

Project ABRAHAM



RESETTLEMENT & SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF PERSECUTION

September 2023

ISSUE 16



Toronto Midtown

Hosted by Project Abraham

30 8 1 2
participants teams volunteers days left

What moves you? The Ride for Refuge, a family-friendly fundraising bike + walk in support of local charities serving people seeking hope, safety, and freedom. Join us Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023!

RIDE Toronto Midtown 2023 – Saturday September 23rd

We're 91% of the way to our goal with under 2 days left. Please help us raise the last \$1,900!

How can you help? Walk, ride, volunteer!

Our goal is to raise \$22,000 to support Project Abraham's resettlement programs and services for Yezidi and other refugee communities in Canada.

One of our team captains, Joan Reynolds, is a retired ESL professor and adult education program administrator, and is walking 5k along with her son. She decided to participate after she was approached from a friend who requested a donation. Although Joan is new to organizing a team of walkers and runners for a fundraising event, she is a long-time ally to the cause of bringing hope, safety, and freedom to refugees. Together with a group of neighbours and friends, she has been involved in sponsoring 30 refugee families from various countries, including Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Syria. Joan and her group raised the money to pay for housing as well as a monthly allowance for up to a year.

Joan is our top fundraiser having raised over \$5,000 with her team of five. She hopes to meet members of the Yezidi community on RIDE day: "It would be a privilege to meet them. Their resolve and commitment to starting a new life in Canada is inspiring."

To sign up to participate or donate, please check out:

<https://rideforrefuge.org/location/torontomidtown>

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

Finding the Funds for a Family in Need

Thanks to the persistence and resourcefulness of our Client Support Coordinator, Varun Midha, one of our clients now has a life-changing new electric wheelchair. Varun had to turn to a variety of sources to find the \$30,000 required to pay for the device. Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) agreed to cover the basic cost of the wheelchair (\$25,000) as prescribed by the client's doctor. For the extra features his client needed, such as elevation capability and a light, Varun applied to the Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy which approved a grant of \$3,000 toward the cost of the wheelchair. The remainder was raised through Varun's great negotiating skills!



Kayvan, a student, is very happy with the wheelchair because it will enable him to get out of the house for the first time in two and a half years and attend his high school classes in person. He looks forward to socializing with people and meeting others with disabilities similar to his. The wheelchair will also relieve the client's mother of the physical challenge of moving her son herself.



Varun, who comes from a refugee family and speaks four languages in addition to English (Farsi, Dari, Pashto, and Urdu), joined Project Abraham in December 2022. He previously worked as a social worker for Costi Immigration Service and the Scarborough Health Network. He said it took some time to build a case management and needs assessment system, but "the teamwork and support of Project Abraham's management made it easier." He recently helped another client to obtain the documentation required to send her child to school. The child had been held back for 18 months but with Varun's assistance, he was enrolled in school within three weeks.

Project Abraham provides settlement services, education, counselling, and other support services for immigrants and refugees in need.

Shoe Giveaway Day

On July 3rd, Project Abraham received a donation of 300 high-end shoes and built a community event around it. Eighty percent of the shoes were women's and 20 percent were men's. The family event was held at the Bayview Hill Community Centre (Spadina Road, Richmond Hill) on July 3rd. There was pizza, a musician, and games for the kids. More than 90 people attended, including many Yezidis and other clients. We were also delighted to be joined by volunteers – many of whom we hadn't seen since before the pandemic.



By the end of the day, all the shoes were gone, and we had many satisfied customers. Project Abraham thanks Stan Chikh for his generous gift to our organization as well as all volunteers and staff who made this wonderful day possible.



Join the team at Project Abraham! [projectabraham/volunteer](https://projectabraham.org/volunteer)