



Photo: Cass Ewen

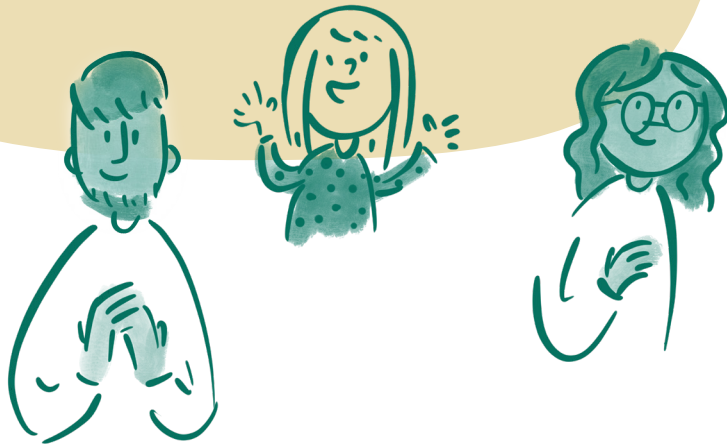
Your support and presence with refugee claimants brings change through Kinbrace.

Thank you!

From 1998 till now, the Kinbrace community remains committed to welcoming refugee claimants with housing, education, and support.

Our shared dream for each refugee claimant is a world of welcome, a community of belonging, a life of opportunity.

People with lived refugee claimant experience, donors, volunteers, neighbours, staff – everyone who forms the Kinbrace community – lean into the five core values of Welcome, Trust, Mutual Transformation, Celebration, & Prayer. Our values are who we are. They are who we want to become.



Message from the Board of Directors

Refugee claimants are at the heart of the Kinbrace community's mandate.

Forcibly displaced people – including asylum seekers (whom we call refugee claimants in Canada) – have grown in number this year to an unprecedented 100+ million globally. Just two years ago, this number was 82 million.

The restricted movement of people caused by COVID-19 pandemic border closures resulted in persecuted people unable to move toward safety. When Canada reopened its border with the United States in November 2021, and global travel began resuming, people in desperate need began to move. For context, between Jan–Aug 2021 approximately 1500 people entered Canada each month seeking asylum. In Nov, the monthly number jumped to 4000. In Apr 2022 (the last month of our fiscal year), 6100 claimed refugee protection.

In the presence of record number of refugee claimants, the Kinbrace community took strategic steps to fulfill the 2020–2030 Strategic Vision: *inspiring transformative communities where refugee claimants and Canadians flourish together.*

As you read this Annual Report, you will see how your financial, volunteer, and/or other support

- Welcomed dozens of refugee claimants with housing and wrap-around support
- Educated and oriented thousands more with public legal information
- Led to the release (and reprint!) of Anika Bauman's new book, *Becoming Neighbours*, her exploration of Kinbrace's five core values
- Started a systems change movement through research and the report: *From Humanitarian to Human – Changing the Way We Welcome Refugee Claimants*

Thank you for creating a world of welcome, a community of belonging, and a life of opportunity for each refugee claimant touched by your care.



Board of Directors 2021–2022:
(Row 1) Ray Fung, Jaylynn Byassee, Erin Goheen Glanville (Secretary)
(Row 2) Maria Zerjav, Rosemary Toye (Treasurer), Sadiq Mohibi
(Row 3) Chris Weisinger (Chair), Randall Cohn

YOUR IMPACT BY NUMBERS:

Your influence on the wellbeing of refugee claimants through the transitional (transformational) housing community in Vancouver:

71 people (new arrivals + former residents) received wrap-around support, and of these:

42 people received transitional housing (15 families), cf. 32 in 2020–2021

28 people moved from transitional into permanent housing (14 families), cf. 23 in 2020–2021

Your influence on refugee claimants across Canada, helping them prepare for their refugee hearings through public legal education and information

4639 downloads of Refugee Hearing Preparation Guide (cf. 4196 in 2020–2021)

406 Ready Tour participants and family members impacted by the BC Ready Tours (cf. 423 previous year)

Accomplishments along the way...



Two former Kinbrace children, now university-bound, received full-package educational awards based on merit.

Sell-out success and 2022 reprint of *Becoming Neighbours – Five Values for a World of Welcome*, Anika Bauman's book exploring Kinbrace's five core values and filled with inspiring stories and reflections.



Forty Tuesday community dinners safely and joyfully hosted amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, along with three outdoor community-wide barbeques, keeping everyone together.



Each birthday was celebrated with candles and multilingual versions of *Happy Birthday!*

Systems change initiatives...

...IN RESPONSE TO OUR STRATEGIC VISION

Your hard work through Kinbrace's mandate ensures each person seeking refugee protection is met with the welcome and resources they need to find their way toward safety with confidence.

Yet, all too often, this hard work and the refugee claimant's best efforts are frustrated by invisible barriers and unexpected gaps, sure signs of systemic problems.

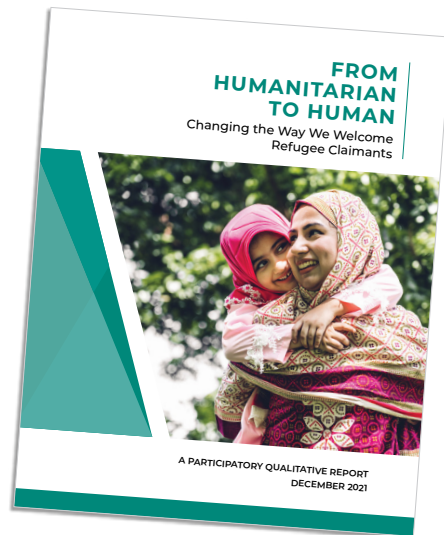
Collaborating with people who have lived refugee claimant experience, other experts, and you, Kinbrace worked to change systems in BC and across Canada this year, in fulfillment of our strategic vision: *inspiring transformative communities where refugee claimants and Canadians flourish together.*

LEARNING FROM REFUGEE CLAIMANTS: WHAT'S WORKING WELL AND WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

We asked the question:

What would a values-based, human-centered, and transformational welcome for and with people seeking refuge and protection in Canada look like?

Refugee claimants answered and nine (9) recommendations are available for implementation in the report, [From Humanitarian to Human: Changing the Way We Welcome Refugee Claimants](#)



1 ENSURING REFUGEE CLAIMANTS ARRIVING IN BC CAN ACCESS TRANSFORMATIONAL TRANSITIONAL HOUSING.

The systemic problem:

Many refugee claimants are homeless and without wrap-around support on arrival in BC.



Steps taken to change this:

The "K3" project has the long-term goal to build and operate transitional housing on a much larger scale than we currently offer. K3 follows K1 and K2, the two small apartment buildings on contiguous properties currently providing transitional housing in Vancouver. This year's work included joining with [Co:Here Foundation](#) to start the 5-8 year journey.

2 ENSURING MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT FOR REFUGEE CLAIMANTS IN BC.

The systemic problem:

Refugee claimants in BC face multiple barriers getting employment.

Steps taken to change this:

The Achieving Financial Mobility project supports refugee claimants in BC build strong career pathways, while shifting employers' practices and mitigating discriminatory preconceived notions of refugee claimants.



Mohammed Zaqout is Kinbrace's Achieving Financial Mobility Project Coordinator. He brings a wealth of professional skills of social change and justice as well as lived-experience.

3 ENSURING EVERY REFUGEE CLAIMANT IN CANADA IS INFORMED, CONNECTED, AND PREPARED.

The systemic problem:

Refugee claimants lack information written for their perspective and in their language to help them navigate Canada's refugee protection process.

Steps taken to change this:

The *My Refugee Claim* project provides discoverable, accessible public legal information using strategically designed resources delivered to refugee claimants the moment they arrive in Canada. www.myrefugeeclaim.ca.



THE CHALLENGES AND STRUGGLES FACED BY KINBRACE DURING THE YEAR

1. The loss of community building events during the COVID-19 pandemic, which are central to growing transformative communities.
2. The low vacancy and increasing rental rates in BC, making it difficult to find safe, affordable housing for refugee claimants.

WHERE DID KINBRACE FAIL? WHAT WAS LEARNED AND CORRECTED?

Central to Kinbrace's mandate is Canadians living with refugee claimants in the transitional housing community. The Host Community are people who live 24/7 year-round as the consistent presence of welcome among refugee claimants. In the original design of this model which started in 1998, and right up to 2019, there was no oversight, mentorship, or accountability for the Host Community. Unsupported, the Host Community members didn't thrive like they might have. In the past two years, we've strengthened the support structures for this important group of people to ensure their sustainability and well-being.

Meet Yar and Najiba

Tell us your names and about your arrival to Canada and Kinbrace.

We are Yar and Najiba. This is the story of our journey into Canada and to the Kinbrace community.

In the darkness of midnight, we crossed the border from the USA to Canada, walking for three hours north until we reached Langley, BC. This was a very difficult time for us.

When the morning came, it was 07 September 2020, Monday.

We wanted to go to a legal aid office to make a refugee claim. We didn't know where a legal aid office was, so we asked a taxi driver to take us toward Vancouver.

He dropped us at Lougheed Mall, and that is when we discovered that it was a holiday – Labour Day – and offices were closed.

We didn't know what to do!

So we stopped another taxi and asked the driver if he could take us to a police station, to tell them we were in the country, that we needed help.

He phoned the local police station, and they told him to bring us to the police station. When we arrived there, we found one police officer who spoke our language, which

was very helpful. We explained our situation, and this police officer told us we needed to go back to the border to start to make our refugee claim.

We were afraid to go back to the border. Would they deport us? But the police officer said this is what must happen. They put us in a police car with bars and drove us to the border.

Even though we were scared, we were met by friendly border guards, who gave us water and made us comfortable. They asked us questions, and then told us we needed to quarantine because of COVID-19.

Then, immigration people took us to a hotel where we stayed for 14 days. We had heard from some people that after you pass the border, the police arrest you and send you to the jail for a few days. Instead, police sent us to the hotel!

On the final day of quarantine, we were once again very scared and stressed, because we didn't know where we would go, and who might help us.

In the last hours, a woman from MOSAIC called to say she may have a place for us, that we should expect a phone call from Kinbrace.



Najiba and Yar at the Horseshoe Bay Ferry terminal in North Vancouver.

Then we got a phone call from Kinbrace, and they said they could give us a place to stay, but would we feel comfortable with the noise of children? There were children upstairs and they wanted us to feel comfortable with that.

This was not a problem for us; the sound of children made us feel safe.

But we were still nervous. Our own adult children and extended family

were already refugees in other parts of the world, and they told us they had not felt welcome in their countries. We were scared of what we might meet when we left the quarantine hotel.

We arrived to Kinbrace community on Tuesday 22 September.

The first word we heard when we arrived was, "Welcome."

Everything and everyone welcomed us: our roommate and her baby welcomed us; others living at Kinbrace welcomed us; and our apartment welcomed us with towel, shampoo, toothbrush, food, welcome card, clean blankets and mattress.

We hadn't eaten since morning, we were hungry, and that is when we learned that every Tuesday there is a shared meal. We knew we arrived on the right day.

You moved from your Kinbrace home to a new, permanent home in June 2021. When you look back, what are you most grateful for during your nine months at Kinbrace?

Yar: I am grateful that we had a home, immediately. Without a place to live, there is no life. As we started making friends we could invite them into our apartment as our own home. I am also thankful for the gift cards we received during the first days when we had no more money, and didn't yet have welfare. These gift cards helped us buy food and clothes. Finally, we got a lot of support and guidance to help us understand what we needed to do next. We got a lawyer, we learned the next step and the next step. Now we are protected refugees and waiting for our Permanent Residence.

Najiba: I am grateful for the love I felt. Even though my children and family are scattered around the world, in the Kinbrace community we found our new family.

When you look back, when was the most difficult moment?

Najiba: When we went to the police and back to the border. I thought everything was lost in this moment.

Yar: Communication and learning English – this has been a struggle.

One of Kinbrace's core values is mutual transformation, the change we experience together as we listen to and learn from each other, and grow. Did you experience change within yourself during your first months in Canada?

Najiba: Yes, I felt the goodness of being together, especially sharing and eating food together.

Yar: We arrived afraid and uncertain into a new country. We were greeted and welcomed. I look around and cannot tell who is the host and who is the guest, who is the Canadian and who is the refugee. We all live in peace. This is amazing to me. We love Canada, the people of Canada, and we appreciate Kinbrace. We heartily want to serve our new country and society.

Kinbrace Staff



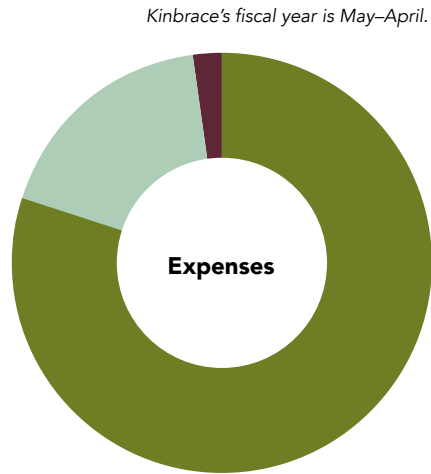
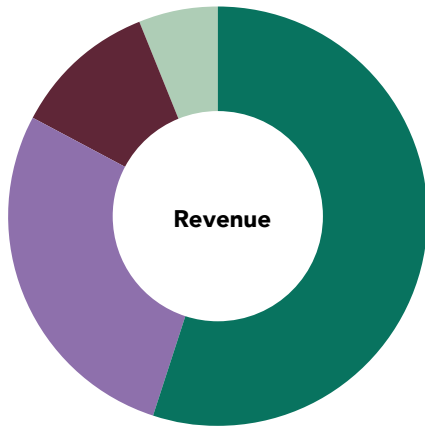
(Row 1) Derek Chu, Loren Balisky, Adriana Zepeda, Ute Warkentin (Row 2) Chantel Spade, Laura Wallis-Wood, Mohammad Zaqout, Wilfred Thariki (Row 3) Ebenezer Joshua, Masi Allahverdi

Kinbrace Host Community



Left to Right: Anjali Mishra, Ella Ewert, Ben Ewert, Audrey Ewert (holding Sona the hen), Jakob Ewert, Krista Ewert, Rachel Kavanagh, Ben Kavanagh, Graeme Kavanagh

Financials 2021 – 2022



- 55%** Not-for-profit organizations
\$532,785
- 28%** Individual and Major Donors
\$267,171
- 11%** Fundraising (Ride for Refuge)
\$103,413
- 6%** Rental Income, Other
\$62,615

- 80%** Programs
\$707,211
- 18%** Administration
\$160,824
- 2%** Fundraising
\$20,876

Total \$965,984

Total \$889,411

THANK YOU, DONORS AND FUNDERS!

Refugee claimants across Canada received critical and caring support from

- 24 foundations, churches, and other not-for-profit funders
- 108 monthly donors (up from 79 a year ago – if you are not yet a member of the Companion Circle, please consider joining this committed community)

- 166 individual donors (159 in 2020–2021)
- 3 corporate donors
- Additional \$71,186 received from the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

Refugee claimants need your continued immediate support.

- [Donate now](#)
- [Participate in the Kinbrace Ride for Refuge on 01 October 2022](#)
- [Join the Companion Circle](#), if not already a member
- [Volunteer](#) in one or more of the six program areas



Derek (Director of Operations) and Graeme (the newest host community member) enjoying Fall in the back yard.



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