



2012 ANNUAL REPORT

PROUD TO PROTECT REFUGEES

101



MESSAGE from the Executive Director



DEBBIE HILL-CORRIGAN
Executive Director

This year's annual report theme speaks to the refugee advocates movement "Proud to Protect Refugees". In the face of negative rhetoric from the Federal Government that has greatly influenced the perception of who is a refugee, changes to the refugee protection (?) legislation including the implementation of a designated country list deemed to be safe to deport people to and the loss of health care for refugees (even those sponsored by the government) many refugee serving organizations have taken up the challenge of dispelling the myths and speaking out through a national campaign. This campaign promotes what we as Canadians have always valued; human rights and a welcoming nation to those fleeing persecution and oppression. Sojourn House stands by our core values of social justice; we advocate respect for human rights in the face of oppression and discrimination. We are "Proud to Protect Refugees"!

It is most interesting to note how many successful asylum claims of refugees have passed through our doors. The percentage is very high and clearly demonstrates that these families, women, men, children, young adults and separated youth are not "bogus" at all but are legitimate refugees who need our protection and support to begin new lives and contribute to the Canadian mosaic that we are so proud of and promote internationally.

We have heard the stories of journeys that are hard to imagine, even unthinkable for those of us privileged to be born and raised in a country that promotes human rights and democracy. Yes, there is poverty and oppression but we have social supports, yes they could and need to be improved but they are there for those in need. We are also

privileged to be assured of protection and access to legal recourses for injustices.

Antonio Gutierrez, UN High Commissioner for Refugees stated;

"...in the midst of migrants in search of a better life there are people in need of protection: refugees and asylum-seekers, women and children victims of trafficking... Many move simply to avoid dying of hunger. When leaving is not an option but a necessity, this is more than poverty."

When you read Rosie's poem keep this in mind. She is from a country on the designated list. This vulnerable yet courageous young woman would have suffered irreparable harm, possibly death had she not been accepted, welcomed and supported by those of us who practice values of human rights and walk with refugees each day. She has now graduated from high school and been accepted to University. She will move on to become a proud Canadian who will also carry those values that we hold dear.

We must all do our part in speaking out to friends, neighbours, elected representatives and signing on to "Proud to Protect Refugees" and allied campaigns such as Canadian Doctors for Refugee Care Days of Action (s).

A much revered advocate once said;

"In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

Martin Luther King Jr.

MESSAGE from the President

2012 marked another successful year of Sojourn House providing excellence in the provision of services to refugees in Toronto. There was a significant change over at a board level as Ameena Sultan retired from her current position as chair after providing 6 years of dedicated leadership as a board member. A number of new members joined the board, including Ann Francis Rundle, Koorosh Eslami and Sophia Weber. The board made significant headway in implementing the board governance model. We have a robust board with active committees. The terms of reference were approved for all committees, work plans were set and the work continued! Progress was made in updating and revising policies concerning workplace violence, equity, privacy, anti oppression and conflict of interest. Work was started to ensure our bi laws conformed to the provisional requirements for non profit organizations.

Sojourn House continued to find ways to strengthen its financial base and was successful in looking for greater diversity through new programming. A fundraising intern from Humber College with support from the board helped Sojourn House enter the electronic age with a vibrant social media profile. We were delighted to receive a \$20,000 grant from the Catherine Donnelly Foundation which allowed us to kick start Skills for Life program for separated refugee youth. We hope to build on this program in the upcoming year. Applications for additional funding were pending at the end of the year.

A highlight of the past year was recognition from the Provincial

Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. Sojourn House received the Newcomer Champion Award in recognition of its excellence in promoting cross-cultural understanding and implementing programs to help settle and connect newcomers in Toronto. The award recognizes all of the hard work done each day by staff who deliver programs with excellence and compassion.

In December we had a delightful party for staff and board at the Magic Oven which included great food, music, song and door prizes; it was wonderful to see so many people enthusiastic and committed to the mission of Sojourn House as we ended the year.



GLORIA NAFZIGER
*President of the
Board of Directors*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011 - 2012

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

Sophia Weber - Secretary
CMA University Health
Network

Jessica Roher - Member
Coordinator,
Scarborough Civic Action Network

Vivek Satoskar - Member
Marketing Professional

Ann Francis Rundle - Member
Lawyer

Ibrahim Absiye - Treasurer
Executive Director,
CultureLink

Ronny Yaron - Member
Transitional Support Project,
Margaret Frazer House

Whitney Doldron - Member
Event Coordinator,
Sunnybrook Foundation

Koorosh Eslami - Member
Engineer

Laura Anderson - Member
Head Teaching Assistant,
PHD Candidate (2013)
Dept of Anthropology, U of T

SHELTER PROGRAM

By Dan Rutembesa, Director of Shelter and Housing



2012 was an extremely busy year; marked with many negative legislative changes on a variety of levels which had adversely effected our clients as they struggled to establish themselves in their new community. It was the year when Bill C-31 was implemented which added more challenges for refugees in their long journey of seeking asylum in Canada. There was added stress for our clients as they rushed to complete and file their refugee claim papers to beat the infamous December 15th, 2012 deadline before the implementation of the Bill. Staff was inundated with extra demands for resources to help asylum seekers to secure housing before the December 31, 2012 elimination of Community Start-up (funds to assist in resettling into the community) and the end of direct payment to landlords (often required by landlords before signing off on a lease); this brought another layer of challenges for our clients as they looked for housing in the community. 2012 also saw the withdrawal of health care to refugee claimants. All the above changes resulted in more added challenges and stress to both asylum seekers and staff.

Sojourn House takes pride and pleasure in protecting refugees who come to our door seeking asylum and protection in Canada. Since its inception, Sojourn House has been a conduit for asylum seekers from all over the world; last year was no exception. As illustrated in the bar chart below we accommodated and provided services for

240 new clients which is 17% more than clients we served last year. There was an increase in the number of separated youth mainly from Ethiopia/Eritrea who were raised in Saudi Arabia and a new wave of separated youth from North Korea, many of which were moved into our Transitional Housing program. About 68% of the clients we served were between the ages of 24 and 44 years old, quite educated, in their prime years and will add value to the Canadian workforce once they are settled and integrated in the community.

The Outreach program provided services for 240 clients with more than 850 contacts with the outreach worker. The services included follow-ups, referral to other community agencies and support to exited clients with health related issues. Other clients needed support with settlement related issues such as completion of forms, information counselling and guidance. The outreach worker brought in on-site services to our clients through partnerships, these included: Canadian Accessible AIDS Treatment, Immigrant Women's Community Health Centre, TAIBU Community Health Centre, Toronto Public Health, TD bank and many others.

From its inception, Sojourn House has been a strong supporter of refugees, who need help to help themselves. We will continue to be their first home away from home as they come to us fleeing persecution and violence from their homelands.

DURING 2012
240
NEW RESIDENTS

15%

MORE THAN IN 2011

15% **16-24 YEARS**

38% **25-34 YEARS**

29% **35-44 YEARS**

17% **45-ABOVE**

**THE OUTREACH PROGRAM
 HELPED
 240
 CLIENTS**

REFERRALS
SUPPORT
FOLLOW UP

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

By Claudia Obreque, Coordinator of Transitional Housing



Over the years the Transitional Housing Program has provided supportive housing to hundreds of refugees from all over the world. The Transitional Housing Program has a total of 52 self contained units ranging from bachelors to two bedroom apartments. These units provide a very much needed safe place for people who have experienced traumatic and life-threatening situations. In addition, the very dedicated staff team provides residents with ongoing support and counseling making them feel welcome and at home.

2012 was a year of transition. Many residents reached their two year maximum stay and they were able to smoothly transition into permanent housing and integrate well into the larger society. In 2012, we also saw an increasing number of separated youth (youths between the ages of 16-24 living alone in Canada). We continue to run the Skills for Life Program which teaches them how to cook, as well as nutrition basics, how to clean their units and budget their money. As part of our effort to provide youth with a broad range of skills, Transitional Housing staff and volunteers provided workshops on a variety of topics, including: Street safety, Job Searching, Interview Skills, and Resume

Building. Many of our youth have had an opportunity to shine thanks to dedicated volunteers and staff; of special notice, our ex-resident, Joseph, provided math tutoring and inspiration to other youth aspiring to enter college or university. Thanks to his efforts, another youth was able to achieve better grades in his last year of high school. Most of our youth have also contributed many volunteer hours to Sojourn House and to other organizations, enriching our community.

The Transitional Housing Program continues to provide monthly information sessions about the Canadian system as well as computer support, a space for social gatherings, relaxation workshops, homework clubs and expressive arts for children.

2012 was also the year a baby was born in one of the apartments. In November of 2012, a young separated youth gave birth to a baby girl with the assistance of a midwife in her apartment. Ayodele is the first baby to be born on the premises.

In 2012, the Transitional Housing Program provided services to a total of 177 people from 35 different countries. Of those 83 were children, 27 separated youth and 67 adults.

DURING 2012



177 FROM **35**
PEOPLE COUNTRIES

SINGLE MOTHERS



40%

SINGLE ADULTS



22%

SEPARATED YOUTH

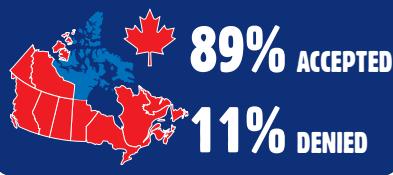


29%

FAMILIES & COUPLES



9%



Sojourn House in Pictures



Sojourn House was chosen by Scholars at Your Service, to be part of a training program. 18 volunteer trainees spent two full days painting the men's shelter floor. Thanks guys!



Sojourn House was honoured to receive the Newcomer Champion Award from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration Ontario on November 2012.

*In the picture from left to right:
Jesus Mejia (Settlement Counsellor), Grace Ng'ang'a (former resident, staff and Board member), Debbie Hill-Corriган (Executive Director) and The Honourable Michael Chan, MPP*

In December 2012, Sojourn House was honoured to receive a grant of \$20,000. from the Catherine Donnelly Foundation to support the implementation of a Skills for Life program for separated refugee youth residing in the shelter and Transitional Housing programs. These young people have no family or supports in Canada.

As I Graduate...

As I graduate, I wanna look back at those who have helped me in getting this far I wanna look back at those who have held my hand every step of the way I wanna look back at Sojourn House.

Whoever said that family only existed through blood obviously hadn't heard of Sojourn House.

A place where I call home... Where every member of the family is present

From mothers who have always guided me and taken good care of me; Fathers who have supported me along the way. I'm like a child who has both a mother and a father who benefits from an increased richness of care.

I also have sisters who have shown me love and kindness, similar to that of a mother. Brothers who have always had my back and been my protectors. Being

the only child, sojourn house has given me sisters and brothers.

Sojourn House... I could write a whole book on her. For she has always given me hope and strength to carry on. She made me realize what I'm capable of and that my status does not define me. She has taught me to be strong and tolerant towards others. She has made me realize that though she cannot replace my parents, that she will always be there. She has taught me that nobody is perfect and that it will always be a struggle for those who want to make it in life.

As I graduate, I owe God all honour and glory. But I also thank Sojourn House for that she has done for me.

Sojourn House, you are appreciated.

Rosy

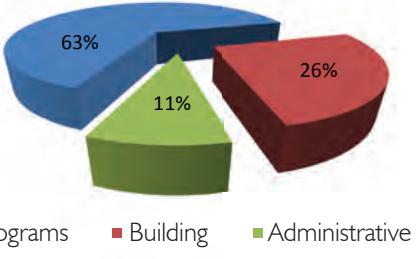


FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2012

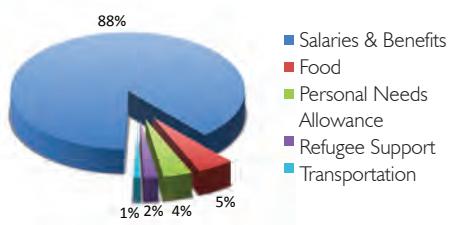
PROUD TO PROTECT REFUGEES

TOTAL EXPENSES

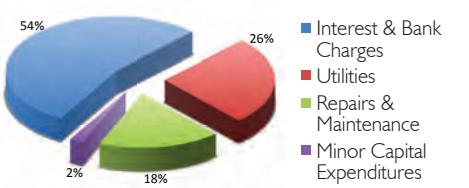
■ Salaries and benefits	\$ 1,417,733
■ Interest and bank charges	\$ 363,592
■ Utilities	\$ 173,266
■ Consultants	\$ 149,213
■ Repairs and maintenance	\$ 125,168
■ Food	\$ 75,664
■ Personal needs allowance	\$ 72,109
■ Office and general	\$ 63,828
■ Professional fees	\$ 36,918
■ Refugee support	\$ 35,362
■ Telephone	\$ 23,118
■ Minor capital expenditures	\$ 15,714
■ Transportation	\$ 2,369



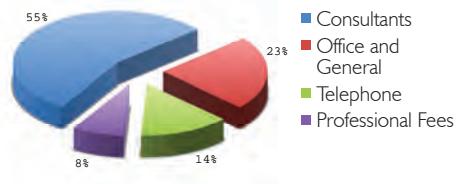
PROGRAMS EXPENSES



BUILDING EXPENSES



ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2012	2011
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$ 127,279	\$ 148,090
Guaranteed Investment Certificates (Note 3)	\$ 254,553	\$ 251,953
Restricted Cash (Note 9)	\$ 85,543	\$ 79,576
Restricted Guaranteed Investment Certificates	\$ 500,018	\$ 500,021
Accounts Receivable	\$ 189,084	\$ 193,450
HST Recoverable	\$ 19,881	\$ 26,627
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 15,423	\$ 20,907
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,191,781	\$ 1,220,624
Capital Assets: (Note 5)	\$ 10,814,677	\$ 11,059,326
TOTAL CURRENT AND FIXED ASSETS	\$ 12,006,458	\$ 12,279,950
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 96,105	\$ 193,667
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt (Note 6)	\$ 94,877	\$ 90,812
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 190,982	\$ 284,479
Long-Term Liabilities:		
Deferred Capital Grant (Note 7)	\$ 2,857,980	\$ 2,946,980
Deferred Capital Donations	\$ 304,533	\$ 313,921
Long-Term Debt (Note 6)	\$ 6,905,551	\$ 7,000,427
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 10,259,046	\$ 10,545,807
Net Assets:		
Designated (Note 8)	\$ 233,056	\$ 233,056
Restricted (Note 9)	\$ 585,561	\$ 579,597
Unrestricted (Note 10)	\$ 928,795	\$ 921,490
Total Net Assets	\$ 1,747,412	\$ 1,734,143
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:	\$ 12,006,458	\$ 12,279,950
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS		
REVENUE:		
Government Funding (Note 11)	\$ 2,381,890	\$ 2,397,954
Donations to General Operations and Other	\$ 292,635	\$ 290,439
HST Recovered	\$ 31,075	\$ 32,147
Total Revenues	\$ 2,705,600	\$ 2,720,540
EXPENSES:		
Programs	\$ 1,603,237	\$ 1,712,297
Building	\$ 677,740	\$ 721,421
Administration	\$ 273,077	\$ 243,145
Total Expenses	\$ 2,554,054	\$ 2,676,863
Excess of revenue over expenses before non-operating revenues and expenses	\$ 151,546	\$ 43,677
Non-operating revenues and expenses:		
SCPI capital grant recognized (Note 7)	\$ 89,000	\$ 89,000
Investment income	\$ 15,872	\$ 3,935
Amortization	\$ (244,649)	\$ (244,649)
Excess of revenue over expenses before donations to specific funds	\$ 11,769	\$ (108,037)
Donations to specific funds	\$ 1,500	\$ 200
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	\$ 13,269	\$ (107,837)

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

PROUD TO PROTECT REFUGEES

Sojourn House

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR REFUGEES

Our vision: a safe world and a better future for refugees. Our mission: to provide a safe place and create an inclusive environment where refugees are supported and empowered to pursue a life in Canada.

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 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
- **Collaboration:** we promote thoughtful partnerships and agreements that engage the broader community
- **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.



Design: KAMYLO - www.kamylodesign.com

Visit us at www.sojournhouse.org

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