

Where it Starts

Building the Foundation
for What Comes Next





*For many, Sojourn House is their first home in Canada.
It is where safety begins, community is built, and the
foundation for what comes next takes shape.*

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the land we work on is the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit River, the Anishinaabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Huron-Wendat peoples and is home to many Indigenous Nations from across Turtle Island, including Inuit and Métis peoples. We acknowledge that Tkaronto is covered by the One Dish with One Spoon Treaty and that we are all Treaty people in the spirit of respect, peace and friendship. As settlers, both recent and in the past, we also acknowledge those who came forcibly as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade. We honour and pay tribute to the ancestors of African origin and descent.

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About Sojourn House

Since 1987, Sojourn House has been a lifeline for refugees arriving in Toronto. We provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, and wraparound supports that help people rebuild their lives after fleeing war, persecution, or violence.

Our programs provide stability, dignity, and a sense of belonging at a critical moment of transition. Many of our staff members once arrived in Canada as refugees themselves, bringing deep compassion and lived experience to every interaction.

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



Diversity



Compassion



Mutual
Respect



Client-centred
Approach



Collaboration



Integrity &
Transparency



Entrepreneurial
Spirit



Message from the Chair of the Board of Directors and Executive Director



Mark Nelson
Chair of the Board
of Directors

To our community,

In 2025, Canada's refugee system faced unprecedented pressure. As global conflicts intensified, more individuals arrived in Canada seeking protection after fleeing unsafe and unstable conditions. Many came on their own, without pre-arranged housing or support, turning to the shelter system as their first place to land.

At the same time, a growing backlog of refugee claims processed by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), nearing 300,000 cases, has delayed decisions for months, and in many cases, years. While waiting, many individuals rely on survival jobs that don't pay a livable wage, limiting their ability to secure housing and move forward. This situation was only worsened by Toronto's affordable housing crisis.

The result is a system under strain.



Francisco Vidal
Executive Director

Responding to Emerging Needs

In the last year, we saw sustained demand for services and longer stays for residents navigating uncertainty. In 2025, our 94 single beds and 225 family spaces were consistently at capacity.

Beyond shelter, residents required support accessing healthcare, navigating complex systems, and preparing for the next steps in their journey, often without clear timelines.

At the same time, recent government policy changes are expected to further impact how claims are processed and how quickly individuals can move toward stability.

With your support, Sojourn House continues to meet this moment, ensuring that individuals and families arriving in Canada have the foundation they need for what comes next.

What This Means

When systems are under strain, the impact is immediate.

People wait longer, shelters fill faster, and pathways to independence become harder to access.

That is where Sojourn House steps in.

We provide a safe place to start, along with the support needed to move forward. From housing and case management to health and settlement support, our role is to help bridge the gap between a refugee claimant's arrival and their stability.

Looking Ahead

Toronto's diversity is one of the city's greatest strengths. Every day, newcomers bring resilience, talent, and determination that help shape the communities we all share.

At a time when it has become increasingly difficult to build a stable life in the city, organizations like Sojourn House play an important role in helping people move forward with dignity and support.

For decades, Sojourn House has continued to evolve alongside changing refugee realities. That experience, combined with the dedication of our staff, partners, donors, and broader community, allows us to respond with compassion, flexibility, and care, while continuing to advocate for systems that better support refugee claimants across Toronto.

While early 2026 has shown signs of stabilization, the need for responsive, community-based support remains high.

Thank you for standing with us.

Mark Nelson

Mark Nelson
Chair of the Board of Directors

Francisco Vidal

Francisco Vidal
Executive Director

Why We Exist

Across the world, more people are displaced than ever before.

- By the end of 2024, an estimated 123.2 million people were forcibly displaced.¹
- Most displaced people remain in neighbouring countries, and only a small share ever find a safe resettlement pathway.

Canada has a proud history and legal commitment to refugee protection through the 1951 Refugee Convention and the UN Global Compact on Refugees. In 2025, Canada received 113,130 refugee claims², making it one of the world's leading refugee protection countries.³

Here at home, the need is growing. Toronto reported that refugee claimant shelter demand peaked at 6,490 people on one night in August 2024, making up approximately 60 per cent of the total shelter population at that time. The City was still providing shelter to 4,597 refugee claimants in March 2025.⁴

Sojourn House provides the specialized shelter, housing, and settlement supports that transform arrival into opportunity.

When refugees rebuild successfully, Canada becomes stronger economically, socially, and as a community rooted in compassion and opportunity.



¹ UNHCR. (2025). Global trends: Forced displacement in 2024. UNHCR.

² Canadian Council for Refugees. (2026, April). Members handout.

³ Library of Parliament. (2025). Resettling refugees: Canada's humanitarian commitments. https://lop.parl.ca/sites/PublicWebsite/default/en_CA/ResearchPublications/202074E

⁴ City of Toronto. (2025). Shelter pressures and access initiatives – updates.

Why It Matters to All of Us

When refugees are supported to rebuild, Canada thrives. At Sojourn House, we see this impact firsthand: as individuals receive protection in Canada, they are then able to stabilize their lives and contribute to their communities.



A stronger workforce

Refugees build stable working lives over time, with employment outcomes improving as they spend more time in Canada. Many also contribute through self-employment and entrepreneurship, bringing skills, energy, and new ideas to the economy.



A healthier economy

Refugees strengthen Canada over time as workers, entrepreneurs, and taxpayers. Their contributions support local businesses, enrich community life, and contribute to long-term economic growth.



A richer social fabric

Refugees bring resilience, culture, and creativity that strengthen our communities. Their stories remind us who we are as Canadians: compassionate, courageous, and welcoming.

This impact doesn't happen on its own. It is made possible by the systems, supports, and communities that invest in people at the very beginning of their journey.

Sources:

- Statistics Canada, Labour Market Outcomes Among Refugees to Canada (2019) and The Long-term Labour Market Integration of Refugee Claimants Who Became Permanent Residents in Canada (2020).
- UNHCR Canada, Refugees in Canada (2025).
- Statistics Canada, Immigrant entrepreneurs in Canada: Highlights from recent studies (2021); Conference Board of Canada, Canada should expand its commitment to welcoming refugees (2023).

Every person who walks through our doors is welcomed with warmth, shelter, and 24-hour care from staff who understand what it means to start over.



What We Do

Emergency Shelter

A safe place to land. Our emergency shelter provides 94 beds for single adults, along with a dedicated family program that supports 225 people, including 120 children. The high proportion of children reflects the realities facing many refugee families who arrive in Canada after long, difficult journeys.

Transitional Housing

A stable home for a fresh start. Vulnerable families and individuals stay for up to two years to rebuild their footing, supported by caring staff who help them build skills and confidence to navigate life in a new country.

Outreach and Housing Help

Leaving Sojourn House isn't the end of the journey. Our outreach team stays connected for up to a year, helping former residents find and keep safe, affordable homes in the community.

Health Support

Healing starts here. Our on-site clinic provides accessible, primary medical care and referrals to other medical providers in the community.

Skills for Life Program for Youth

Young refugee claimants, aged 16-24 and arriving in Canada alone, learn more about life skills like cooking, financial literacy, and living independently.





Noel's Journey Across Canada

In a rural community in the Northwest Territories, the pace of life is quiet.

With a population of just over 1,000 people, it is a place where neighbours know each other by name, where the days are shaped by routine, and where the landscape stretches wide and still. Each morning, Noel begins his day with a call to his family in Kenya before walking to work, passing the same familiar faces along the way.

It is a very different life from the one he first encountered when he arrived in Canada.

Noel landed at Toronto Pearson International Airport in October 2023. Alone in a new country, he took a taxi into the city, navigating an unfamiliar place with little sense of what would come next.

That same day, he was referred to Sojourn House.

"I came from somewhere, but I landed in the middle of nowhere," he recalls. "Finding someone who had open arms to embrace me was a defining moment."

At Sojourn House, those open arms met him with immediate care. Noel had a place to rest, meals, clothing, and financial support. But more than anything, it was the guidance that made the difference.

"Someone takes the time to sit with you, tell you what you need, where to find it, and explore it with you," he says. "When you go and do it, someone is there to listen. That was very defining."

With that support, Noel began to find his footing. Back in Kenya, he had worked as an accountant. In Canada, he set his sights

Noel's story is a reminder that when people are given the opportunity to rebuild, they do more than start over. They move forward and help build what comes next.

on continuing that path, navigating credential recognition and searching for opportunities in a highly competitive job market.

“The most important thing is to be ready to learn, and learn, and re-learn,” he says. “You have to learn how to live far away from your family, forget how things used to be, and learn a new way of doing things.”

When an opportunity came to work with the Territorial Government of the Northwest Territories, Noel made a bold decision. He accepted the position, relocating to work in financial administration and contract management.

The team at Sojourn House was able to provide Noel assistance with his first and last month's rent and essential household items, thanks to the donor-supported Refugee Emergency Fund. With this critical support, Noel was able to make the transition and begin building his life in a new community once again.

Today, Noel is working, supporting his family, and continuing to pursue his CPA designation in Canada. It is a path that has not been without challenges, particularly in a remote community where access to education and exam centres can be limited, but he remains focused.

“I wanted to be an accountant from a young age,” he says. “And here I am now, with a fulfilling career.”

When asked what he is most proud of, his answer is simple.

“Being able to provide for my family.”

Noel's journey is one of adaptability and determination. It is also a reflection of what is possible when the right support is in place at the right time.

At a critical moment, Sojourn House provided more than immediate care. It provided guidance, stability, and a pathway forward. Today, Noel is contributing his skills in a region of Canada where they are deeply needed, building a life that spans continents and connects communities.

Note: We have used a false name and a stock photo to protect the individual's privacy.

How We Responded in 2025

In 2025, Sojourn House adapted quickly to a changing and increasingly complex landscape.

As access to housing supports shifted and the cost of living continued to rise, residents faced new barriers to moving forward. Across all programs, longer stays and more complex needs became the new reality.

In response, our teams adapted.

Supporting Clients Through a Changing Housing Landscape

With the loss of key housing supports and limited affordable options, finding stable housing became more challenging across the system.

“People are ready to move forward, but the housing just isn’t there at a price they can manage,” said Fatima Saliu-Ediagbonya, Shelter Manager, reflecting on the realities clients faced trying to secure housing in Toronto’s rental market.

Despite these challenges, more residents were supported to move forward.

Sojourn House saw a 15.5% year-over-year increase in the number of residents moving into permanent housing in 2025.

Our teams worked closely with residents to explore new pathways forward, including employment, shared housing, and alternative housing options.

Creating Community and Stability for Families and Youth

Demand for family-focused services continued to grow, with the number of households increasing from 71 to 84 and total residents rising from 158 to 181 in 2025.

“Families want to build a life here, but the barriers are real,” said Saida Elmi, Housing Counsellor, Family Program. “Housing, childcare, language, employment — all of it is connected.”

Through youth programming, community outings, and on-site supports, families were able to build confidence, access resources, and feel less isolated.

Staff recall one single mother, navigating significant health and financial challenges, who was able to return to school, secure income, and transition out of the shelter without housing subsidies.

Strengthening Case Management and Long-Term Support

Across all programs, individualized, trauma-informed case management remained at the core of Sojourn House's approach.

In 2025, Sojourn House supported residents from 32 different countries, up from 30 the previous year, reflecting the growing diversity and complexity of needs within the program.

Even after leaving, many continue to rely on Sojourn House for guidance, reflecting the strength of relationships built over time.

"We meet people where they are," said Andrea Herod, Manager, Skills for Life and Transitional Housing Programs. "Every journey is different, and success looks different for each person."



The 2025–2028 Strategic Plan in Action

In 2025, Sojourn House launched a new strategic plan focused on strengthening our programs, investing in our people, and building the foundation for long-term impact.

While this work is just beginning, key priorities are already underway.



Goal

Clients are able to obtain and maintain independent housing and move forward with stability and confidence.

What We're Building

- Expanded housing options
- Developing an in-house financial literacy program
- Stronger partnerships across employment agencies and legal, health, and community services
- A clearer model to measure and communicate impact

Early Progress in Year 1

- Initiated a comprehensive needs assessment to identify program gaps
- Began strengthening housing support services
- Expanded partnerships to improve referral pathways and wraparound supports

Goal

We have a long-term plan for shelter services that better meets the needs of families.

What We're Building

- A long-term infrastructure strategy for a purpose-built shelter space
- Improved living conditions and program delivery environments
- A roadmap for future sustainability and resiliency

Early Progress in 2025

- Launched a land survey to explore future shelter options
- Engaged partners and funders in conversations about long-term infrastructure
- Continued enhancements to current living spaces based on resident feedback

Goal

We have a sustainable, diversified funding model that supports growth and innovation.

What We're Building

- A clear fundraising strategy aligned with program priorities
- Stronger donor engagement and storytelling
- Systems to track impact and communicate results

Early Progress in 2025

- Developed a communications strategy and plan that will support donor engagement and fundraising
- Identified priority areas for future fundraising investment

Goal

We are an employer of choice, with strong staff engagement, retention, and growth.

What We're Building

- A supportive and connected workplace culture
- Clear pathways for professional development and leadership growth
- Systems that support sustainable workloads and team wellbeing

Early Progress in 2025

- Strengthened internal communication through staff consultations and deeper engagement
- Made important gains in pay equity for front-line staff through a wage enhancement, bringing salaries closer to the Toronto living wage
- Began expanding training and professional development opportunities

Where Futures Take Shape

The Debbie Hill-Corrigan Youth Scholarship Fund was established in 2023 to honour the legacy of Sojourn House's former Executive Director and her commitment to supporting young people building new lives in Canada.

For many newcomers, the path forward is not always clear. They are navigating a new country, new systems, and new responsibilities, often without established networks or support. Access to education can be a turning point.

The scholarship provides \$2,500 to each recipient, helping to reduce financial barriers and expand access to post-secondary education.

In 2024, two students received the inaugural scholarships. In 2025, that number grew to three.

By investing in young people as they find their footing and pursue their goals, Sojourn House is helping to support the next generation. These are individuals who are eager to build meaningful lives, contribute to their communities, and give back in the years ahead.

2025 Impact



3

SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED



\$7,500

IN DIRECT FINANCIAL
SUPPORT



100%

OF RECIPIENTS PARTICIPATED
IN THIS YEAR'S STORYTELLING

At Sojourn House, this is where the future begins, with the support and opportunities that young people need to move forward.

Here's what that support makes possible.



John is about to graduate from college and has applied to continue his studies at one of Canada's top universities. Arriving in Canada on his own at 19, he was determined to keep going as he navigated unfamiliar systems and built a new life from scratch. With support from Sojourn House and the scholarship, he was able to stay focused on his studies and continue progressing toward his goals.

That progress reflects not just academic success, but persistence. Step by step, he has built a path forward, staying committed to his education and what comes next.

I'm making my dream in Canada happen.



Nella arrived in Canada at 14 with her family, navigating a new environment where everything felt unfamiliar. At Sojourn House, she found connection and support that helped her build confidence and independence. Today, she is studying social sciences and thinking ahead to what comes next.

That sense of growth shows up in everyday ways. From building routines to learning how to manage responsibilities on her own, she has developed a stronger sense of self and direction.

I've grown so much emotionally. My mindset is different.



Asia is pursuing her studies in practical nursing while working as a personal care attendant, supporting elderly individuals in her community. The scholarship helped ease financial pressure and allowed her to focus more fully on her education as she continues building toward her goals.

Her work and studies are closely connected. Through caregiving, she is already putting her values into practice, gaining experience while deepening her commitment to supporting others.

It served as a powerful reminder that someone believed in me and my potential.

Note: Names and identifying details have been adapted for some individuals, and stock images are used in select cases to protect privacy.

Meeting a Critical Need, Together

When the Mobile Settlement Services program launched in 2024, it was designed to address a clear and growing gap in Toronto's shelter system.

Many refugee claimants were staying in shelters, hotels, and temporary accommodations without access to

specialized settlement support. These are individuals navigating complex immigration processes, unfamiliar systems, and significant life transitions, often without established networks or guidance.

Sojourn House brought that expertise directly to them.



Bringing Support Where It Was Needed Most

Working across 11 partner sites throughout the city, the Mobile Settlement Services Team provided one-on-one settlement support, developed individualized settlement plans, coordinated care with service providers, and delivered workshops for both clients and frontline staff.

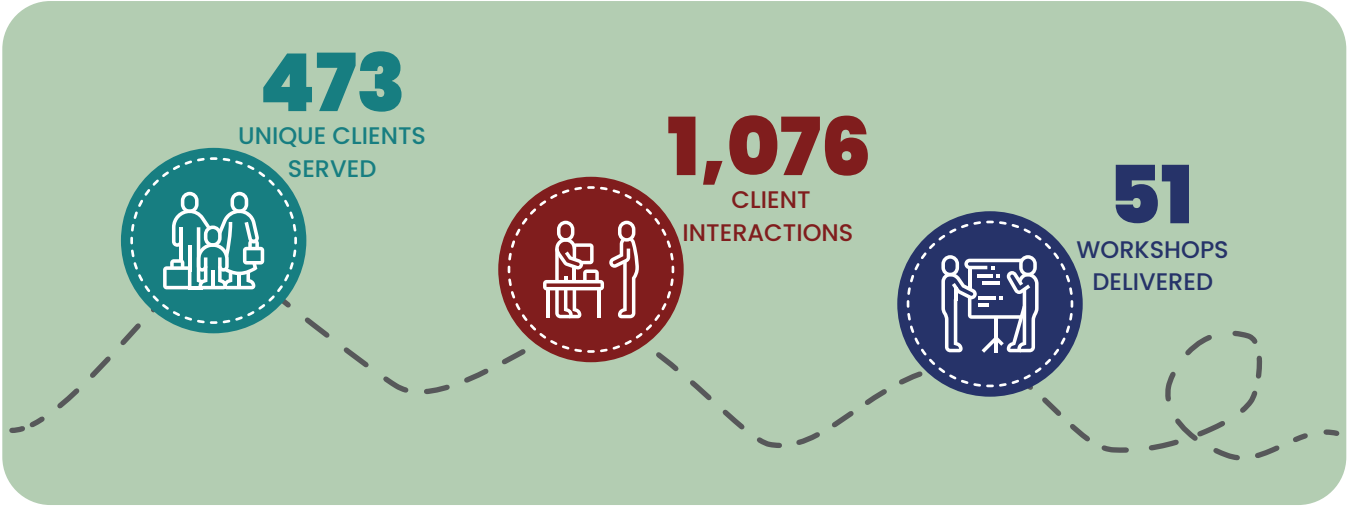
This meant that individuals who might otherwise have been navigating complex

systems alone were able to access accurate information, connect to the right supports earlier, and take meaningful steps forward in their settlement journey.

It also strengthened the broader shelter system by equipping frontline staff with the knowledge and tools needed to better support refugee claimants with complex needs.

Impact at a Glance

Over the course of the program, the impact was significant:



More than half of those supported were youth and young adults aged 16–24, many of whom had arrived in Canada alone. Nearly half had been in the country for less than one year, navigating critical early stages of settlement without consistent access to specialized support.



Clients came from a wide range of countries, with the highest representation from Uganda, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Kenya, Chad, and Sudan, reflecting the global contexts driving displacement and the diverse needs of those served.



A Model That Made a Difference

“Through the Mobile Settlement Services program, we were able to fill a critical gap in the shelter system by bringing Sojourn House’s expertise directly to refugees who needed it most,” said Andrea Herod, Manager, Skills for Life and Transitional Housing Programs. “These are individuals with unique and often complex circumstances, and having access to specialized, responsive support made a meaningful difference in their ability to move forward.”

In 2025, two staff continued the program across eight partner sites from January through March, maintaining strong relationships and providing ongoing support through individualized services, referrals, and coordinated case management.

A Lasting Impact

While the program formally concluded on March 31, 2025, its impact continued. In response to sustained demand, Sojourn House staff extended support through existing programs until June, ensuring continuity of care for clients still navigating their next steps.

The Mobile Settlement Services program demonstrated the vital role Sojourn House plays within the broader shelter system. By providing specialized, refugee-focused supports where they are needed most, Sojourn House helps bridge critical gaps and ensures that individuals and families are not navigating their journeys alone.

With Gratitude to our Community

In 2025, Sojourn House continued to deliver critical services to refugee claimants thanks to strong and stable government funding.

This funding allows us to provide essential programs, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and core support services for individuals and families arriving in Canada.

At the same time, a smaller but deeply meaningful portion of our work is made possible through donations from individuals, partners, and community supporters.

In 2025, donor contributions and other community-based revenue represented approximately 4% of Sojourn House's total revenue.

While modest in proportion, these funds play an outsized role in what we are able to offer.

Unlike government funding, which is often restricted to specific programs, donor support provides the flexibility to respond to urgent needs, invest in new approaches, and strengthen the overall experience of those we serve.

It is this flexibility that allows us to:

- Enhance programs beyond core requirements
- Pilot new initiatives that respond to evolving needs
- Invest in spaces, services, and supports that improve daily life for residents

As we look ahead, Sojourn House is committed to growing this area of our work.

To those who have already supported this work, thank you.

Your contributions make a meaningful difference, not only in what we provide today, but in what we are able to build for the future.

To learn more or make a gift to Sojourn House, go to www.sojournhouse.org.



*Expanding our
base of community
support will allow us
to build on our strong
foundation and create
new opportunities for
refugee claimants to
move forward with
stability, confidence,
and dignity.*

Thank You To Our Donors

When people are given the right support at the right time, the impact extends far beyond the individual. It shapes families, strengthens communities, and builds a more inclusive and resilient Canada. Thank you for helping to make this possible.

Funders:

- City of Toronto – Toronto Shelter and Support Services (TSSS)
- Government of Ontario - Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
- Government of Ontario - Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration, and International Trade – Newcomer Settlement Program (NSP)

Foundations:

- Hockey Helps the Homeless
- Kids Up Front Foundation
- M.E.H. Foundation
- WCPD Foundation

Community Partners:

- ACHEV
- African Partnership for the Prevention of AIDS (APPA)
- Alexandra Park Community Centre
- Alexandra Park Early Learning and Childcare Centre
- Barbara Schlifer Commemorative Clinic
- Building Roots
- Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture
- Canadian Council for Refugees
- Central Tech School
- Children's Aid Society
- City Adult Learning Centre
- COSTI
- Covenant House

Supporting Businesses and Organizations:

- Blue North Strategies
- Branksome Hall - Junior School
- Centric Canada Apparel & Accessories ULC
- Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd.
- Market Square Social Club
- PayPal Charitable Giving Fund
- Primerica Financial Services
- Shaw Dental Laboratory Inc.
- St Lawrence Supper Club
- The Coraggio Company Inc.

- CRA Community Volunteer Income Tax Program
- Crossways Clinic at Women's College Hospital
- Daily Bread Food Bank
- Firefighters Toy Drive
- Harbord Collegiate
- Holiday Helpers
- Hospitality Training Centre
- Kicks for Kids Toronto
- Management Advisory Services (MAS)
- Migrant Oral Health Project
- Moss Park Pharmacy
- Nellie's Place
- New Circle Clothing Bank

- Newcomer to Canada Clinic
- Ontario Coalition of Agencies Serving Refugees
- Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants
- Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre
- Queen West Community Health Centre
- Regent Park Community Health Centre
- Ryerson Community School
- Saint Marcellinus Secondary School
- Saint Michael's Hospital
- Saint Stephen Community House
- Santa Claus Fund
- Scadding Court Community Centre
- Second Harvest
- Shoebox Project Toronto
- St. Mary Catholic Elementary School
- St. Mary Catholic High School
- TD Bank
- The Furniture Bank
- The Young Women's Christian Association of Canada - YWCA
- Toronto Bail Program
- Toronto District School Board
- Toronto Greeter Program
- Toronto Metropolitan University
- Toronto Police Services 14 Division
- Toronto Public Library
- Turning Point
- University Settlement
- University of Toronto Department of Medicine IREACH Volunteer Program
- Up With Women
- Vietnamese Cambodian Laotian Community Services Association
- West Neighbourhood House
- Women's Health in Women's Hands
- Women's College Hospital – Crossways Clinic
- Youth Employment Services



Individual Supporters:

- Angelo Colussi
- Ben Kaak
- Beth Kesselman
- Bruce Douville
- Claudia Blume
- Colette Snyder
- Dada Gasirabo
- Daniel Hall
- Devin DeCiantis
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- Michael Jacek
- Michelle Bashir
- Mikayla Bondy
- Natalie Reisman
- Nathalie Zegarra DeCiantis
- Nicole Dufoe
- Noah Richler
- Roy Male
- Stephen Allen
- Tasvir Khalili
- Tom Joseph

For a Few Hours, Everything Changes

By the time practice officially begins, the field is already full.

Training starts at 3:00 p.m., but players begin arriving hours earlier, asking for soccer balls, warming up, and calling out to one another across the field. Some come straight from school. Others rush over after work. No one wants to miss it.

“You see a different person,” says Jesús Mejía, Sojourn House Settlement Counsellor, who volunteered with the Refugee Cup in 2024 and 2025. “In the shelter, the residents are worried. They’re stressed. But when it comes to soccer, everything changes.”

From May to mid-July, the Sojourn House team trained three times a week. Over the course of the season, they completed 30 practices, totalling more than 60 hours on the field. But what they built went far beyond physical endurance.

“They’re laughing, joking, kidding around,” Jesús says. “For two or three hours, they forget everything.”

Those hours became something participants could count on. A routine. A release. A space where they were not defined by paperwork, timelines, or uncertainty, but simply by being part of a team.

The annual Refugee Soccer Cup brings together teams from refugee shelters and organizations across the Greater Toronto Area. It is competitive, fast-paced, and, at times, intense. But what stands out is not just the game itself, but what forms around it.

“It feels like a big family,” Jesús says. “The camaraderie, the friendships, the sense of belonging. That’s what stands out.”



“When I play soccer, I forget about everything back home, the family that I left behind, work and all other issues in life,” said one player from the Sojourn House team in media coverage of the tournament.



On the field, language barriers begin to fall away. Players from different countries, cultures, and backgrounds connect through a shared rhythm of movement and play.

“We all have different languages,” he says. “But soccer is universal.”

Over time, Jesús began to notice changes that extended beyond the field. Players showed up with more energy. They carried themselves differently. Their confidence grew.

“For those few months, they’re more lively,” he says. “You can see it.”

For many players, the tournament also creates space to step away from uncertainty and focus on something positive.

In 2025, Sojourn House brought home the Refugee Cup. But the real outcome was something less visible, and far more lasting.

For a few hours at a time, everything changes. Those moments matter. They give people space to build confidence, form connections, and experience a sense of belonging.

And over time, those small shifts begin to shape what comes next.



Financial Highlights for 2025

Strong financial stewardship allows Sojourn House to remain responsive in a rapidly changing environment.

Last year:

- We managed \$11.8 million in revenue in support of refugee claimants rebuilding their lives in Toronto.
- Government funding remained our primary source of revenue, complemented by donations and other community-based support.
- We invested \$11.0 million directly into programs, staffing, facilities, and operations that support residents every day.
- The organization ended the year with an \$811,307 surplus, strengthening our ability to respond to future opportunities and challenges.
- Net assets grew to \$6.6 million, supporting the long-term sustainability of our mission.

Together, these resources help ensure that refugee claimants arriving in Toronto have the support, stability, and opportunity they need to build what comes next.

Condensed Financial Statements 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	Dec. 31, 2025	Dec. 31, 2024
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$3,723,652	\$3,320,746
Guaranteed Investment Certificates	\$3,065,887	\$2,528,756
Amounts Receivable	\$10,696	\$43,565
Due from City of Toronto	\$24,868	\$46,871
HST Rebate Recoverable	\$58,110	496,376
Prepaid Expenses	\$348,062	\$352,907
Total Current Assets	\$7,231,275	\$6,389,221
Capital Assets	\$7,690,916	\$7,973,106
TOTAL ASSETS	\$14,922,191	\$14,362,327

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	Dec. 31, 2025	Dec. 31, 2024
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$978,239	\$913,067
Current Portion of Mortgages Payable	\$5,046,215	\$187,199
Deferred Contributions	\$358,853	\$358,853
Total Current Liabilities	\$6,383,307	\$1,459,119
Long-Term Liabilities		
Long-Term Portion of Mortgages Payable	\$52,050	\$5,098,264
Deferred Capital Grant	\$1,700,980	\$1,789,980
Deferred Capital Donations	\$182,490	\$191,878
Deferred City of Toronto (HPS)	\$27,945	\$58,974
Total Liabilities	\$8,346,772	\$8,598,215

To review the full audited financial statements, visit www.sojournhouse.org



	Dec. 31, 2025	Dec. 31, 2024
Net Assets:		
Designated Contingency	\$713,056	\$713,056
Mortgage Mandated Facility	\$2,550,937	\$2,333,755
Invested in Capital Assets	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Unrestricted	\$681,236	\$646,811
	\$1,630,190	\$1,070,490
Total Net Assets	\$6,575,419	\$5,764,112
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:	\$14,922,191	\$14,362,327

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

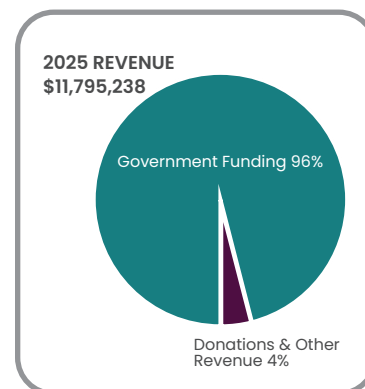
REVENUE	2025	2024
Government Funding	\$11,323,817	\$11,059,878
Donations & Other Revenue	\$471,421	\$464,836
Total Revenue	\$11,795,238	\$11,524,714

EXPENSES

Programs	\$5,886,958	\$5,537,670
Rent	\$3,715,986	\$3,689,112
Building	\$857,742	\$790,532
Administrative	\$577,330	\$512,617
Total Expenses	\$11,038,016	\$10,529,931

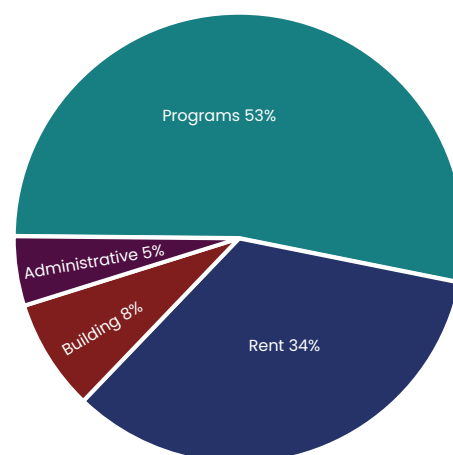
EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

Excess Revenue Over Expenses Before Non-Operating Revenue & Expenses	\$757,222	\$994,783
SCPI Capital Grant Recognized	\$89,000	\$89,000
Investment Income	\$247,275	\$289,547
Amortization	(\$282,190)	\$(282,188)
Excess Revenue Over Expenses for the Year	\$811,307	\$1,091,142



TOTAL EXPENSES - \$11,038,016

Expense Line	Amount	Category
Salaries & Benefits	\$5,004,968	Programs
Rent	\$3,715,986	Rent
Food	\$773,829	Programs
Utilities	\$391,987	Building
Office & General	\$340,700	Administrative
Repairs & Maintenance	\$324,967	Building
Interest	\$140,788	Building
Consultants	\$134,702	Administrative
Refugee Support	\$93,763	Programs
Telephone	\$54,720	Administrative
Professional Fees	\$47,208	Administrative
Transportation	\$14,398	Programs



Complete financial statements audited by Pennylegion|Chung LLP Chartered Accountants. To view the complete statements, visit www.sojournhouse.org.



Our Leadership Team

Board of Directors

Mark Nelson

Chair of the Board

Senior Solutions Architect, KellyOCG

Julia Man

Vice-Chair

Manager and Senior Advisor, Metrolinx

Colette Snyder

Secretary

Retired, Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Ashkan Bagheri

Director

Director, Treasury & Risk Management, Algonquin Power & Utilities

Ben Kaak

Director

Retired, Former Executive Vice-President & CFO, KIK Consumer Products

Brandon Cheung

Director

Performance Audit Manager – Health, Office of the Auditor General of Ontario

Nurhan Aycan

Director

Partner, Business Law Group, Dentons Canada LLP

Eric Mezin

Director

Director, Strategy & Partnerships, Onamal

Rochelle McAlister

Director

Senior Manager, Seniors Mental Health & Addictions, WoodGreen Community Services

Management and Administrative Team

Francisco Vidal

Executive Director

Dan Rutembesa

Associate Executive Director

Jane Meng (departed in 2026)

Director of Finance and Administration

Drita Kapedani

Director of Facilities and Maintenance Services

Tamirat Yegezu (departed)

Director of Food Services

Kim Webb

Manager, People Services and Culture

Andrea Herod

Manager, Skills for Life and Transitional Housing Programs

Fatima Saliu-Ediagbonya

Shelter Manager, Singles Program

Abeye Mamo

Shelter Manager, Family Program

Arben Senka

Manager, Facilities and Maintenance

Mashfiq Sabit

Infection Prevention and Control Practitioner

Easter Ameria

People Services Associate

Alieza Garcia

Operations Administrator

Jassimran Talwar

Administrative and Accounting Assistant

Sojourn House

101 Ontario Street, Toronto, ON M5A 2V2

416-864-9136 | info@sojournhouse.org

www.sojournhouse.org

Charitable Registration Number

89005 3192 RR0001



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