



# TOGETHER PROJECT

[togetherproject.ca](http://togetherproject.ca) | a project of MakeWay

## **GETTING SETTLED IN A NEW COUNTRY IS EASIER WITH A WELCOME GROUP**

Together Project connects refugee newcomers and volunteers to build stronger, more integrated communities.

We make change in three interconnected ways: building newcomer social connections, supporting newcomer integration priorities, and amplifying community involvement in newcomer integration.



**“THE WELCOME  
GROUP  
SHOWED US  
EVERYTHING  
RELATED TO  
LIFE: HOW TO  
GO TO THE  
PHARMACY,  
OPEN A BANK  
ACCOUNT,  
TAKE THE BUS—  
THE DAILY  
THINGS WERE  
MADE EASIER  
BECAUSE OF  
THE GROUP.”**

-Khansaa,  
Welcome Group  
Program Newcomer  
Participant

## **THE WELCOME GROUP PROGRAM**

Together Project’s core program matches refugee newcomers with “Welcome Groups” of typically 3-5 volunteers. Welcome Groups provide social support to newly-arrived refugees that focuses on their unique integration priorities, such as language learning, finding employment, accessing health care, and building social connections.

Together Project provides a platform for community engagement to address these challenges, ensuring that it both complements the work of existing service providers and is tailored to the needs of individual newcomers.

We only ask volunteers to give the gift of their time; no financial commitment is required. Volunteers receive training to work safely and effectively with newcomer refugees.



## OUR IMPACT

### SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Getting settled in a new place is easier when you are connected to members of your new community, and this kind of social capital can be hard to come by for refugee newcomers. We connect newcomers to volunteers who can provide social support and expand their social networks.

Connected communities are happier, healthier, and more resilient. Social connections can also play an important role in newcomer health and well-being.

### INTEGRATION

Every newcomer family is different and faces unique challenges in integrating in their new community. Together Project uses a matching system that connects volunteers and newcomers based on shared preferences, interests, and skill sets.

The newcomer-defined integration priorities give the match a shared purpose as the newcomers and volunteers work on addressing these priorities together.

### COMMUNITY

We work with local partners to ensure that volunteers complement existing settlement services and have a meaningful role in supporting newcomer integration. Volunteers receive guidance and access to resources throughout their match.

The Welcome Group Program is an opportunity for community members to take part in the “two-way street” of integration, and a way to promote positive discourse and experiences around newcomer integration.

**“AS A YOUNG  
IMMIGRANT WITH MY  
FAMILY MANY YEARS  
AGO, I UNDERSTAND THE  
CHALLENGES NEWCOMERS  
FACE. IT’S BEEN AN  
HONOUR TO PAY IT  
FORWARD AND SUPPORT  
THOSE EMBARKING ON  
THEIR OWN JOURNEY TO A  
NEW HOME.”**

–Natalie,  
Welcome Group Program Volunteer

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**TOGETHER PROJECT IS  
FOUNDED ON THE  
SIMPLE IDEA THAT  
SOCIAL CONNECTIONS  
ARE AN IMPORTANT  
FACTOR FOR  
INTEGRATION.**

To date, we’ve connected over  
1500 volunteers with more  
than 1450 newcomers in  
4 provinces across Canada.

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## GET INVOLVED

### JOIN A WELCOME GROUP

Individuals can register to be matched with other volunteers to form a new Welcome Group. Alternatively, you can form a Welcome Group with your friends, family members, or colleagues. We can also help you recruit by presenting to your office, club, or team.

### PARTNER WITH US

Together Project works with funding, program, and monitoring and evaluation partners to deliver our Welcome Group Program. Please contact us if you would like to learn more.

### DONATE

To make a one time or monthly donation, please visit [togetherproject.ca/donate](https://togetherproject.ca/donate). To host a fundraiser or benefit, please contact [hello@togetherproject.ca](mailto:hello@togetherproject.ca). Together Project is an initiative of MakeWay Charitable Society (Charitable Registration Number: 130560188RR0001).

**“THE KINDS OF SUPPORT THAT I RECEIVED RANGED FROM HELPING ME NAVIGATE THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, INSURANCE POLICIES, OVERALL CANADIAN CULTURE.**

**BUT BEYOND THAT, THE SENSE OF BELONGING, THE CONNECTEDNESS, WAS SOMETHING THAT’S OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO ME.”**

-Rahel,  
Welcome Group Program Newcomer Participant

### CONTACT

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