

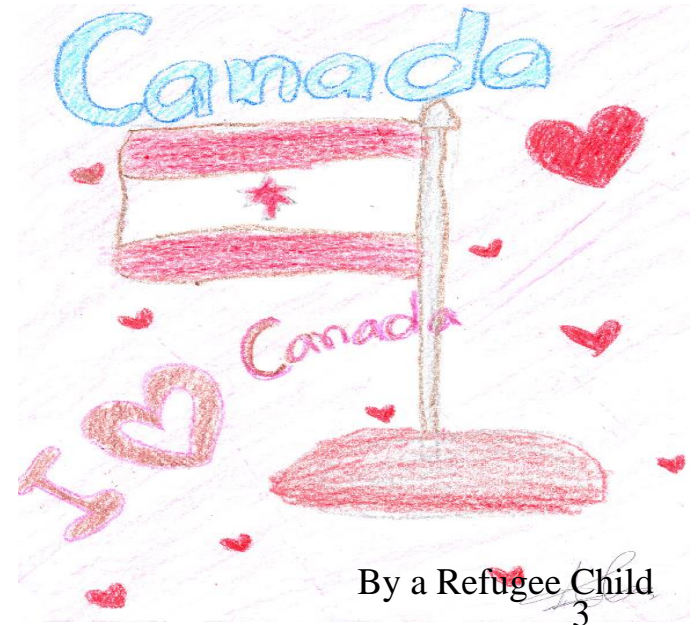


Refugee Child Enhanced Integration Project

- The project, in partnership with the Calgary Board of Education and Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, was originated in **September 2006** from a successful **3 years** pilot project, Refugee Student Services Project
- Funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- Initially targeted **40-50** refugee children between the ages of **6-15**
- Provided support in the areas of Integration
- The project was a success

Project Expansion

- As of **July 1st 2009**, the project was funded to accommodate all Government Assisted Refugee children and youth between the ages of **6-15** coming through **CCIS**
- Recruit refugee children from MCRC (first home)
- Provide **2** years support in the areas of:
 - Health
 - Education
 - Social
 - Individual Development



Statistics

- Since the July 2009, the project has served more than **320** refugee children and youth
- Dispersed in **35** schools across the city
- Comprised of **130** family units from **14** different countries

1. Burma (Karen)
2. Colombia
3. Ethiopia
4. Eritrea
5. Somalia
6. Congo
7. Liberia
8. India
9. Pakistan
9. Sudan
10. Afghanistan
11. Iran
12. Nepal
13. Iraq
14. Sierra Leone

Services and Activities

Assessment

- Periodically monitor and assess refugee child's situation
- Rich assessment tools (**Home and School Experience Assessment**)
- Identify needs
- Share with parents
- Connecting to appropriate resources

Awareness

- Educate parents with the necessary tools and knowledge to better respond to the needs of their child (involvement in school, aware of resources)
- Facilitate workshops on various topics such as, education system in Canada **practical school tour**, anti-bullying, personal hygiene, education and awareness on gang-related topics

Liaison

- Serve as an effective communication bridge between the refugee families, their schools and medical professionals
- A few of the issues that come to the project's attention for resolution are:
 - Lower performance
 - Unacceptable behavior
 - Health related issues
 - Important notes/Fieldtrip forms
 - Improper dressing
 - Poor hygiene
 - Poor lunch choices
 - Parent-Teacher interviews

Community Connection

- Tour of local public library and obtain access card
- Familiarize families with their local recreational facility
- Referrals to Boys and Girls Club
- Big Brother and Big Sister of Calgary
- YMCA
- Calgary Immigrant Women Association (Girl's Mentoring summer day camp)
- CCIS' children and youth programs such as ETHOS, Family and Children Service division, IYOP
- Calgary Bridge Foundation (summer school program)
- Connect and link refugee children and youth in other social and educational activities in the community to enhance their life and living skills (swimming, skating, community soccer teams, art classes, etc).

Extended Services

Homework Club/Literacy

- Occurs every Wednesday at MCRC from 3:30pm – 5:30pm
- Every Monday at Village Square library

- 6-9 active volunteers tutoring our refugee students in their homes and from various library locations

Social Events

The project organizes a social gathering for the refugee children and their families once to twice a month

Purpose

- Aims to reduce isolation and promote productivity
- Increase access and awareness in available and affordable recreational activities
- Opportunities for families to share experiences, common challenges and learn from each other
- Build peer relationships
- Familiarize refugee children with indoor/outdoor and winter/summer activities with trips to the Calgary Zoo, Calgary Science Center, leisure centers, Heritage Park, concerts, hockey and baseball games, etc.

Buddy Match

- Direct support from one refugee child to another at school
- Volunteer student commits to spend time with refugee student at school or outside of school

Benefits

- Learn school culture
- Gain peer support
- Feels supported and a sense of belonging

Volunteers

- Given a chance to be a leader
- Feels important and in charge

In Collaboration with:

- Boys and Girls Club
- Big Brother and Big Sister of Calgary
- Kids Upfront
- Salvation Army
- Neighbour Link Community
- Kids Sport
- Calgary Public Library
- City of Calgary Fee Assistance Department
- Telus Spark
- YMCA
- Red Cross Canada

Project's Objectives

- Refugee children to stay in school longer and perform better when in school
- Refugee children develop confidence and self-esteem and feel empowered and strengthened in the new community.
- Refugee children and youth will be successful and contributing members of the Canadian society

We do **BELIEVE** that refugee
children will be as successful as
any of us when given the right
SUPPORT and **SERVICES**



About CCIS...

- Dedicated team of 200 experienced staff
- 15 convenient locations
- Collectively speaking over 70 languages
- Served over 10,000 newcomers in 2009

Contact Us!

CCIS Main Office

3rd Floor, 120 – 17th Avenue SW

Calgary, AB T2S 2T2

T: 403.262.2006; F: 403.262.2033

<http://www.ccis-calgary.ab.ca>



**Our Community
Our Future**

I was
**a stranger & you made
me welcome**