

SOJOURN HOUSE

A Safe World and a Better Future for Refugees



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

THANK YOU

We are forever grateful to our generous donors and partners in ensuring the best possible care for refugees.

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

CORE FUNDERS

The City of Toronto – Toronto Shelter and Support Services (TSSS).

Government of Ontario - Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration, and International Trade – Newcomer Settlement Program (NSP).

Government of Ontario - Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

FOUNDATIONS

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

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.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ACHEV, Covenant House, Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture, CRA Community Volunteer

Income Tax Program, Newcomer to Canada Clinic, Saint Michael's Hospital, Migrant Oral Health Project, Vietnamese Cambodian Laotian Community Services Association, Parkdale Community Food Bank, Barbara Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, Alexandra Park Early Learning and Childcare Centre, Daily Bread Food Bank, Firefighters Toy Drive, Santa Claus Fund, Kicks for Kids Toronto, Holiday Helpers, Shoebox Project Toronto, Queen West Community Health Centre, Toronto Metropolitan University, Moss Park Pharmacy, Scadding Court Community Centre, Second Harvest, Saint Stephen Community House, The Furniture Bank, Toronto Bail Program, Toronto Public Library, Central Tech School, New Circle Clothing Bank, TD Bank, Turning Point, COSTI, Children's Aid Society, Saint Marcellinus Secondary School, Women's Health in Women's Hands, Hospitality Training Centre, University of Toronto Department of Medicine IREACH Volunteer Program, Building Roots, Toronto Police Services 14 division, Alexandra Park Community Centre, African Partnership for the Prevention of AIDS (APPA), Management Advisory Services (MAS), Up With Women, Nellie's Place, Toronto District School

Board, Ryerson Community School, St. Mary Catholic Elementary School, St. Mary Catholic High School, Harbord Collegiate, University Settlement, City Adult Learning Centre, Toronto Greeter Program, Youth Employment Services, The Young Women's Christian Association of Canada - YWCA, Women's College Hospital – Crossways Clinic.

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

Angelo Colussi, Ayodeji Ojesina, Ben Kaak, Bruce Douville, Dada Gasirabo, Danna Aranda, Debbie Hill-Corrigan, Elaine Snider, Elenore Chesnutt, Frederik Silk, Izehi Ojehanon, Jason Ellis, Jennifer Levere, Jerome Perera, Jessica Zimmer, John Fraser, Julia Man, Lawrence Medas, Lindsay McIver, Marina Timmins, Mark Nelson, Matthew Allman, Michael Jacek, Neel Desai, Nicole Dufoe, Olena Decock, Oscar Strawczynski, Peter Mathewson, Rochelle McAlister, Stephen Allen, Tasvir Khalili.



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Message From The Executive Director

The challenges facing refugee claimants have intensified. A lack of affordable housing and shifting political and economic conditions have made our work more difficult—and more essential.



FRANCISCO VIDAL
Executive Director,
Sojourn House

As we reflect on 2024, I am filled with gratitude for the commitment and compassion that define Sojourn House during a challenging year for refugee claimants. It has been **a year of transformation**—honouring our legacy while preparing for an uncertain future.

The challenges facing refugee claimants have intensified. A lack of affordable housing and shifting political and economic conditions have made our work more difficult—and more essential. The proportion of refugees experiencing chronic homelessness (over six months in the shelter system) rose from 33% in 2022 to 83% in 2024. Many arrive highly educated and fluent in both official languages, yet systemic barriers have slowed their transition to independence.

In response, we've developed **a new strategic plan** that reflects today's realities and positions Sojourn House to lead through change. With input from clients, staff, stakeholders, and partners, we've created a roadmap to adapt, grow, and deepen our impact.

Our one-year mobile project brought services to over 400 refugees in other City of Toronto shelters, expanding our reach. We also **strengthened our partnership** with Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre which now provides primary care for our Grange Hotel clients weekly, ensuring ongoing access to essential health services.

A very special milestone was the launch of the **Debbie Hill-Corrigan Refugee Youth Scholarship**, honouring a legacy of compassion. We proudly awarded the first scholarships to two deserving young refugees pursuing undergraduate degrees at Queen's University and the University of Waterloo.

We also focused inward: launching **our first employee engagement survey** to better understand staff experiences and improve workplace culture. A new Finance and Administration team, and our People Services department, have modernized our systems, enhancing transparency and efficiency.

None of this would be possible without the extraordinary people who make up **the Sojourn House community** – from our Food Services and Custodial staff to our knowledgeable and compassionate front-line workers, our management and administrative teams, as well as our Board of Directors - together, we will continue to rise to the challenges of our time and help every refugee thrive.

With gratitude,
Francisco Vidal, Executive Director, Sojourn House

Message From The Chair

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Sojourn House is not just a home away from home providing shelter. It is a community, and it represents the best the city of Toronto can be.

It is an especially challenging time for refugees, and the work that Francisco and the team do at Sojourn House has never been more critical.

While 2023 was a year of transition, with a new Executive Director establishing himself and ensuring continued support and stability for the organization, 2024 was a year of forging new priorities to reflect the changing times. Our clients have fewer housing options, causing longer stays and new challenges in supporting them. We are reviewing programs and services with a new lens.

Internally, Francisco and his team have taken steps to better position the organization for the road ahead, including major implementations to digitize finance and human resources. As some long-time critical contributors have stepped away, new faces have stepped forward, adding new voices and expertise.

For the Board, much of our focus in 2024 was finalizing Sojourn House's new strategic plan. With the help of a focused committee, strategic experts, and the Sojourn House leadership team we have forged a path to adapt our programs to better serve clients, upgrade our facilities, ensure financial stability, and further build upon our efforts to make Sojourn House an employer of choice.

As part of developing this plan, we sought feedback from the many stakeholders that work with and for the organization. Hearing that feedback hit home. Sojourn House is highly respected for the role it plays in the community and for the amazing work that it does, from Francisco, Dan and the whole leadership team, to the employees who come to work every day focused on helping people and strengthening our community. The times may be challenging, but the people of Sojourn House rise to meet that challenge every day.

I know I speak for the whole Board when I say that we are all so proud to represent Sojourn House, and we are all inspired by the staff, the clients, and the funders who support us. Sojourn House is not just a home away from home providing shelter. It is a community, and it represents the best the city of Toronto can be.



MARK NELSON

Chair of the
Board of Directors

Shelter Program

Sojourn House provides shelter and support to refugee claimants (youth and single adults) across two locations: 101 Ontario Street and 250 Queen Street East. In 2024, the program operated with a total capacity of 94 beds: 22 for single women and 72 for single men. Priority was given to unaccompanied youth and recent arrivals entering through ports of entry.

To qualify for admission, individuals must be in the process of making a refugee claim or have already initiated one, requiring assistance with documentation (e.g., Refugee Protection Claimant Document), financial support, and housing.



50 NEW ADMISSIONS



37 MALES

13 FEMALES

34,310



BED NIGHTS PROVIDED



DISCHARGES



35

PERMANENT
HOUSING

4

TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING

16

OTHER
HOUSING

TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



• Ethiopia 52%

• Rwanda 8%

• Tanzania 8%

• 12 additional nations 32%

Community Engagement and Activities

Clients participated in various social and recreational events, including: LGBTQ+ and Refugee Rights Day, Toronto Newcomer Day, Trips to Centre Island and Niagara Falls, Refugee Houses Soccer Tournament

The soccer tournament was a highlight, with enthusiastic participation from youth and adults. Practices were led by energetic coaches—Leeya, Jesus, Kaha, and Julieta—and supported by Sojourn House staff and the dedicated Medical Team, creating a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere.

My Journey Forward

My name is Walelign “Wali” Sumoro. In 2023, I arrived in Toronto as a newcomer without family, housing, or a clear path forward. I entered the emergency shelter system during one of the most uncertain moments of my life.

Through Sojourn House, I secured temporary safe housing and continued my high school education at Central Toronto Academy.

Living in the shelter was not easy. As a teenager, I had to learn how to do everything on my own, from making my bed to doing laundry while sharing a room with strangers. It was rent-free and provided food, but the emotional and mental toll was real.

Still, it gave me a safe space and a chance to focus on my goals. After graduating from high school, I began studying Computing at Queen’s University. It hasn’t been an easy road, but I stayed focused.

Today, I’m proud to be the co-founder of Lawtonica, a tech startup that helps people, including newcomers, better understand city bylaws using AI. Our work has already gained recognition; we recently won both a major university hackathon and the Mayor’s Innovation Challenge.

I wouldn’t be where I am without the support of the shelter system. It gave me the foundation I needed to grow, study, and build something meaningful. I hope that my story shows others that even in the hardest times, there is a way forward and that support, compassion, and opportunity can change lives.



Family Shelter Program

The Sojourn House Family Shelter Program continues to be a vital refuge for families navigating the refugee claim process. In 2024, the shelter welcomed nearly 50 new families—approximately 150 individuals—and supported 40 families housed across the Greater Toronto Area and beyond. The shelter operated at full capacity throughout the year, offering comprehensive wraparound services to both current and former clients.

We leveraged strong community partnerships to enhance service delivery. Our collaboration with West Neighbourhood House helped bridge gaps in youth services, while local daycare providers such as Alexandra Park Early Learning Centre and St.

Stephen's Community House prioritized our clients' needs. Relationships with primary and secondary schools, including Ryerson Elementary School, remained robust and supportive.

We are especially grateful to Ontario Works, Toronto Public Library, Toronto Public Health, and Toronto Parks and Recreation for providing on-site services, ensuring barrier-free access for our clients. We also extend heartfelt thanks to our community partners—West Neighbourhood House, Scadding Court Community Centre, Queen West Community Health Centre, and others—for their continued contributions to our clients' settlement journeys.



37
FAMILIES
136 INDIVIDUALS

240

FORMER CLIENTS WE PROVIDED SERVICES

30 **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

470 **PARTICIPANTS**

DISCHARGES



99

PERMANENT HOUSING

16

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

39

OTHER HOUSING



A Moment of Connection

"When I arrived in Canada with my two children, I was overwhelmed and directionless. Everything was unfamiliar—the culture, the people, even the weather. Through Central Intake, I was referred to Sojourn House.

I expected only a safe place to sleep, but what I found was something deeply human. The evening staff welcomed us warmly and provided a gift card for a hot meal. Our room was newly renovated and fully equipped with essentials—bedding, toiletries, kitchen items, and warm duvets.

That night, for the first time in days, I didn't feel like a refugee. We stayed at Sojourn House until we moved into our own two-bedroom apartment, and they continue to support us as we build our life in Canada.

To my counselors and housing team—thank you. Your kindness gave me strength and reminded me that good people still exist. Your support has inspired me to pay it forward."

New in April 2024, the Mobile Settlement Services program assisted youth and singles staying in shelters, hotels and other places outside the shelter system where there is limited or no staff capacity and/or expertise to support refugees with complex needs.

Our Mobile Team partnered with 7 different partner organizations throughout the GTA and visited 12 different locations on a monthly and sometimes weekly basis. The staff met with 372 individual clients in 2024 to provide services such as information about the refugee determination process, referrals to legal aid, referrals to employment services, and any other service pertaining to their settlement goals. Additionally, the team conducted monthly workshops covering topics such as Employment, Canadian Refugee Determination Process, Education and Housing Navigation. Once per month, staff held a webinar geared towards Service Providers to give them an introduction to the Refugee Determination Process in Canada.

This is a one-year program and will continue to service clients into Q1 of 2025.

2024 Mobile Settlement Program Partners:

- Covenant House
- Eva's Initiatives
- Salvation Army
- Homes First
- YSM Evergreen
- Toronto Plaza Hotel
- Sistering





Transitional Housing Program



The Transitional Housing Program at Sojourn House is a subsidized and RGI supportive housing program that houses participants for up to two years. This program helps newly arrived refugees facing settlement challenges and those that require longer-term support to integrate into the wider community. Sojourn House Transitional Housing Program collaborates with shelter and social service partners in the community to identify eligible candidates for program admission. These candidates may include families, single-parent households, single adults, and separated youth.

The Transitional Housing Program has a total of 52 furnished apartments. These apartments are grouped into 26 bachelor units for single occupants, 12 double bachelor units for single parents of one child, and 14 two-bedroom units for families of three or more. In 2024, we saw a continuation of a city-wide housing crisis and the average length of stay in the Transitional Housing program was 2.3 years.

In 2024, the Transitional Housing Program provided a secure haven for a total of 158 clients from 30 countries who had faced traumatic and life-threatening situations. Currently, the program offers various services to help these individuals and families integrate into the community through one-on-one case management, settlement counselling, housing assistance, referrals for daycare and schools, urgent physical and mental health care, guidance through the immigration process, and connections to community services.

The Transitional Housing Program prioritizes trauma-informed care to establish a secure setting and provide children and parents with various activities such as expressive arts, movie nights, various drop-in programs, social cooking for mothers, holiday events and different information sessions to assist in settlement. In 2024, our team provided a total of 61 programs for families and children. Staff prioritized clients' integration into the Toronto community by organizing outings to popular attractions such as the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), Riverdale Farm, Toronto Blue Jays Games, Cineplex Theatres, High Park, Woodbine Beach, and Niagara Falls.



**HOUSEHOLDS
SERVED**



158 RESIDENTS

37
FAMILY 2+

13
ADULTS

29
YOUTH

71
CHILDREN

11
LGBTQ+

9
BAIL



48
**PERMANENT
HOUSING**

30
**DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES**



Ethiopia 18%
Mexico 13%
Uganda 9%
Burundi 5%
Kenya 5%
DRC 4%
Nigeria 4%
India 2.5%

Afghanistan 2.5%
Bahamas 2.5%
Eritrea 2.5%
Gambia 2.5%
Georgia 2.5%
Rwanda 2.5%
Sierra Leone 2.5%
Other 15 nations 32%



Khadija's Story

My name is Khadija Saleh. I am originally from Somalia, however I grew up in a refugee camp in Kenya called Dadaab, where my ex-husband and I met started a family. We had four children, namely Fatuma, Habsa, Hamza and Safa. Unfortunately, due to medical conditions, we lost three of our children and are now left with only Safa. Experiencing the loss of our children was traumatic and left us feeling devastated. Luckily in January 2021, we got an opportunity to come to Canada for purposes of seeking medical care through the assistance of UNCHR.

Sadly, just a few months after our arrival in Toronto, we experienced a family breakdown, which resulted into the end of our marriage. My ex-husband left our home, leaving me and my child on our own. Shortly after, we had to leave the apartment because I couldn't afford to pay the rent with the income from Ontario Works. I reached out to my Ontario works case worker for help, and she advised me to call COSTI to seek shelter, and that's how I was referred to Sojourn House where I was warmly welcomed by the Manager, Andrea Herod and her team in March 2022.

While at the transitional housing program, my sense of belonging and safety was restored because I had the opportunity to be served by hardworking, and skilled staff who supported, and advocated, for me and my child. As a newcomer to Canada who had faced divorce, homelessness, and trauma, I had to engage with various institutions to seek services, which were quite intimidating. Thankfully, the assistance of the Manager and her staff at the Transitional Housing Program made it a lot easier for me.

Social Worker Matthew Myers was first assigned to work with me, and he supported me with accessing funds to buy a computer, enrolled me in school, and helped me to access daycare for my daughter. When Matthew left, Eelendri Govender was assigned to work with me, and she supported me with finding



a lawyer, who filed for my child custody. She also did an amazing job of facilitating communications between me and my lawyer and also accompanied me to my first family court session. When Eelendri left, Andrea ensured that there was no interruption in the assistance I received by stepping in to help, and then, she assigned Rose Kangabe to work with me last year, and since then I have worked very closely with Rose up until now as an outreach client. Rose supported all my communications with my lawyers, and accompanied me to all my court hearings, in addition she supported my interactions with other institutions such as the Toronto police, Ministry of children and youth, and Children's Aid Society. Most recently, she supported me with preparing for my online Canadian citizenship test, which I did and passed!

I remember one recent incident, when I learnt that my ex-husband had taken me to small claims court, because he wanted me to pay him 5000 Canadian dollars, which he had used to pay for our airfare from Kenya to Canada. Before I had the opportunity to respond in writing, the small claims court ordered my bank to garnish my income without notification and when I went to the bank there was no money in my bank account. When

I asked the bank staff, they explained to me what had happened. I ran to see Rose in her office while crying and told her what had happened. After she listened to me, she immediately called my lawyer who handled the situation, and I my funds were returned. I will never forget this experience, and how Sojourn House has been by my side through my most vulnerable encounters.

Today, I have full custody of my child Safa, I have my Canadian citizenship, and I am now permanently housed. I am also working on pursuing my post-secondary education in nursing. I am very thankful to the Manager of Transitional Housing who assigned me to work with staff who treated me with empathy, respect and most of all empowered me to become my best self.

Skills For Life Program

The Skills for Life program provides experiential support through interactive case management and utilizes anti-oppressive frameworks to provide refugee youth the necessary tools and knowledge to prepare them for living in Canada. The goal of this program is to build efficacy, address trauma and to ready young people for independent living through one-one services and group facilitation. Outcomes for the program aim to provide youth with life skills that support their transition to living independently and to obtain stable and secure housing.

There were 175 programs facilitated in 2024, which included workshops and outings. Topics included the Refugee Determination process, credit counselling, mental health, understanding media, employee rights, small business ownership, budgeting and housing. Outings included trips to the Canadian Auto Show, Comicon, WWE and the Cirque do Soleil. Many youth were able to experience their first sporting events in Canada such as The Toronto Raptors, The Toronto Football Club, The Toronto Argonauts and the Toronto Maple Leafs. The Skills for Life team met with a total of 188 youth, including outreach clients, to provide one-one case management services. Services included 148 Work Permit applications, 96 Permanent Resident applications, 54 Travel Documents

and 31 OSAP applications. 5 youth successfully moved into the community accessing private market housing, this underscores the continued challenges youth face in obtaining market rent apartments. Without housing benefits, many participants, even those with employment, remained beyond their time in the program as they faced economic challenges in securing housing. This is the biggest challenge for the program.

In late 2023, the Skills for Life program worked collaboratively with Ontario Works to provide all Sojourn House youth with a single caseworker that provides direct, on-site and continuous case management. In 2024, this proved to be a success as youth and their counsellors work directly with one case manager from the City of Toronto, which has increased the service quality and streamlined services.

Lastly, the Skills for Life program is thankful for working with the University of Toronto, Kids up Front, the Hospitality Training Centre, The Crossroads Clinic, IREACH, the Ontario Soccer Association and our many wonderful volunteer tutors who provided much needed support for our clients.



Darly's Story

My name is Darly. I'm from Colombia, and I arrived in Canada when I was 19 years old. Uncertainty weighed heavier than the backpack I carried. Still, I kept walking, even with my soul in pieces.

When I crossed the border into Canada, I didn't arrive empty-handed. I carried with me a long journey that had already left deep marks on my body and soul. I had just come out of brain surgery, but there was so much I hadn't processed yet—not just physically, but emotionally too. I felt alone, lost, without direction, carrying a deep internal wound. But something inside me—maybe God, maybe the love for my family, maybe the simple desire to stay alive—pushed me to seek help.

Crossing that border didn't just mean leaving a country behind. I was leaving behind my story, my language, my home, my family. But more than anything, I was leaving behind certainty. I arrived in a new place, completely alone. Cold, hungry, without documents, not speaking the language, my health still fragile... and my soul shattered. I didn't know if I had made the right decision. I just knew I had no other choice. That's how I found Sojourn House.

I remember arriving with only one suitcase, asking for someone named Jesus—someone I didn't know yet, but who would soon become like a father to me at Sojourn House. I was searching desperately for guidance, and that's exactly what I found. At first, I thought Sojourn would just be a shelter. But it was so much more. It became my first real home in Canada. It was the place where I could finally breathe again. At Sojourn, I found something unexpected: care. I found people who listened to me, took care of me, went with me to medical

appointments, helped with my immigration process, and taught me how to live in this new city. They taught me how to cook, how to trust again, how to dream again. They treated me like a daughter, a sister—like someone who deserved a new beginning.

I remember one special night around Christmas. Thurkka—someone I'm deeply grateful for—organized a beautiful activity. We were all in pajamas, decorating a gingerbread house, singing, laughing... and for a moment, I felt happy. I felt like a child again. It was one of the most beautiful moments I've lived since arriving.

At Sojourn, I met people who had also gone through difficult journeys. But we all shared one thing: the will to move forward. Despite all our differences, we became a family—those who lived there, and those who worked there. And that family, even now that I no longer live at Sojourn, is still part of me.

When life feels heavy, I go back. Because Sojourn House is still my home. It was there that I let my guard down for the first time in a long while. Where I could sleep peacefully, laugh without fear, cry without shame. Where I realized that others had lived through painful things too, but were still able to build, to dream, to live.

Thanks to that place, I regained something I had lost: faith in myself. Today, I live on my own. I have goals. I have dreams. I dream of studying, of growing, of hugging my brother, my grandmother, and my mother again. I dream of becoming a strong, free, and independent woman. But above all, I dream of being a voice for other girls like me. I want to tell them: yes, you can. You can be scared and still move forward. You can start over. You can

heal. You can have a life that is dignified, peaceful, and full of love.

Nothing has been easy, but today, I give thanks. Thanks to God. Thanks to life. Thanks to those who held me when I had nothing. Today, I have so much: hope, clarity, purpose... and a grateful heart. And with that, you can move mountains.



Health Clinic



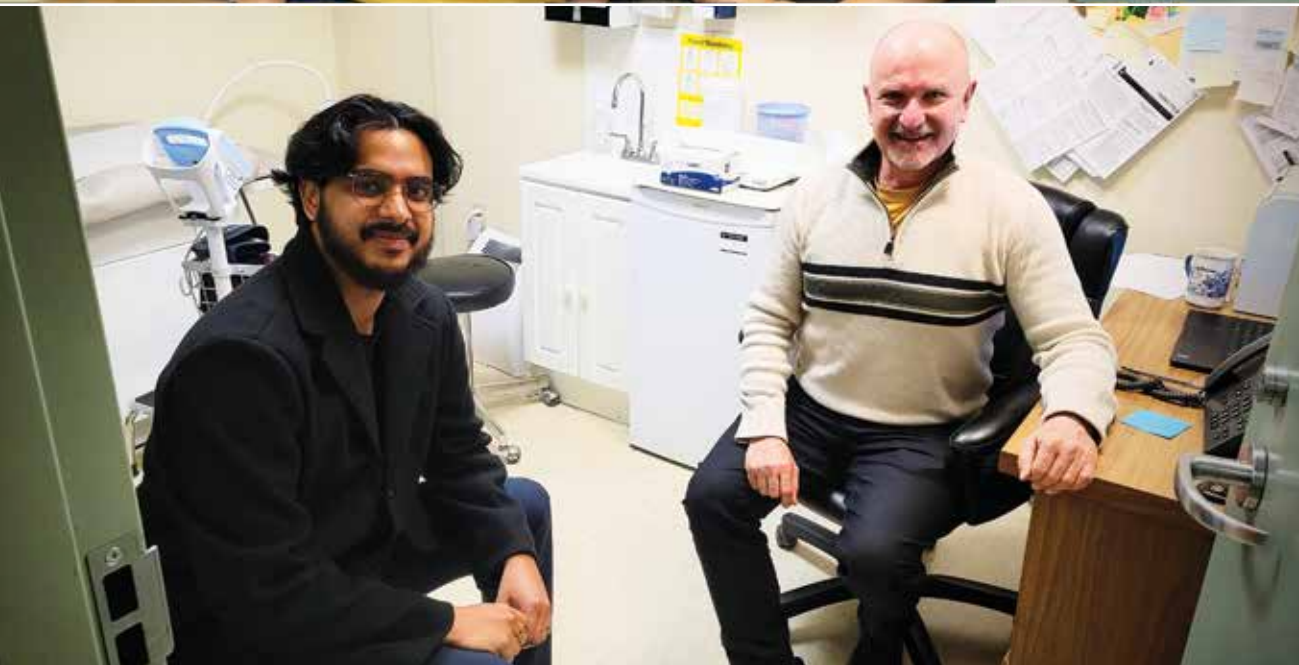
At Sojourn House, health and wellbeing are central to our holistic refugee support model. The individuals we serve face complex health challenges shaped by trauma, displacement, and social determinants of health—requiring coordinated, expert care.

Our inter-sectoral approach brings together settlement counsellors, community health partners, and our Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Lead, Mashfiq Sabit, CIC. Over the past year, Mashfiq managed 588 cases (62 staff, 526 clients), addressing respiratory, gastrointestinal, Varicella (chickenpox), and sexually transmitted infections. Through proactive outbreak management, we contained four outbreaks (COVID-19, flu, gastroenteritis, and chickenpox) and prevented an estimated 53 others. Mashfiq also leads health education, clinic operations, and collaboration with partners like Queen West Community Health Centre (QWCHC).

Our in-house clinic—staffed by Nurse Practitioner Vanessa Wright, DN, and Dr. Roy Male through our partnership with the Crossroads Clinic at Women's College Hospital and Regent Park CHC—delivered approximately 1,080 visits this year, supporting clients in our Bedded and Transitional Housing Programs.

To expand access, our partnership with QWCHC launched a nearby Advanced Access clinic for our Family Program in January 2024. Since then, 246 individuals (96 families) have been connected to primary care.

Refugee healthcare is not one-size-fits-all. It demands flexibility, cultural competence, and strong collaboration. Sojourn House remains committed to a model of care that is preventive, responsive, and rooted in dignity.





Facilities & Maintenance

At Sojourn House, our Facilities and Maintenance staff play a vital role in creating a welcoming and dignified environment for our refugee clients. Their dedication ensures that our spaces are not only clean and safe, but also thoughtfully maintained to reflect the respect and compassion at the heart of our mission. By fostering a sense of safety and stability, their work helps transform our facilities into a true temporary home—one where newcomers feel welcomed, supported, and valued from the moment they arrive.



Food Services

"Serving meals in newcomer shelters is a reflection of our deep compassion and unwavering commitment to supporting those starting a new chapter under challenging circumstances. Each meal is a meaningful gesture—nourishing the body while offering dignity, comfort, and a sense of hope to individuals as they rebuild their lives."

Since its founding in 1989, Sojourn House has remained steadfast in its mission to provide a safe, welcoming environment for thousands of asylum seekers—a place where individuals can spend their first night free from fear and persecution. At the heart of this mission is our Food Services Department, which plays an essential role in supporting residents as they begin rebuilding their lives in Canada.

Our department is made up of a committed and compassionate team, including two full-time cooks, two part-time weekend cooks and four part-time kitchen assistants. Each team member brings valuable experience, professional training, and a passion for food service in a shelter setting. Many of our staff also share lived experience as former refugees, lending a unique depth of empathy and cultural understanding to the care we provide.

We are proud to contribute to Sojourn House—not only because we are passionate about food, but because we believe in the organization's transformative impact. Supporting vulnerable individuals at such a pivotal time is both an honor and a shared purpose.

The Food Services Program is a cornerstone of daily operations at Sojourn House. Guided by the Canada Food Guide and Toronto Shelter Standards, our primary objective is to deliver healthy, meals, balanced nutrition, and culturally appropriate options to all residents.

While the demands of this work are significant, our team consistently meets them with resilience, teamwork, and a strong sense of purpose. Through every meal we serve, we are not only providing nourishment—we are fostering dignity, building community, and offering hope. We look forward to continuing this vital service and expanding our impact in the coming year.



SHELTER



376 MEALS
PER DAY
137,240 MEALS IN
THE YEAR

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING



413
MEALS IN
THE YEAR

FAMILY PROGRAM



1,000
MEALS IN
THE YEAR

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



92
MEALS IN
THE YEAR

Condensed Financial Statements 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Dec. 31, 2024	Dec. 31, 2023
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$ 3,464,535	\$ 2,540,596
Designated Cash	\$ 1,898,969	\$ 1,575,636
Guaranteed Investment Certificates	\$ 51,212	\$ 173,864
Designated Guaranteed Investment Certificates	\$ 434,786	\$ 551,936
Amounts Receivable	\$ 43,565	\$ 44,425
Due from City of Toronto	\$ 46,871	\$ 37,579
HST Rebate Recoverable	\$ 96,376	\$ 140,986
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 352,907	\$ 351,109
Total Current Assets	\$ 6,389,221	\$ 5,416,131
Capital Assets	\$ 7,973,104	\$ 8,255,292
TOTAL CURRENT AND FIXED ASSETS	\$ 14,362,325	\$ 13,671,423
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 913,067	\$ 1,025,486
Due to City of Toronto	\$ -	\$ -
Current Portion of Mortgages Payable	\$ 175,842	\$ 182,444
Deferred Contributions	\$ 358,853	\$ 334,812
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 1,447,762	\$ 1,542,742
Long-Term Liabilities:		
Long-Term Portion of Mortgages Payable	\$ 5,109,621	\$ 5,285,463
Deferred Capital Grant	\$ 1,789,980	\$ 1,878,980
Deferred Capital Donations	\$ 191,878	\$ 201,266
Deferred City of Toronto (HPS)	\$ 58,974	\$ 90,004
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 8,598,215	\$ 8,998,455
Net Assets:		
Designated		
Contingency	\$ 713,056	\$ 713,056
Mortgage Mandated	\$ 2,333,755	\$ 2,127,572
Facility	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -
Invested in Capital Assets	\$ 646,809	\$ 617,135
Unrestricted	\$ 1,070,490	\$ 1,215,205
Total Net Assets	\$ 5,764,110	\$ 4,672,968
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:	\$ 14,362,325	\$ 13,671,423

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



Condensed Financial Statements 2024

Years ended December 31

2024

2023

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

REVENUE:

Government Funding	\$ 11,059,878	\$ 10,469,425
Donations and Other Revenue	\$ 464,836	\$ 493,905
Total Revenues	\$ 11,524,714	\$ 10,963,330

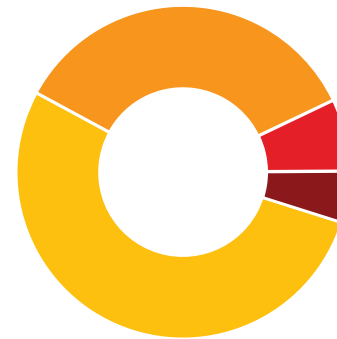
EXPENSES:

Programs	\$ 5,537,670	\$ 5,237,348
Rent	\$ 3,689,112	\$ 3,552,564
Building	\$ 790,532	\$ 1,482,651
Administration	\$ 512,617	\$ 304,107
Total Expenses	\$ 10,529,931	\$ 10,576,670

Excess of revenue over expenses before non-operating revenues and expenses	\$ 994,783	\$ 386,660
Non-operating revenues and expenses:		
SCPI capital grant recognized	\$ 89,000	\$ 89,000
Investment income	\$ 289,547	\$ 226,515
Amortization	\$ (282,188)	\$ (306,887)

EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	\$ 1,091,142	\$ 395,288
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TOTAL EXPENSES



- Programs - 53%
- Rent - 35%
- Building - 7%
- Administrative - 5%

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 4,670,568
Rent	\$ 3,689,112
Food	\$ 764,230
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 351,064
Utilities	\$ 293,919
Office and General	\$ 209,450
Consultants	\$ 198,471
Interest	\$ 145,549
Refugee Support	\$ 88,691
Professional Fees	\$ 54,174
Telephone	\$ 50,522
Transportation	\$ 14,181

PROGRAM EXPENSES - \$5,537,670



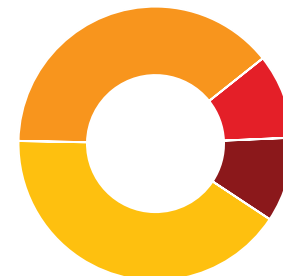
- Salaries and Benefits - 83%
- Food - 14%
- Refugee Support - 2%
- Transportation - 1%

BUILDING EXPENSES - \$790,532



- Repairs and Maintenance - 45%
- Utilities - 37%
- Interest - 18%

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES - \$512,617



- Office and General - 41%
- Consultants - 39%
- Telephone - 10%
- Professional Fees - 10%



SOJOURN HOUSE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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