

SOJOURN HOUSE

A SAFE WORLD AND A BETTER FUTURE FOR REFUGEES



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

THANK YOU

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO OUR DONORS, SUPPORTERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS WHO'S CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE SO POSITIVELY IMPACTED THE LIVES OF REFUGEES RESIDING AT SOJOURN HOUSE

We are forever grateful for the increased support received from all of our very generous donors and partners, both old and new throughout this most challenging year.

CORE FUNDER

City of Toronto

GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
- Newcomer Settlement Program

CITY OF TORONTO

Shelter Support and Housing Administration,
Homeless Partnership Strategy

FOUNDATIONS

Charities Aid Foundation of Canada, Give
Foundation, MEH Foundation, Penny Appeal
Canada

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Ametros Learning Inc, Assane Tassebedo,
Cameron Pictures Inc, Market Square Social Club,
RBC Payedge, St Lawrence Supper Club, Toronto
Star, Promise Convenience and Take Out Catering,
Toronto Public Library, Spruce Court Co-operative
Inc, The Toronto Notes for Medical Students Inc.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

In 2021, we made or continued partnerships with the following organizations: CRA Community Volunteer

Income Tax Program, Newcomer To Canada
Clinic, St Michael's Hospital, Ve'ahavta, Migrant
Oral Health Project, Vietnamese Cambodian
Laotian Community Services Association,
Parkdale Community Food Bank, Barbra Schlifer
Commemorative Clinic

INDIVIDUALS

Alexandra Willis, Alexis Singer, Angelo Colussi,
Barbara Hopkins, Ben Kaak, Betty A. Asher, Bonnie
Martin, Carmen Canal, Charles G. Bowles, Ciro
Muiruri, David Earle, Deborah Hill-Corrigan, Denise
Parada, Derek Jackson, Edith Lorimer, Elaine
Dickson, Elaine Snider, Ellen Levine, Frederik
Silk, Gail Deyell, Gerald Jonas, Gillian Harrison,
Gloria Nafziger, Hugh Connolly, Ilham Bekkaye,
Jan Champagne, Janet Dalicandro, Jennifer
Levere, John Fraser, John Harty, Joy Connelly,
June Gurvich, Justin Soodhoo, Koorosh Eslami,
Leslie Styles, Lindsay McIver, Lisa Eckler, Madeline
Radics, Malcolm Martini, Marika Cooper, Mark
Nelson, Mark Rosenblatt, Mary Badali, Maryori
Quilarque, Michael Warren-Darley, Moneca Yardley,
Morag Mc Donald, Natalia Iwanek, Olivia Rollo,
Oscar Strawczynski, Parviz Kassam, Peeranut

Visetsuth, Peter Lockie, Philip Fisher, Phyllis
Tanaka, Robin Vaile (Robinson), Roger Williams,
Rosaline Ka-Lin Wong, Ryan Antooa, Ryan
Simchison, Sam Reisman, Samuel Hale, Shair
Muhammad, Shannon Ralph, Sheila Vandenberg,
Sonja Jensen, Susan Binnie, Susan Meggs,
Vanessa Redditt, Zainab Doleeb

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Alexandra Park Early Learning and Child Care
Centre, CultureLink Settlement and Community
Services, Daily Bread Food Bank, Kids Up Front
Foundation, Queen West Community Health Centre,
Regent Park Community Health Centre, Ryerson
Community School, Scadding Court Community
Centre, Second Harvest, St. Stephen Community
House, The Furniture Bank, Toronto Bail Program,
Toronto Public Library, Women's College Hospital,
Central Tech School, New Circle Clothing bank, TD
Bank, COSTI, Children's Aid Society, St. Marcellinus
Secondary School, Toronto Youth Partnerships and
Employment (TYPE), Women's Health in Women's
Hands, Partnership to Advance Youth Employment
(PAYE), Hospitality Training Centre, Alexandra Park
Neighbourhood Learning Centre

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Message From The Executive Director



Yes, that is myself along with a few of our team members with Mayor John Tory, a highlight for Sojourn House in 2021 as Mayor Tory delighted us along with his granddaughter to serve Thanksgiving dinner and send his message of thanksgiving to the City from our 101 Ontario St. location. We presented the Mayor with his own chef's Sojourn House initialed coat and hat. He spent time talking and taking pictures with staff and clients.

By Debbie Hill-Corrigan, Sojourn House, Executive Director

Another COVID year has passed and I am happy to report that aside from the usual restrictions, Sojourn House experienced very few cases of COVID amongst clients and staff. All staff are fully vaccinated and at any point in time so were over 90% of clients.

Much thanks is due to the diligence and risk management expertise of the senior management team along with the committed frontline staff in ensuring that we all stayed safe and healthy throughout 2021. Of course, we continued to provide a high level of quality support services to our clients. We are also continuously grateful to our partners at Women's College Hospital and Regent Park Community Health Centre who have supported us and provided resources throughout the entire pandemic. As well to our funder, the City of Toronto for providing extra funds to meet the demands of supplying much needed PPE's for both staff and clients.

It came as no surprise that once the airlines were flying and the US border opened that we saw a dramatic increase of asylum seeking refugees begin to flow into the city. Sojourn House was at capacity in all of our programs, shelter, family and transitional housing by mid fall. We remain so to this day. Finding and accessing affordable housing for clients continues to be our

biggest challenge in freeing up space in our programs for new arrivals.

Toronto will always be a destination for refugees seeking safety and acceptance from oppressive regimes, religious and cultural intolerance, gender violence and regional or countrywide conflicts. Many of the arrivals are youth who come alone with no family or support networks in Canada. Toronto is one of the most diverse cities in the world where many communities have made it their home. This in turn brings other members of those communities to join immediate, extended family, or joining in with their already established community in Toronto. Sadly, there are more refugees worldwide than ever before.

I would like to extend my sincere thank you to two Board members, Natalie Reisman and Michael Isaac who will have completed their two terms on the Board of Directors for a period of 6 years. They have provided leadership in governance and support to the agency in their roles as President and Treasurer respectively. In particular, through the challenging years of the pandemic. They will be missed.

I also want to thank the entire Board of Directors for their support for both management and front line staff. Thank you for being there for us!

2020-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN



BUILD on our successful programs and **ADD NEW** programs to meet emerging needs of refugees



MAINTAIN our current funding and **DEVELOP** new funding to support organizational growth and enhancement



ADVANCE our leadership and advocacy in refugee care



STRENGTHEN our organizational infrastructure to ensure sustainable growth

Message From The President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021

Natalie Reisman
President

VP Legal, The Rose Corporation

Michael Isaac
Treasurer

Senior Economist, Ontario Financing
Authority

Vanessa Redditt
Secretary

Family Physician, Crossroads Refugee
Clinic, WCH

Dada Gasirabo
Member

Executive Director, Oasis Centre des
Femmes

Michelle Bissada
Member

Director of Change Management, CIBC

Jamil Karim
Member

Manager, Investment Finance, CPP
Investment Board

Denise Parada
Member

Business Consultant, Parada
Enterprises Inc

Ryan Simchison
Member

Client Marketing Manager, Loyalty One

Ciro Muiruri
Member

Executive Director, Pendo International
Projects

John Taht
Member

VP Personal Banking & Cards
Technology, TD Group

In 2021, Sojourn House provided shelter, peace and relief to people from over 27 countries around the world. Nearly 500 people were served by the work we do and the support we provide.

As I come to the end of my six years serving the Sojourn House board, I pause to reflect on what has come to pass. Of the people who have come through the door as clients, the families finding new lives in Canada, the employees that showed up no matter what, and a board that pivoted in line with the organization as times changed.

Sojourn House, in some ways, is a microcosm of the world itself. Within the walls of our buildings, we provided shelter, peace and relief to people from over 27 countries around the world. Refugees from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe came through our doors. Families, singles, separate youth. In 2021, nearly 500 people were served by the work we do and the support we provide. People who faced war, persecution, instability came to our doors to find warmth, safety, and support. The heaviness of the world gently being rebalanced by the light Sojourn House offers.

Throughout last year, we found ways to adjust to the COVID world. Reducing beds to create more space, increasing cleaning protocols, encouraging vaccines through incentive programs and education, implementing transmission reduction methods across all sites. The hard work paid off as our shelter kept infection rates low and dealt quickly with any cases. We worked to keep a safe space safe.

Looking back, 2021 was a year of re-emergence and change. Of timidly coming back into the world after over a year of social, physical, and emotional isolation. Of finding

out how to connect again with those around us. Of taking lessons learned during those challenging months and deciding what to bring into life now and what to leave behind. In some ways, it was a year where every one of us started life over again, not just our clients. In doing so, we got just the smallest glimpse of just how hard that can be. But also, of how connection, support, friendship, and family can make it easier.

Saying goodbye to Sojourn House, at least in my capacity as Chair of the Board is bittersweet. I'm sad to bid farewell to this beautiful community, and yet I'm proud of how much we've accomplished in the time I've been lucky enough to be a part the organization. Looking forward, I know the fantastic frontline workers, employees, managers, and other board members will carry out our vision for the future – growing fast enough to serve more people in need, expanding slowly enough to never lose the spirit with which we serve our clients. Thank you for welcoming me in, for teaching me about community, for exemplifying the good in the world.

Here's to many happy sojourns.



NATALIE REISMAN
*President of the
Board of Directors*

Shelter Program

The 24/7 Shelter program serves (youth and adults) single men and women refugee claimants, providing services at 101 Ontario Street. We also have a satellite program at 250 Queen Street East. Similar to 2020, last year saw a relatively lower number of clients served than in pre pandemic years, due to the reduction of our bed capacity from 94 beds to 67 beds, leading to a total loss of 30% of our available beds due to safe spacing requirements. This has directly affected the availability of beds for male clients. Beds for women remained the same.

For people to be admissible to our shelter they must be making a refugee claim or have initiated their refugee claim and are at various stages of the process including appeals. They require emergency shelter and settlement supports to assist them in the claim process, securing basic needs allowance from the City of Toronto and assistance to find and secure housing. Priority is given to separated youth who have no family or social supports in Canada and those who have just arrived in the city from around the world.

As restrictions loosened up, we saw more arrivals that

led to the creation of a wait list for the first time since the pandemic. The opening of the US border in the fall saw the wait list grow to over 100, many of whom were in other homeless shelters. This is often traumatising for refugees who have not been exposed to this type of environment. Sojourn House is the only refugee specific City funded shelter for singles refugees.

Throughout the year this dedicated staff team continued to provide trauma informed enhanced case management and settlement services by phone, Zoom or in person with IPAC protections and to complete health checks daily with their respective clients. This, along with vaccinations of both staff and clients and strict COVID procedures and protocols prevented any major outbreaks. In fact, we had only a case here and there throughout the year.

Housing continues to be the biggest challenge to our clients. In 2021 only 47 clients were housed. Although the COVID-19 pandemic played a role in this, the lack of affordable housing, and potential landlords' unwillingness to take tenants dependant on social assistance continues to create barriers to accessing housing. BIPOC youth face particular barriers due to age and racial discrimination.



Sky's Story

Hi my name is Sky. I am a 25 years old gay man all alone in Canada. I came to Sojourn House in April of 2021. When I opened the outside door, I saw the rainbow flag of pride and I immediately felt welcome and safe. They put me in a clean and tidy room, and then I met Mr. Jesus who helped me with so many things that I never imagine I could get. He treated me with the utmost respect and I learned many things from him about life in Canada. When I was having a hard day because of work or because of my refugee claim and experiences, many staff including Djamila assisted me. The staff always offer their support with smile, and love, even when they are experiencing some fatigue. This is really touching and I am very thankful to Sojourn House.

Let me talk about the food. The beautiful thing is that they have varieties of food every day and different meals that you can eat in a quiet and clean place as hygiene is top priority to Sojourn House. The Housing Workers at Sojourn House assisted me to find a more permanent housing, and the staff kept in touch with me, and helped me to settle in the community. I am really thankful to all the staff at Sojourn House. I never felt unsafe because everyone had so much positive energy and respect that gave me reassurance and safety. Sojourn House is like a family to me. I love you all.



Gilbert's Story

I am a refugee claimant from Uganda in Africa who landed in Canada in 2021. I found myself in Canada, a country where I had no relatives or any means of survival. The only option to me was getting into an emergency shelter as a stepping stone to figure out what's next. At Sojourn House, I really experienced professionalism after testing on the agony of other different shelters. The team work, division of labor is reflected in all departments at Sojourn House. All the services that were provided to the clients, prepared them to face new life in Canada. The conducive environment at Sojourn House assisted me to upgrade my career at Centennial College, and this has assisted me to navigate the deep waters in Canada particularly in Toronto. I further acknowledge the team at Sojourn House for the tremendous worker they do to give "HOPE" and direction to refugee claimants towards their NEXT move in Canada.

Family Shelter Program

In their solemn sojourn to safety, many families from around the world have made Sojourn House Family Shelter program their home away from home in 2021. Undeterred by the COVID-19 pandemic, a team of highly dedicated staff supported by management have been able to provide the necessary support through out the year. However, the year was not without challenges.

Despite our best effort in preventative measures, the family program experienced a COVID-19 outbreak at the beginning of the second quarter of the year in which a number of our families were affected. Through surveillance testing and a subsequent intensive vaccination drive, we were able to minimize the impact of COVID on our families. We are happy to report that all families infected by COVID were able to fully recover. Our service partner, Women's College Hospital, played a pivotal role in not only conducting the surveillance testing and vaccination, but also in disseminating timely and relevant information on COVID-19 and the benefits of vaccinations. As a result, we were able to achieve 85% uptake on our vaccination drive. We are also pleased to report that no staff had contracted COVID-19 through out the year.

Families who had tested positive for COVID and had to isolate, received extra support from staff which included

frequent check in on their conditions, grocery shopping, medication pick ups from pharmacies and so forth. The extent to which staff supported these families was recognized by management and more importantly by the clients themselves with much gratitude.

Our success in the vaccination drive was one factor that enabled us to organize various activities for our clients when restrictions were reduced. Subsequently, we were able to organize trips to High Park Animal Zoo and Central Island. Our families enjoyed both trips immensely. We had a fitting send off for the year 2021 with Santa gracing us with his presence and bringing a whole lot of happiness to our families and the children in particular. We are always grateful to Santa for bringing joy to us all. And many presents of course!

We want to conclude by thanking our families for staying strong and resilient despite the outbreak and for their patience during the surveillance testing which was not easy for many of the families, especially with the children. The staff team at the Grange must be acknowledged for their ongoing commitment to the principles of Sojourn House and for their dedication to the wellbeing of our clients. Thank you to all of our community partners, there are too many to mention, and generous donors for supporting us and our families through out the year.

DURING 2021 WE SERVED



70 FAMILIES
WITH TOTAL PEOPLE
OVER 220

**FAMILIES
HOUSED**

WITH TOTAL PEOPLE OF 129



**REFUGEE FAMILIES
FROM 22
DIFFERENT COUNTRIES**

NIGERIA, ETHIOPIA AND THE BAHAMAS
account for most of the clients
while **COLOMBIA AND MEXICO**
account for most of the refugees
from the Latin America



Izehi's Story

My name is Izehi, and I arrived in Canada as a refugee in 2017. I had no relatives or friends here, so getting a place to stay became my priority. Someone suggested I go to Sojourn House, which provides refugee housing and support to help them integrate into Canadian culture.

After going through the Sojourn House screening process, they gave me a clean bed space and warm clothing because I didn't have any. Days following, a caseworker was assigned to me. She gave me helpful information on navigating the refugee process and valuable hints on integrating into Canadian culture. My caseworker linked me with various resources and gave me TTC tokens whenever I went for appointments.

Sojourn House made me feel welcome in a new country by providing me with a safe, caring, and inclusive environment. Employees listen to and treat residents with respect and empathy, and they are proactive, professional, and friendly. I and some other residents from across the globe emulated the love and empathy that we observed from the staff. We (residents) connected well, shared experiences, cared for and supported each other as one big happy family. We continued to communicate when we left Sojourn House, and we are still in touch now. Some of the residents I met at Sojourn House have become like family; we invite one another to birthday parties and other gatherings. We keep track of each other's progress toward our goals. I witnessed how the staffs at Sojourn House are committed to the service of humanity. The way they welcome and treat refugees is impressive, so for the above reason, I decided to pursue a career in human services so that I can make a difference in society as well.

While at Sojourn House, I was walking around the area and saw Ryerson University. I concluded within myself that I would like to study there. A year after leaving Sojourn House, I did my academic upgrade and got admitted into Ryerson University. I am currently entering my final year at Ryerson University, studying child and youth care with a minor in psychology.

Accessing health care as a refugee can be challenging. Still, Sojourn House eliminated that barrier for me and other refugees by bringing in health care professionals on-site. When I became unwell at Sojourn House, I had the privilege of being treated and counselled by a doctor. The kitchen staff recognizes that refugees come from various cultures and may be unfamiliar with Canadian cuisine. Therefore, they occasionally cooked special cultural



food for residents. I liked that the staff kept in touch with me even after leaving Sojourn House. I realized they cared about me and wanted me to succeed.

Overall, my experience at Sojourn House was pleasant and provided me with the tools to settle in quickly in my new country. I volunteered in the kitchen while at Sojourn House. I am now partnering with Sojourn House by making a monthly donation to acknowledge and support their excellent work with refugees.

Transitional Housing Program

Sojourn House Transitional Housing Program (THP) is a two-year subsidized housing program offering refugees wrap-around supports for all their settlement needs. For program admittance, Sojourn House works closely with community shelter partners to receive referrals for eligible candidates; including families, single-parent households, single adults and separated youth.

The THP has 48 furnished apartments: 24 single bachelors, 12 double bachelors and 12 two-bedroom apartments, for families of 3 persons or more. Our average occupancy in 2021 was 90 residents at any given time and the average length of stay was 1.65 years.

In 2021, we successfully assisted 135 clients that came from 27 different countries. This number was quite low in comparison to previous years, as the pandemic challenged many from seeking asylum. With the dedication and combined efforts of the Transitional Housing Team, Sojourn House was able to provide clients with a holistic care approach and housing stability that was tailored to address the individual needs of clients. Once admitted to the program, residents receive a wide range of client-centred services that include individualized case management, settlement counselling, referrals to medical and legal services, information on education and employment, systems navigation, group programming and enjoyable outings.

Providing a safe and welcoming space for our clients is our number one objective during their two-year residency. Our programs range from homework support, movie nights for children, outings to Centre Island, visits to the Toronto Zoo and the celebration of different holidays throughout the year. By creating a safe community through trauma-informed care, we provide opportunities for social and skills development, while also assisting our clients with integration into the wider Toronto community.



DURING 2021 WE SERVED



FROM
27
DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES



135 PEOPLE
32 FAMILY 2+ 56 CHILDREN 30 YOUTH
13 SINGLE ADULTS 12 LGBTQ+



**HOUSEHOLDS
SERVED**

49 INDIVIDUALS **29** UNITS **47** INDIVIDUALS **28** UNITS



Zenim's Story

For us, living at Sojourn House was like a ball of luck. Many of the things that we tried to get in the past few years while we were in Canada, we were all able to get while we were here. At Sojourn House, we got the news that our PR (Permanent Residence) application was accepted, and with the help of the staff we were able to get everything that immigration needed from us to get our cards. The staff is also there for you when you just need to talk. One of the kids decided that she wanted to pursue film and was able to get a full scholarship. The staff shows that they really care about you and gives you the time that you need to sit and talk, whether it is about something serious or not. Whenever you have a question or concern they give you tons of resources that are available to reach your goal. We were able to get into ESL classes, get work, and look forward to the future again.

This is the first place that feels like home in a long while. From the bottoms of our hearts, we are extremely grateful for everything Sojourn House has done for us.



COVID Ambassador Project

My name is Luwam Asfaha, I'm a previous resident of transitional housing in Sojourn House as a newcomer from 2014 to 2016, and I have been working as COVID-19 community outreach ambassador for Sojourn House starting May 2021. My role has been helping newcomers, international students, and residents without a valid health card to get a temporary Ontario Health card number to get vaccinated and I assist them with attaining proof of vaccination as well.

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a personal choice, people have been but due to misinformation, there is still a lot of hesitancy in taking the COVID-19 vaccination, to support you as you make your decision Toronto public health provided resources and efficient tailored community outreach programs that aim to increase population-level vaccine coverage can be informed and the public is aware of the importance of taking the COVID-19 vaccination As vaccines will not provide 100% protection to those who get immunized, so we all have to keep up with our booster too to have more.



Skills For Life Program

The Skills for Life program was created for youth aged 16-24, who fled to Canada seeking refugee protection without their families. This program provides experiential life skills delivered through one-one case management and group programming. The goal of the program is to prepare youth for independent living while providing the necessary settlement supports that will enable them to reach their potential. For most, this is their first experience living alone and so it is vital that they develop the necessary self-efficacy to guide them in their first steps into adulthood. Developing confidence to make choices is paramount to their success in independent living and building a future, the Skills for Life program provides an important tool for youth by providing a safe base to foster positive development of critical thinking, mental health and life skills. For two years, youth live in one of our bachelor apartments and working alongside the Skills for Life team develop a plan that includes: immigration support, mental health, education, employment and financial literacy. From a bottom up approach, the Skills for Life program assists youth in creating their plan for success while providing the necessary life skills such as cooking, budgeting and time management.

2021 was a challenging year due to the continued effects of COVID-19. Whether it be the cancellation of programs, or reduced seating, COVID-19 definitely challenged staff and clients. This year staff met with clients one-one 2089 times. This number is a little higher and reflects the impact of COVID-19 as staff checked in with clients more frequently to assess mental and physical health. For much of the year clients were stuck in their apartments with the city closed, school was online and the building in lockdown. Staff therefore spent more time providing one-one support. There were 124 workshops in 2021.

Topics ranged from COVID-19, mental health, credit, time management and banking. In addition, the Skills for Life promoted a weekly walking group to address the challenges of isolation. Youth and staff walked 5k in the city and it was a great way for people to stay active while social distancing.

Staff worked with 58 new clients in 2021 to go along with those already in the program. These included, youth in our shelter and youth in outreach. The number is slightly down and reflects the fact that the borders were closed. Services provided ranged from permits, applications, referrals and housing. 9 youth exited the program and moved into the community, of those, 2 were starting post secondary, 2 were working full time and the remainder were completing academic upgrading.

COVID-19 shut down many of our community partners in 2021. We did however build some collaborations with the University of Toronto Medical School who has been providing us with much needed virtual tutors. Also, we worked with the Toronto Hospitality Workers Training Centre who provided virtual employment programs in the hotel and restaurant industry. Hopefully next year will allow us to reconnect with community partners while continuing to build new relationships.

While COVID-19 impacted delivery of Skills for Life, there were some great moments as well. The program got to meet with many former clients. It is amazing to see those who came through our doors in years past. This year we got to talk with new engineers, nurses and business owners to go along with some finishing programs in aviation, engineering, nursing, accounting and criminology. Sojourn House and the Skills for Life program are so proud of the hard work our clients put into rebuilding their lives.



Elham's Story

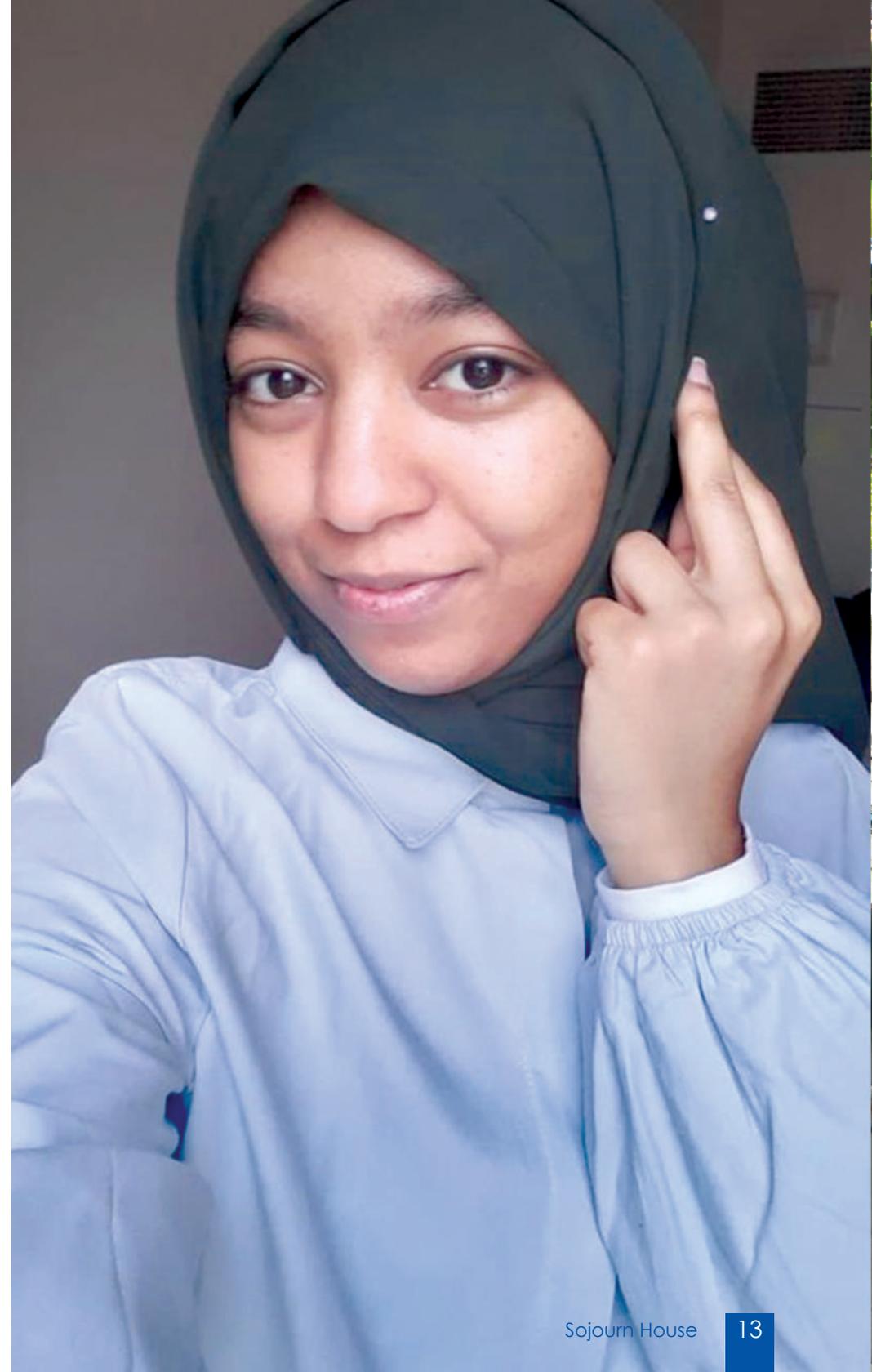
Growing up I was raised to be the perfect daughter who doesn't speak to boys, who doesn't ride a bike or rollerblade or even hang out with my girlfriends. I was always sheltered by my parents and siblings, and thus, I have never experienced a life without my family, and coming to Canada I knew it wasn't going to be easy for me.

Confidence means many things. For me it means doing what you want without fear of judgement and becoming the person you want to be; but I wasn't that person. I was always told what I must wear, eat, who I should talk to, and who I must become, but coming to Canada I could do anything. People call this freedom but for me this was deeply scary. I knew I must change. I knew I must be open minded but didn't know how. That is when the Skills for Life program at Sojourn House came to rescue me.

I call Sojourn House a home for change. Living here for two and half years has supported my growth and change. I have become confident and adventurous. I would say Skills for Life helped challenge the fear and awkwardness inside me. Through the programs and workshops, it helped me discover and express the new me. I will never forget my very first trip to Canada's Wonderland. It was so scary but I had fun, and I am proud of myself for going and trying something new! "Lion King" is the movie I watched in my very first movie experience with my favourite chocolate and popcorn in hand. Friday, the Skills for Life hosts a Girls Club. This program helped me express myself, know my insecurities, and build trust among my girlfriends. Monday Trivia and critical thinking also challenged my general knowledge, taught me about Canadian history and developed my social skills and intelligence. Dinner Night and Movie Night helped me hang out with diverse people and genders.

When I arrived at the Skills for Life program, I met my very first family. I vividly I remember Stephen was cooking and Thurkka was sitting beside me. These two amazing people run the youth program. They are the brains behind it all. I am not the trusting type but with them I feel safe talking to them. Every time I tell them something I wanted to do it, they made sure I got it. For instance, I always dreamt of riding a bike and they taught me. Most of all they made sure I succeeded in school. I was helped with school assignments and homework. They provided me with a tutor who showed I love, care and support. With the support of Skills for Life I am confident I will achieve my dreams of becoming a Doctor.

I would like to say Skills for Life is changing the lives of youth. The program is like watching unripe fruit develop. I now know what I want to be in the future, and I am confident. It is all thanks to the amazing staff who support us in reaching our potential. I now not only have friends but I also have family; thank you home for change thank you Skills for Life! Even though I have left, it will always be home.



Financial Statement 2021

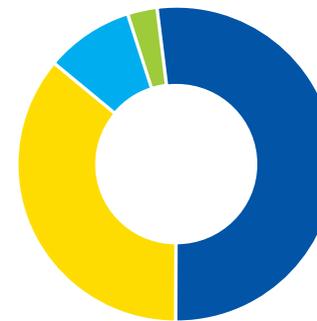
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$ 1,741,626	\$ 1,720,374
Designated Cash	\$ 880,872	\$ 708,526
Guaranteed Investment Certificates	\$ 1,028,737	\$ 635,848
Designated Guaranteed Investment Certificates	\$ 545,070	\$ 915,941
Amounts Receivable	\$ 24,660	\$ 27,194
Due from City of Toronto	\$ 27,459	\$ 31,511
HST Recoverable	\$ 35,551	\$ 40,762
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 318,288	\$ 311,301
Total Current Assets	\$ 4,602,263	\$ 4,391,457
Capital Assets:	\$ 8,869,066	\$ 9,136,374
TOTAL CURRENT AND FIXED ASSETS	\$ 13,471,329	\$ 13,527,831
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 809,162	\$ 1,137,533
Due to City of Toronto	\$ -	\$ 21,782
Current Portion of Mortgages Payable	\$ 173,310	\$ 168,933
Deferred Contributions	\$ 357,705	\$ 22,893
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 1,340,177	\$ 1,351,141
Long-Term Liabilities:		
Long-Term Portion of Mortgages Payable	\$ 5,645,731	\$ 5,819,046
Deferred Capital Grant	\$ 2,056,980	\$ 2,145,980
Deferred Capital Donations	\$ 220,042	\$ 229,430
Deferred City of Toronto (HPS)	\$ 201,462	\$ 257,191
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 9,464,392	\$ 9,802,788
Net Assets:		
Designated		
Contingency	\$ 593,056	\$ 593,056
Internally Restricted Reserve	\$ 1,781,145	\$ 1,624,467
Invested in Capital Assets	\$ 571,541	\$ 515,794
Unrestricted	\$ 1,061,195	\$ 991,726
Total Net Assets	\$ 4,006,937	\$ 3,725,043
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:	\$ 13,471,329	\$ 13,527,831

Full Audited Financial Statements Prepared by Pennylegion|Chung LLP
Chartered Accountants are available upon request from Sojourn House.



Financial Statement 2021

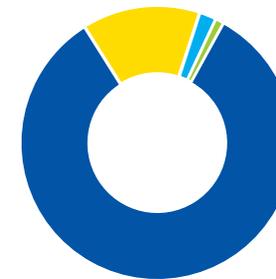
	2021	2020
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS		
REVENUE:		
Government Funding	\$ 8,965,909	\$ 9,118,990
Donations and Other Revenue	\$ 428,761	\$ 504,950
Total Revenues	\$ 9,394,670	\$ 9,623,940
EXPENSES:		
Programs	\$ 4,646,189	\$ 4,744,347
Rent	\$ 3,199,331	\$ 3,179,195
Building	\$ 767,197	\$ 874,897
Administration	\$ 305,809	\$ 333,867
Total Expenses	\$ 8,918,526	\$ 9,132,306
Excess of revenue over expenses before non-operating revenues and expenses	\$ 476,144	\$ 491,634
Non-operating revenues and expenses:		
SCPI capital grant recognized	\$ 89,000	\$ 89,000
Investment income	\$ 22,361	\$ 36,688
Amortization	\$ (305,611)	\$ (303,058)
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	\$ 281,894	\$ 314,264



- Programs - 52%
- Rent - 36%
- Building - 9%
- Administrative - 3%

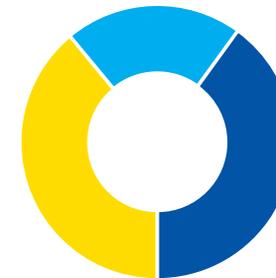
TOTAL EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 3,867,143
Rent	\$ 3,199,331
Food	\$ 681,070
Utilities	\$ 311,859
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 296,283
Interest	\$ 159,055
Consultants	\$ 123,863
Office and General	\$ 119,172
Refugee Support	\$ 90,762
Telephone	\$ 44,337
Professional Fees	\$ 18,437
Transportation	\$ 7,214



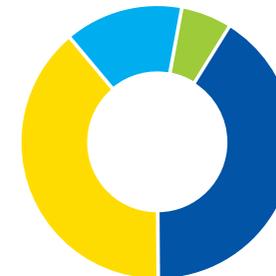
PROGRAMS EXPENSES - \$4,646,189

- Salaries and Benefits - 83%
- Food - 14%
- Refugee Support - 2%
- Transportation - 1%



BUILDING EXPENSES - \$767,197

- Utilities - 40%
- Repairs and Maintenance - 39%
- Interest - 21%



ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES - \$305,809

- Consultants - 41%
- Office and General - 39%
- Telephone - 14%
- Professional Fees - 6%



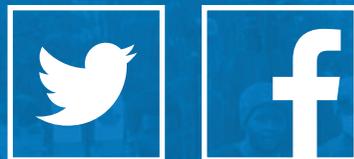
SOJOURN HOUSE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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

Charitable Registration Number 890053192RR0001

101 Ontario Street, Toronto, ON M5A 2V2

Telephone: (416) 864-9136 | Fax: (416) 955-0533 | info@sojournhouse.org

In 2021, nearly 500 people were served by the work we do and the support we provide. People who faced war, persecution, instability came to our doors to find warmth, safety, and support.

*Natalie Reisman,
President Of The Board Of
Directors, Sojourn House*