

If this information is required in an accessible format please contact 1-800-372-1102 x 2760



The Diversity and Immigration Program at the Region of Durham co-sponsored two information sessions for people interested in privately sponsoring refugees to Durham (in March and late September, 2015). To facilitate ongoing information sharing, an email distribution list was developed. This email distribution list is for information sharing. We are not experts in immigration law or in the resettlement of refugees but we can put people in touch with other people who are. We are not supporting any one agency, organization or policy over another, we are, however, hoping to share the most current information we have with others who are interested in local private sponsorship initiatives. If you would like to receive these monthly email updates, please [email Diversity and Immigration staff \(ldipc@durham.ca\)](mailto:ldipc@durham.ca).

## Local Sponsorship Initiatives

There are a number of local private-sponsorship initiatives happening in Durham. They are all at various stages in their progression through the process. If you are interested in getting involved in any of these initiatives, please contact them directly.

**Ajax:** St. Bernadette's Roman Catholic Church is expecting a family in the near future. For more information you can contact them at [secretary.stbernadettes@hotmail.com](mailto:secretary.stbernadettes@hotmail.com).

**Ajax Falby Initiative:** The contact for this Group of Five initiative is Wayne Hingston, [w2hingston@yahoo.ca](mailto:w2hingston@yahoo.ca). The group is open to volunteers and donations are warmly welcomed.

**Bowmanville:** St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church is in the process of sponsoring a Syrian family of seven to live in the area. The committee is working with the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Peterborough SAH. Contacts are: [HedyGadd@hotmail.com](mailto:HedyGadd@hotmail.com) or [deaconaidanmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:deaconaidanmurphy@gmail.com)

**Courtice:** This group is based out of Hope Fellowship Church and includes members of the Hope congregation, other local church members and members of the local community. They are working through the World Renew SAH. Contact: [refsponsorcourtice@gmail.com](mailto:refsponsorcourtice@gmail.com).

**Hebron Christian Reformed Church of Whitby** has one family application in. They are now working on the second family. They have a growing committee with 11 members. For more information you can contact John Fayer through the Hebron's office: [office@hebronchurch.ca](mailto:office@hebronchurch.ca)

**Islamic Centre of Clarington:** The ICC is in the process of completing their paperwork. They are working with the Islamic Foundation of Toronto SAH. If you're interested in this initiative or in getting in touch with the Courtice Mosque, email [info@islamiccentreofclarington.org](mailto:info@islamiccentreofclarington.org).

**Islamic Centre of Oshawa:** The ICO has established an organizing committee to lead this initiative. It includes men and women, Muslim and non-Muslim, with skills, energy and empathy. The ICO is also working through the Islamic Foundation of Toronto SAH. The ICO recently hosted an extremely interesting introduction to the Mosque and to Islam for over two dozen members of Clarington sponsoring groups. To get in touch with the ICO, please email [info@oshawamosque.com](mailto:info@oshawamosque.com).

**New Beginnings Interfaith Refugee Support Group in Pickering:** The contact is Jane Stone, [nbirsg@gmail.com](mailto:nbirsg@gmail.com). Dunbarton Fairport United Church is partnering with the Pickering Islamic Centre and Pickering Village United Church to bring two brothers from Eritrea to Pickering. This initiative has been working with the United Church SAH.

**Newcastle:** The contact is Rex Pattison [rex.pattison@rogers.com](mailto:rex.pattison@rogers.com). The St. Francis Family Settlement Committee is based in Newcastle. This group is working with The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Peterborough SAH.

**Newcastle Refugee Settlement Group:** This second Newcastle is just forming. They are hoping to expand their volunteer base. Please contact them at [newcastlerefugees@gmail.com](mailto:newcastlerefugees@gmail.com).

**Oakridge Outreach:** This group is based in Uxbridge and are working with Lifeline Syria and a local Durham family to bring extended family members to Durham. Oakridge Outreach is looking for a charitable sponsor in order to facilitate fundraising tax receipts. The group has a business bank account and a book keeper in place. If you are able to offer support to the group, please contact them at [www.oakridgeoutreach.org](http://www.oakridgeoutreach.org)

**Orono:** The Orono group will be sponsoring one family and are working through Anglican United Refugee Alliance (AURA) SAH. They are still looking for additional funds and volunteers. Please contact Stan Squires, [stan\\_squires@hotmail.com](mailto:stan_squires@hotmail.com). The group is on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/oronoandcommunitysyrianrefugeefund/](http://www.facebook.com/oronoandcommunitysyrianrefugeefund/) and you can donate online at <http://oronoandcommunitysyrianrefugeefund.myevent.com>.

**Oshawa / Uxbridge:** Presbytery of Pickering. A number of churches affiliated with the Presbytery of Pickering in Oshawa and Uxbridge are involved in sponsoring five families to come to Durham – some may arrive as early as the end of this year! To donate to local sponsorship efforts, call St. Andrew's-Chalmers at 905-852-6262 or St. Paul's Leaskdale at 905-852-5921.

**Oshawa Syria Refugee Alliance:** The contact email is [contact@oshawasra.org](mailto:contact@oshawasra.org). This group has a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/OshawaSyrianRefugeeAlliance/](http://www.facebook.com/OshawaSyrianRefugeeAlliance/). Their website is <http://oshawasra.org>.

**Port Perry Refugee Support Group:** The contact is [brent.stiller@sympatico.ca](mailto:brent.stiller@sympatico.ca) . You can find out more about this initiative online at [www.newsongportperry.ca/2015/10/06/join-the-port-perry-movement-to-help-refugees](http://www.newsongportperry.ca/2015/10/06/join-the-port-perry-movement-to-help-refugees).

**Ripple Effect in Uxbridge:** To donate to Ripple Effect and the Syrian refugees visit [www.trinityuxbridge.com/refugee.html](http://www.trinityuxbridge.com/refugee.html) or e-mail [jwrippleeffect@gmail.com](mailto:jwrippleeffect@gmail.com) for other ways to help.

## Local Resources

### Durham Immigration Portal:

The [Durham Immigration Portal](http://www.durhamimmigration.ca) ([www.durhamimmigration.ca](http://www.durhamimmigration.ca)) is a useful website to share with your families before they arrive as it will give them information on what to expect when they get to Durham. Information on the site is aimed at newcomers, people who are planning to come to Durham and those who are supporting them or provide services to newcomers. The website can be translated using the Google translate button at the top of the page. See the [refugee page of the Portal](#) ([www.durhamimmigration.ca/creating%20community/refugees/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.durhamimmigration.ca/creating%20community/refugees/Pages/default.aspx)) for links for information on sponsoring refugees.

### Welcome Centres:

One of the best sources of support to the refugee families coming to Durham Region will be the staff at the Welcome Centres and through the Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) program. The professional settlement staff at the Welcome Centres speak dozens of languages (literally!) and are funded by both the federal and provincial governments to provide information, training and resource to newcomers. For more information, visit the [Welcome Centres website](http://www.welcomecentre.ca/index.html) ([www.welcomecentre.ca/index.html](http://www.welcomecentre.ca/index.html)).

If you know of another initiative that would benefit from being on this list and sharing information, please [email Diversity and Immigration staff \(ldipc@durham.ca\)](mailto:ldipc@durham.ca).

Finally, if you are in touch with a family in Durham who may have extended family overseas who are displaced and are recognized as refugees, please encourage them to get in touch with one of the local initiatives or an existing [Sponsorship Agreement Holder \(SAH\) organization](#) ([www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/list-sponsors.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/list-sponsors.asp)) as they may be able to help them to expedite the process of resettlement in Canada.

Thank you.