



## We Exceeded Our Goal!

### Ride for Refuge Midtown Toronto – September 23, 2023



Project Abraham would like to thank Board member, Deborah Glatter, who organized the event, and all those who helped us exceed not only our original goal of \$20,000 but also our revised goal of \$22,000. We raised \$24,416 in total!

Greg Bender, who co-captained Team Glenview with his wife, Kalla, had this to say about the event: "What a beautiful day and way to embrace the first day of Fall with a 5k walk (and some 10k bikers) in support of Project Abraham and the Ride for Refuge. The charity exceeded its overall fundraising goals in excess of \$20,000, with Team Glenview as strong supporters. So, one last hearty thank you to all participants, cheerers, donators, and volunteers.

I had both the privilege and self-imposed responsibility of walking with and trying to "keep up" with Dany - a nine-year-old boy, eldest of three children of a young Yezidi family. As you can likely imagine from my "keep up" reference, it was heartwarming to chat with Dany as a well-adjusted, curious, smart, and energetic going concern. We talked sports (soccer is his favourite), school (he wants to be smart like Albert Einstein), and Terry Fox (he knew he ran a marathon each day on one leg to raise money for cancer research). Needless to say, it became our goal to complete the 5K in first place, thankfully charged up by the protein bar from our mid-station volunteers, Janis and Russ, pictured in slide #2 above, with Team Captains, Greg and Kalla.

Thank you, Deborah, for getting us all involved - an amazing way to see our contributions having a direct impact!"

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*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/donate)



# Pot-luck Picnic

Richmond Green Sports Centre & Park, Richmond Hill – July 29, 2023



Our Yezidi families don't let a little rain spoil their fun. On July 29th, approximately 50 people attended our afternoon pot-luck picnic at Richmond Green Sports Centre & Park. A pavilion and tents provided shelter and seating for all.



Even though our planned soccer tournament was rained out, the kids played ring toss and other games and competed for prizes. Aimee Nikmard, Project Abraham Administrator, reports that what made the event a success was “the companionship, people having fun, and the children talking to one another.”



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



# Meet the Team at Project Abraham

## Trudi Rutherford, Project Manager

Trudi came onboard in 2022 with more than 15 years of experience as a training manager. Her educational background is in psychology, career counselling, and curriculum design. Trudi's primary focus is on creating systems to improve the day-to-day operation of the Homework Club and the YES! Programs. She is currently working with a data and evaluation analyst to develop assessment tools as well as methods for measuring the impact of the YES! Program on students' further education and employment.

Trudi says that one of the most rewarding aspects of her job has been getting to know Yezidi people: "There's a lot to learn. They're such a lovely people and they really want to move forward. The kids are full of optimism." It has also been satisfying for Trudi to oversee the implementation of ideas and strategies that improve the efficiency of the programs: "Having systems in place to make the work easier frees people up to be creative."



Going forward, Trudi would like to help to address the mental health and wellness needs of the community. There is usually a long waitlist for traditional therapy or counseling, and it doesn't always work. "It doesn't fit with some of their beliefs," Trudi says: "There's a stigma to it. Canada is supposed to be giving you a better life. Refugees feel bad about feeling badly and don't want to tell anyone that they feel that way. We need to find different ways to engage them and to form that trust and that bond."