




Photo: Mark Jarousek



"We left everything behind. Everything. We didn't know what faced us next. Now we have found a new family and new home. Thank you." –Diego*

* name changed to protect identity

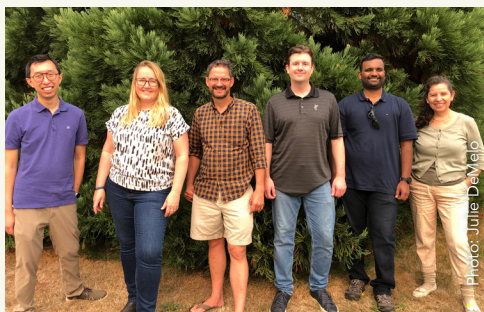
Thank you for supporting refugee claimants through Kinbrace

MISSION

As part of the Kinbrace community, you welcome refugee claimants with housing, education, and support.

HISTORY

Founded in 1998, Kinbrace launched as BC's first dedicated housing provider for people seeking refugee protection. What began as (and still is) a neighbourhood welcome in east Vancouver, the Kinbrace community now contributes to the welcome of refugee claimants across Canada. Thanks to your generosity and the visionary support of others, refugee claimants experience a world of welcome, a community of belonging, and a life of opportunity.



2019–2020 Staff (L–R) Derek Chu, Laura Wallis-Wood, Loren Balisky, Ryan Reid, Ebenezer Joshua, Adriana Zepeda (absent from photo: Emily Volkenant, Anika Barlow, Fran Gallo, Emily Parsons-Dickau)


CORE VALUES

Core values define who we are, and increasingly seek to become.



2019–2020 Host (permanent, welcoming) Community (L–R) Sofia Paco, Anika Barlow, Emily, Otto, Rhys, & Max Volkenant.

Welcome – we are in solidarity
Trust – we are a community
Mutual Transformation – we are diverse
Celebration – we are grateful
Prayer – we are sojourners



"The Kinbrace community's welcome didn't just meet my desperate need for housing. I discovered help at every level from food basics when I first arrived, to assistance with paperwork, to companionship and friendship." –Tariq*

"My READY Tour was an excellent opportunity to learn about the refugee hearing process, thank you." –Suufia*

** names changed to protect identity*

The impact achieved through your support



HOUSING

39

refugee claimants moved from homelessness to permanent housing



COMMUNITY BUILDING

~1380

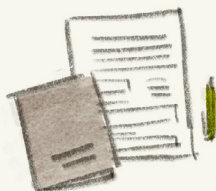
meals shared across the table in many languages



INTEGRATION

46

newcomers received comprehensive integration support



ACCESSING REFUGEE PROTECTION

571

refugee claimants attended the Vancouver READY Tour

Your support helped refugee claimants be better prepared for their hearings. Learn more: [Vancouver READY Tours and Refugee Claimant Hearing Readiness: Impact and Learnings.](#)



Our story of arrival to Kinbrace

"Canada was an unknown country to us. When we arrived for refugee help, we knew no one. After finishing a long day with Canada border people, we were told to go to a hotel. It was so expensive. The next day was the worst day. We didn't know where to go or what to do or where we could find halal food. We had no Canadian money. Leaving our two little children in the hotel, we walked 45 minutes to find a shop to change currency. The shopkeeper helped us to find a bus to travel back to the hotel. After three nights in the hotel we were running out of money and desperately needed help. I thanked Allah that, even though we were so alone, he is with us. Everyday, every hour, we phoned shelters for help. Finally, a kind woman from a shelter gave us stay for 10 days. A taxi driver took us to the shelter, and when we tried to pay, he said "You do not need to pay." We were so thankful.

While we were in the shelter, we were told some people would help us find a house. We were scared. Would they be men or women? Would we be able to speak freely with them and tell them our situation? After a long time waiting, three ladies arrived from "Kinbrace." My first fear was gone because they were gentle and polite and we could easily talk with them.

But then we faced a hard decision. It's very difficult to trust unknown people in a new country because you don't know their language, their culture,

their habits. As Muslims, we had never lived with non-Muslims. But we were excited about the affordable rent. And the people were kind. In our short time, we learned Vancouver is an expensive city, especially the rent. So we decided to take this low rent option with people who seemed to have good behaviour.

Before moving into Kinbrace, we were not expecting all the good things we received. We didn't think Canadians would help us, but they not only helped us with material things, they took away our loneliness. After several months living in the Kinbrace apartment, we moved to our new home which we are so thankful for. We really like it when people come and visit us!"



Adhan, with his family, welcomed Kinbrace staff (L-R) Derek, Adriana, Fran, and Ryan to their new home after moving from Kinbrace in July 2019.

Covid-19 emergency response



The COVID-19 pandemic struck mid-March 2020. It shut down critical supports for refugee claimants in the last 6 weeks of Kinbrace's fiscal year.

~~Community meals~~

~~READY
Tours~~

~~Volunteer
help~~

~~Staff
on site~~

~~Refugee
hearings~~

~~Handshakes,
hugs~~

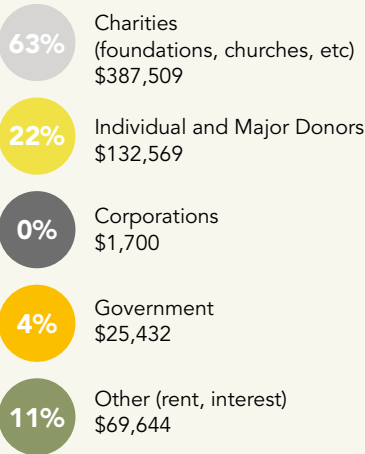
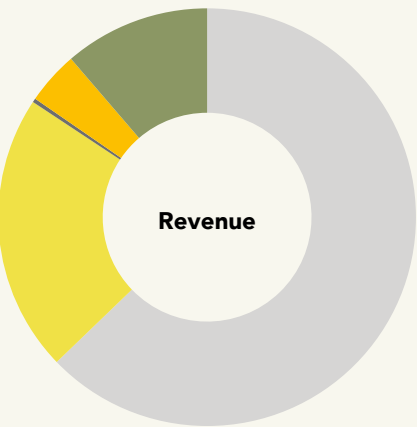
~~Visits to
Kinbrace~~

Your generous and immediate response to the COVID-19 lock-down complemented the resilience of refugee claimants, who received gift cards, technology, food donations and more with gratitude.

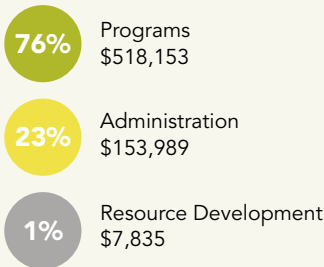
Financials

2019 – 2020

Your contribution builds a world of welcome, a community of belonging, and a life of opportunity for and with people seeking refugee protection. Your investment means newcomers flourish within their communities.



Total	\$616,854
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Total	\$679,977
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Kinbrace's fiscal year is May–April.

Message from the Board

As the number of forcibly displaced people in our world grew to a record 79.5 million by the end of 2019, you contributed to the welcome of an unprecedented 64,050 refugee claimants arriving in Canada. The Kinbrace Board of Directors optimized Kinbrace's strengths by developing a co-leadership team and articulating a 10-year strategic vision which we're excited to share with you here:

2020–2030 Strategic Vision

*Inspiring transformative communities
where refugee claimants and Canadians
flourish together.*

Stepping into this strategic vision, we invite you to contact us to learn more and bring your experience and passion to fulfill this vision.



2019-2020 Kinbrace Board of Directors with Derek Chu (Director of Operations) and Loren Balisky (Director of Engagement)



REFUGEE HOUSING & SUPPORT

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Kinbrace Community Society is incorporated in
British Columbia (S0058365) and charitably registered
by Canada Revenue Agency (80276 4209 RR0001).

kinbrace.ca