

KINBRACE ANNUAL REPORT

2015-2016

a **deeper** and **wider** welcome for refugee claimants



Photo: Mark Janousek

"In the year the world woke up to the plight of millions of refugees and asylum seekers, we are deeply grateful to have exceeded our strategic and programmatic goals. Building on Kinbrace's 18 year history of welcoming refugee claimants, we reached more individuals than ever this year, and supported them more fully through the challenging experience of accessing refugee protection."

–Beth Glick, Chairperson, Board of Directors

HOUSING



GOAL

Refugee claimants arriving in Metro Vancouver receive transitional and permanent housing.



STATS

Over 1000 refugee claimants arrived in Metro Vancouver this year. Twenty-five moved from homelessness into Kinbrace's transitional housing, and 24 moved from Kinbrace into permanent housing.



QUOTE

"Our family arrived in Canada exhausted, uncertain of where to live and what faced us. Kinbrace was our first home, and a family we return to."

–Salima* mother of 2



UNIQUE FACT

Refugee claimants live 3-6 months in self-contained, private units at Kinbrace, surrounded by a community of support and friendship.



Photo: Andrea Armstrong

Tatum McLeod, a live-in volunteer and full-time graduate student, welcomed new families arriving at Kinbrace, and was soon adopted into their lives.



WIDER

In March 2016, the Board of Directors identified the securing of affordable housing for refugees moving from Kinbrace a key priority action in the low-vacancy, high-cost rental housing market.

INTEGRATION



GOAL

Refugee claimants living at Kinbrace integrate into Canadian systems while building formative new friendships.



STATS

60 home-made meals serving an average of 35 people per meal were cooked and served by residents, staff, neighbours, and volunteers.



QUOTE

"Only when I moved from Kinbrace did I realize how much I benefitted from living in this community. The pressures and headaches of being a refugee were minimized living with others whom I could talk to anytime about questions or challenges I was facing."

–Melkamu



Photo: Tatum McLeod

Melkamu, with Loren Balisky.



UNIQUE FACT

Family separation is a tremendous heartache for refugee claimants. Of the 49 people who lived at Kinbrace during the year, 12 additional family members (8 children, 4 partners) remained overseas awaiting family reunification.



DEEPER

New partnerships, like with St. John's Vancouver Church, increased the housing, employment, education, and friendship opportunities for people moving from Kinbrace.

WELLNESS



GOAL

Refugee claimants experience resilience, healing, and mental well-being in the context of a supportive community.



STATS

Research shows that the majority of mental health services offered to refugee claimants are insufficient because of a lack of financial resources and lack of adequately trained staff.



QUOTE

"Like all refugees, we left everything behind. It was a very tough and stressful situation. We felt no hope for the future and were badly depressed. Through counselling, we learned skills to manage our stress and anxiety and to cope with our depression. The spark of hope was re-ignited in our lives."

—Khalid*



UNIQUE FACT

Our Wellness Program is the first of its kind in Canada. It is the only community-based mental health program offered to refugee claimants in a supportive transitional housing context.



DEEPER

"For years, we've simply coped in the dark cloud of trauma and stress that accompanies the refugee experience. Now, tears still flow and sleeplessness remains a reality, but the positive response to counselling and care brings light to our community. I've personally felt the difference living at Kinbrace."

—Loren Balisky, co-founder and Executive Director



Photo: Mark Janousek

Children's resilient adaptability can be a strength to parents during the refugee experience; the wellness of parents helps children integrate more readily.

ACCESS TO REFUGEE PROTECTION



GOAL

Refugee claimants across Canada experience orientation to the refugee determination system.



STATS

This year, over 3000 refugee claimants accessed the new Refugee Hearing Preparation (RHP) Guide, made available in 10 languages and adapted to Canada's 6 refugee determination centres. Last year, 500 refugee claimants accessed the RHP Guide in 4 languages in 2 centres.



QUOTE

"Thank you for lessening the fear, trauma and unknowns about the refugee determination process I'm going through. I was looking for answers to my questions and found them at the READY Tour."

—READY Tour participant



UNIQUE FACT

In January 2016, Kinbrace signed an Implementing Partnership Agreement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to monitor conditions of detention for refugee claimants and others in BC.



Photo: Mark Janousek

Fran Gallo, READY Tour Coordinator (centre), collaborated with Tony Bernardo (left), Bridget Bell (right) and others of the IRB-RPD to host 32 READY Tours for 275 participants in Metro Vancouver.



WIDER

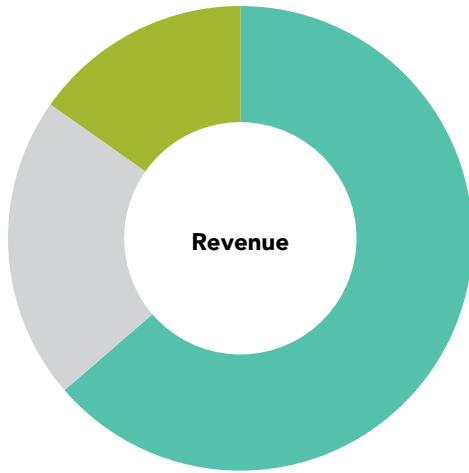
The READY Tour program, launched in 2008 in Metro Vancouver by Kinbrace, the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada - Refugee Protection Division (IRB-RPD), and the UNHCR, is now available to refugee claimants in Canada's 6 refugee determination centres (Montreal 2013, Toronto 2014, and Edmonton, Calgary, and Winnipeg 2016).

* names changed

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

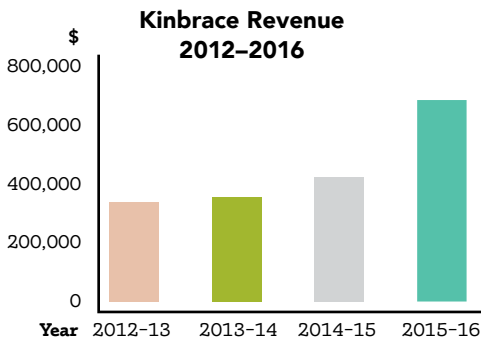
2015-2016

gratitude for our **donors** and **partners**



- 64%** Charities (foundations, churches, etc) \$431,529
- 21%** Individual and Major Donors \$143,148
- 15%** Other \$103,196

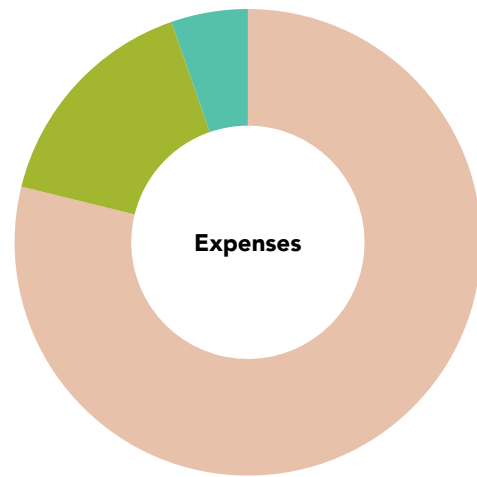
Total	\$677,873*
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* Increased revenue provided the Board of Directors strategic opportunity to establish the Kinbrace Contingency Fund.

"Your generosity and trust energized Kinbrace's welcome to refugee claimants, promoting a deeper and wider response in their time of vulnerability. Thank you for your tremendous care and commitment that ignited hope in and opportunity for people seeking refugee protection in Canada."

—Loren Balisky, Executive Director



- 79%** Programs \$397,278
- 16%** Administration \$79,898
- 5%** Resource Development \$26,744

Total	\$503,920
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Audited Financial Statements are available upon request.
Our Fiscal Year is 01 May – 30 April.



kinbrace.ca

The Kinbrace community welcomes refugee claimants with housing, education, and support.

Kinbrace Community Society (Charity # 80276 4209 RR0001)

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