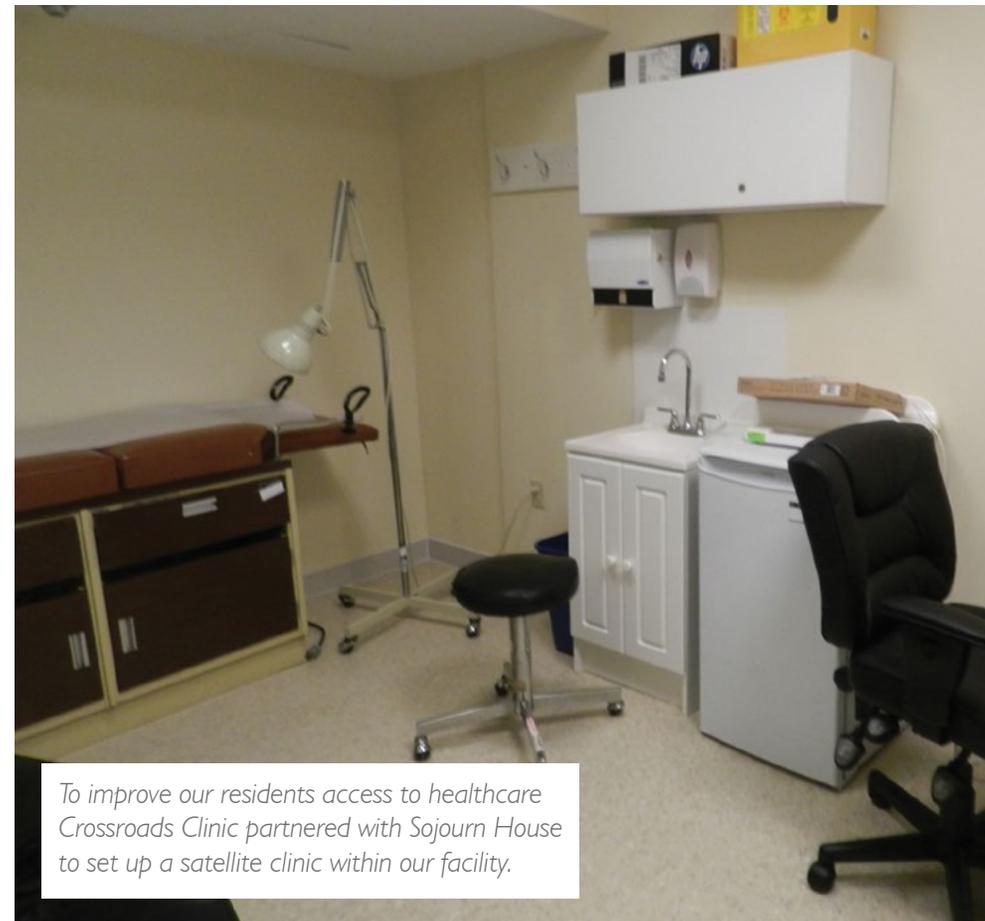
A year and a half ago, I started working at Sojourn House as a doctor through the Crossroads Clinic of Women's College Hospital. It was one day a week, and after the first day I was hooked! I have spent my whole career working with vulnerable populations, often in the very countries that refugees today are fleeing. It is an utter privilege to work with such a population. Hailing from all corners of the globe, fleeing situations I can barely fathom, refugees arrive in this wonderful haven in the middle of Toronto, with all their hopes and fears and resilience and, unfortunately, health issues, sometimes extremely serious ones. Their personal stories are heart wrenching, stark testimonies of the cruelty and inhumanity that is far too prevalent in our world. There are tears, and struggles, and adjustments; there is loss and longing, but also laughter, and learning, and new plans, and sometimes even newborn babies! And then, fingers crossed, comes the sheer joy of an acceptance at the refugee hearing!

The pace of this clinic is varied, unpredictable, and at times frenetic. Usually after an hour I can tear up the schedule for the day. Walk-ins, drop-ins, no shows, you name it. And then there are the forms to be filled...a constant shuffling of paper (it's good that Canada has large forests!). Providing healthcare to refugees has been challenging these past few years: mean-spirited cutbacks had stripped refugees, some of the most vulnerable among us, of healthcare and medications. Owing to excellent advocacy, that is behind us now, and the big challenge today is to have healthcare benefits for refugees commence immediately on arrival, instead of the atrocious 6-8 weeks it currently takes. As we all know, a lot can happen in 2 months: factor in the stress of migration, new climate, language, customs, even food...and inevitably big problems pop up. And the little clinic is there to help: along with two stellar nurse practitioners: Vanessa Wright and Roseanne Hickey, the Sojourn medical team is at the ready!

All this work is possible with great support from the Sojourn House staff: from the janitor to the executive director, all are passionate about the place and the work. The case support workers are wonderful colleagues doing great work, and Shannon McCready organizes the clinic with skill and competence. My main work base is at Regent Park Community Health Centre nearby, and I am grateful to this centre for seconding me to Sojourn House. May this partnership continue to thrive, to the benefit of all!

Roy Male, MDCM, FCFP

Sojourn House's Health Clinic, in partnership with Women's College Hospital and Regent Park Community Health Centre, operates three days a week. Patients book appointments in advance and are seen by a nurse practitioner and a doctor on-site, in a safe and accessible environment. Sojourn House's health clinic allows refugees to receive healthcare soon upon arrival, thereby preventing illnesses that may consequently impair settlement or lead to health risks and complications. In 2015 a total of 648 patients were cared for at the clinic!



To improve our residents access to healthcare Crossroads Clinic partnered with Sojourn House to set up a satellite clinic within our facility.

SKILLS FOR LIFE PROGRAM



Our life skills cooking program provides youth with an opportunity to learn skills and socialize while enjoying a healthy meal

The Skills for Life program was created for youth ages 16-24 years old, who fled to Canada with no family or support. The youth social worker organizes weekly activities for the youth to attend. There were a total of 93 youth focused workshops during 2015 including life skills topics, immigration/settlement topics and social outings. There are monthly workshops, the topics included, internet safety, managing your credit card, how to apply to university or college, Permanent Resident and Citizenship applications and resume writing.

The Youth Social Worker is available for the youth to meet on an individual basis for support with the refugee process, to speak about any issues they may face and acts as their support for school, Ontario Works and with health related issues. The Youth Social Worker conducts 90-100 counselling sessions per month.

The youth who live in the transitional housing program find the support they need to take control of their new lives. They are able to make new friends and create new support systems to help them succeed once they move on from Sojourn House and into the community.

In 2015 we served 36 youth living in both the Transitional Housing program and the Shelter residence. We had 8 new youth move into the transitional housing program while 12 youth moved out from the program to live independently in the community.

26 youth were studying during 2015 and of this 6 were studying at the post-secondary level.

10 of the youth were able to find employment thanks to the support they received from the skills for life program. The youth social worker assisted 3 youth to apply to post-secondary studies for fall 2016.

In 2015 many of our separated youth experienced food insecurity. Due to limited income, youth living in our Transitional Housing program have difficulties purchasing healthy foods including fruits and vegetables. In 2016 with the support of community partners, agencies and donors we will continue to work towards providing youth with greater access to nourishing foods.



In 2015 Sojourn House was proud to support the marriage of two of our youth clients who tied the knot during pride weekend

LUWAM'S STORY

I left Eritrea in 2010 when I was only 15 years old because of the political issues in the country. It was hard to leave family, friends, all the people I knew and the place where I had grown up.

After a difficult and lonely journey through other countries I arrived in Canada in August 2013. I came to live in Sojourn House shelter in my first week of my stay. Shortly after I got the opportunity to move to the transitional housing program where I lived for 2 years.

While I was in Sojourn House I got all the support that I needed as a new comer to Canada. They were always there for me when I asked for help, advice and guidance from the beginning that I stepped foot in the building where I was welcomed as a friend/family. In my stay in Sojourn House I finished my Immigration papers and I'm hoping to have my permanent residence soon, I made friends, I have learned English and most importantly I made a family that believes and supports me. I wouldn't be the person I am today if it wasn't for Sojourn House. Regardless where I am Sojourn House is always home.

Now I'm in my last year of high school at Central Technical School and I have a part time job and I am now living on my own. I'm really grateful for my life and to the people who helped me to be here.

Thank you Sojourn House.



JOY'S STORY



When you come to a new place you don't know your right from left. Before coming to Sojourn House my children and I were going to be deported. Before I came to Sojourn House my boys weren't going to school. Before coming to Sojourn House I didn't know how to talk, I didn't know how to communicate not with my kids or anyone.

When I came to Sojourn House they gave me the love I never had. They treated us like family, they always listened, they made sure we were okay. They put me in school, they pushed me, my boys were happy. I didn't feel lonely anymore. They always showed me respect, they believed in me, they never put me down, they always gave us hope to move forward, they gave us power.

Sojourn House made me see the sun when I was in the darkness. They gave me a hug, I felt good, I felt like I had a family, that is Sojourn House.

When I moved out of Sojourn House I cried. I couldn't read. I thought how we were treated at Sojourn House we would be treated outside, but that was not the case. But Sojourn House did not close the door after this, they still helped, they never abandoned me. I feel like I am still here. I never left them and they never left me. They gave love to me and my boys, that's why I always come back.

Sojourn House thank you for receiving me and for giving me a job. I couldn't get a job somewhere else

because I have challenges to read and write. I feel good coming to work before I was worried now I can sleep. I go home and I feel good.

Joy is a resilient young Nigerian woman and a mother to two boys. Joy fled to Canada leaving behind a difficult situation. Joy took part of our Transitional Housing program and lived with us for two years. She is now living in the community where she and her children continue to go to school. Joy has recently joined our Food Services staff team!

A JOURNEY HOME

By a current Transitional Housing resident from Uganda

Home is where most people would rather be. Moreover, leaving home for a long time or permanently and leave it all behind, can be a difficult decision to make. However, this was not the case for me as I did not have to make the "difficult" decision. Instead the means to finding a place to call home was the challenge. The difficult conditions that I was put through robbed me of the right to a home and fleeing was imperative for my survival.

When I arrived at Sojourn House refugee shelter in February 2015, I was blown away to be met with such hospitality! I felt loved and relevant in society. My needs as a refugee claimant were met to their fine details. The staff were willing to listen and, promptly led me to all the services that I needed (indeed, some of which I did not know I needed until I received them).

The Transitional Housing Program where I currently reside is invaluable in terms of meeting my long term integration needs. I have received not only housing but also various forms of personalised support including career guidance, recreation, information on housing elsewhere, education, health services, civic engagement, parenting, among others. Important to note is that I have had the opportunity to network with people who have become my family, adding another layer to the sense of security that I now have. I do not feel alone as I should be because of living in a new and diverse country; the staff here have seen to it that I do not. Time will come for me to leave and join the wider Ontario community. I have nothing to fear because I know that I will be independent enough and well guided to make it smoothly and successfully there. For all these and so much more, I am grateful.

Looking back, I know that my journey was worth it because now I feel at home with hope for a brighter future. I look forward to making a long-lasting positive contribution to my community.

SOJOURN HOUSE IN PICTURES



FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015

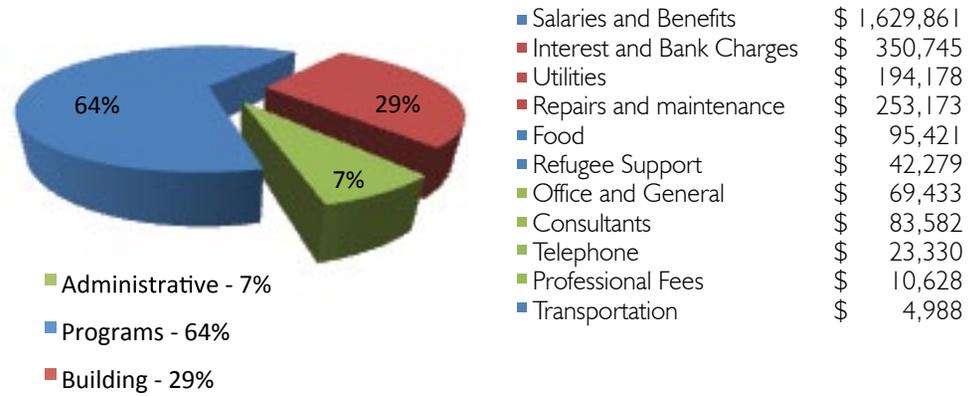
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	2015	2014
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$ 171,292	\$ 179,040
Guaranteed Investment Certificates (Note 2)	\$ 321,343	\$ 280,406
Designated Cash (Note 9)	\$ 407,107	\$ 271,737
Designated Guaranteed Investment Certificates	\$ 476,601	\$ 501,626
Accounts Receivable	\$ 208,130	\$ 250,215
HST Recoverable	\$ 28,634	\$ 22,121
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 20,597	\$ 15,615
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,633,704	\$ 1,520,760
Capital Assets: (Note 4)	\$ 10,404,441	\$ 10,556,138
TOTAL CURRENT AND FIXED ASSETS	\$ 12,038,145	\$ 12,076,898
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 116,701	\$ 94,569
Due to City of Toronto	\$ 15,469	\$ 15,537
Current Portion of Mortgages Payable (Note 5)	\$ 6,556,970	\$ 91,454
Deferred Revenue (Note 6)	\$ 78,706	\$ 67,887
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 6,767,846	\$ 269,447
Long-Term Liabilities:		
Deferred Capital Grant (Note 7)	\$ 2,590,980	\$ 2,679,980
Deferred Capital Donations	\$ 276,369	\$ 285,757
Deferred City of Toronto	\$ 251,388	\$ 222,300
Long-Term Portion of Mortgages Payable (Note 5)	\$ 170,174	\$ 6,727,145
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 10,056,757	\$ 10,184,629
Net Assets:		
Designated		
Contingency (Note 8)	\$ 233,056	\$ 233,056
Mortgage (Note 9)	\$ 883,708	\$ 773,363
Invested in Capital Assets (Note 10)	\$ 809,948	\$ 771,802
Unrestricted	\$ 54,676	\$ 114,048
Total Net Assets	\$ 1,981,388	\$ 1,892,269
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:	\$ 12,038,145	\$ 12,076,898

Full Audited Financial Statements Prepared by Cowperthwaite Mehta Chartered Accountants are available from Sojourn House

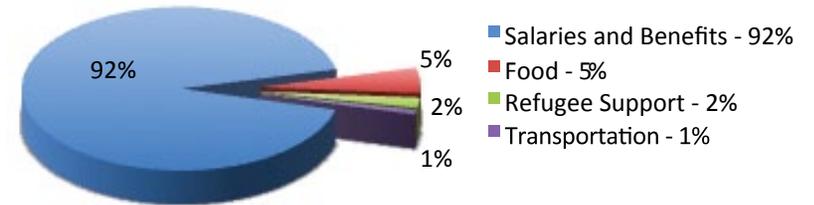


	2015	2014
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS		
REVENUE:		
Government Funding (Note 11)	\$ 2,659,037	\$ 2,629,514
Donations to General Operations and Other	\$ 351,345	\$ 344,396
HST Recovered	-	\$ 27,204
Total Revenues	\$ 3,010,382	\$ 3,001,114
EXPENSES:		
Programs	\$ 1,772,549	\$ 1,783,385
Building	\$ 798,096	\$ 745,119
Administration	\$ 186,973	\$ 161,717
Total Expenses	\$ 2,757,618	\$ 2,690,221
Excess of revenue over expenses before non-operating revenues and expenses	\$ 252,764	\$ 310,893
Non-operating revenues and expenses:		
SCPI capital grant recognized (Note 7)	\$ 89,000	\$ 89,000
Investment income	\$ 18,451	\$ 17,683
Amortization	\$ (271,096)	\$ (265,119)
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	\$ 89,119	\$ 152,457

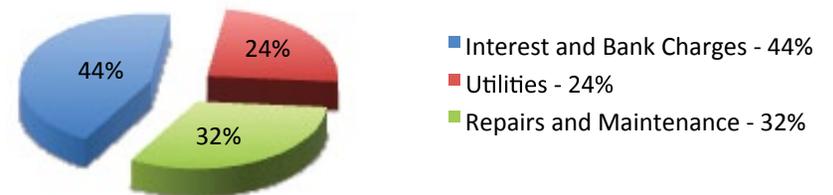
TOTAL EXPENSES



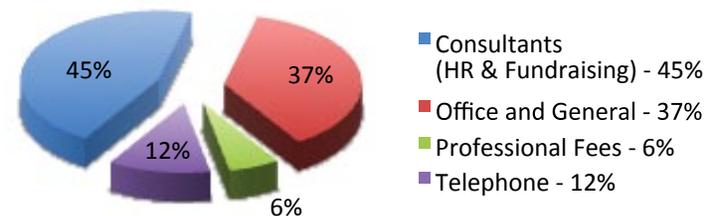
PROGRAMS EXPENSES



BUILDING EXPENSES



ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES



SOJOURN HOUSE

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Getting involved

Sojourn House believes in the power of the community, we believe in working together with partners, volunteers and friends to build an inclusive community where we can all thrive together. If you would like more information about how you can get involved with us contact Sojourn House at info@sojournhouse.org or visit our website.

Follow us on



Donate at www.sojournhouse.org

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