



WHAT'S NEW AT PROJECT ABRAHAM

Sewing Change

Mary Curran became involved in the work of Project Abraham through her friend, Deb Glatter, a member of Project Abraham's Board of Directors: "She asked if I could get my hands on a few machines."



Mary took up quilting after retiring from her job as a University of Ottawa librarian and moving to Sarnia. Her initial call to fellow members of the Sarnia Quilt Guild and London Modern Quilt Guild yielded seven donations. Since 2020, thirty-one sewing machines have been donated, mostly by sewers who were looking to upgrade their equipment. Used machines have to be in good shape to be donated because the cost of repairing them is too steep. If they do not come with an instruction manual, Mary will try to find one online. Once she has collected a few machines, Mary makes arrangements to deliver them to Deb at a meeting point between Sarnia and Toronto. Deb then drops them off with Debbie Rose for distribution to the women who have requested them.

Thanks to this initiative, one Yezidi woman is now earning money sewing for other people. Project Abraham is considering organizing a sewing business workshop series in hopes that it might develop into a group sewing business for Yezidi women.

Mary says that "Sewing machines are expensive, so people like to know that if they are giving them away, they're going to a good purpose. If a person is a sewer, they appreciate the value of the machine. It isn't a hard sell."

Our vision is to become the leading resettlement organization supporting victims of persecution, empowering them to create a future for themselves and their children as fully integrated Canadian citizens.

Donations are gratefully accepted: [projectabraham/donate](https://projectabraham.org/donate)

Donations on Wheels

When Debbie Rose, Executive Director, asked David Taylor for help finding bicycles for Yezidi kids, he asked a friend with a wide social media network to post a request for donations. That initial request yielded three or four used bicycles. David solicited funds from friends and local bike shops to cover the cost of repairs. In 2023, a total of seven bicycles have been donated to Yezidi children up to the age of fifteen and another bike drive is in the planning stages.



David volunteered to work with Project Abraham after seeing the 2022 documentary, “Angels of Sinjar,” about two Yezidi survivors of the ISIS attack and a young woman’s mission to rescue her abducted sisters. He owns and operates his own website development business and enjoys being part of a local project “where I can tell things are done effectively.”

If you have bicycles you would like to donate this project, please contact David at dftsystems@gmail.com

Project Abraham values the work of its volunteers and thanks David and Mary – and all of our amazing volunteers - for the incredible work you have done in improving the lives of our Yezidi community.

If you would like to volunteer, we have opportunities with tutoring, leadership, settlement support work, fundraising, social media, community connection events and so much more.

Please contact Debbie debbierose@projectabraham.ca

Ride for Refuge – Saturday, September 23, 2023

Mark Your Calendar!



Project Abraham is excited to be part of Ride for Refuge 2023. Ride for Refuge is a family-friendly fundraising bike + walk in support of local charities serving people seeking hope, safety, and freedom.

You can help by choosing to walk, bike, or do a fundraising activity you love.

For details, see www.rideforrefuge.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Seeking Board of Directors Members

Project Abraham's mission is to provide aid and assistance to refugees and immigrants in need that are victims of war, persecution, unfair discrimination, or natural disasters by providing settlement services, education, counselling, and other support services for immigrants and refugees in need, including language instruction, employment training, job search programs, translation services, referral services, and information programs on Canadian culture and life.

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Position Description

Project Abraham is seeking passionate and committed individuals to join our board of directors as volunteers. We are seeking new board members to advise and provide governance to the charity. As a board member, you will have the opportunity to make a meaningful impact in the refugee community and contribute to the strategic direction of the organization.

Responsibilities

- Attend monthly board meetings and actively participate in discussions and decision-making processes (10 meetings per year ~ 1:30 hours each meeting)
- Contribute to the development and implementation of the organization's strategic plan
- Help to identify and secure funding opportunities to support the organization's mission
- Participate in fundraising activities and assist in organizing events and initiatives
- Act as an ambassador for the organization and help to raise awareness of its mission and activities
- Ensure that the organization is operating in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations
- Serve on 1 to 2 committees of the board and special projects as required
- Act as an advisor to the senior staff team as required
- Make an annual personal donation to support the organization

Qualifications

- Strong commitment and understanding of refugee issues
- Knowledge and experience in one of the following areas preferred: finance, human resources, fundraising, communications, data analytics, IT management or charity management
- Previous experience in a board or leadership role is preferred but not required
- Excellent communication, interpersonal, and problem-solving skills
- Ability to work collaboratively with a diverse group of stakeholders
- Flexibility and willingness to learn and adapt to changing circumstances
- Availability to attend monthly board meetings and participate in occasional events and activities

To Apply:

Please submit a cover letter and resume expressing your interest in our organization, to Debbie Rose debbierose@projectabraham.ca with the subject line "Board of Directors Application".

We thank all applicants for their interest, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.