








**The Guelph Community Foundation & The United Way Guelph, Wellington, Dufferin:
Refugee Impact Meeting Follow-Up**

NEEDS & IMPACT SUMMARY

Ideally you, our partner agencies, will seek to “**match**” needs with resources across organizations

Organization	Impact	Needs
 <p>Chalmers Community Services Diana Sterenberg, Administrator, Chalmers Community Services Centre (CCSC) community@chalmerscentre.ca</p>	<p>- increase in food costs at our food pantries</p> <p>-space restrictions at both locations</p> <p>-budget restrictions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food donations - Financial donations - Transportation
 <p>YMCA Guelph Jim Bonk CEO jimbonk@guelphy.org</p>	<p>Would depend on the volume. Integrating into our programs given some communication changes.</p>	<p>If we were more aware of specific needs we might be able to mobilize resources to do more.</p>
 <p>Family & Children Services of GW Andrea Wyshniowsky andreawyshniowsky@familyserviceguelph.on.ca</p>	<p>FCSSGW is willing to support individuals in our community when it comes to counselling and support that can assist refugees with their new lives here.</p> <p>We anticipate that all refugees to Guelph would benefit from our services in order to successfully acclimatize to their new lives in Canada.</p>	<p>Translation services for counselling sessions (When attending counselling for grief and trauma, it is helpful if you can express yourself in your native language.)</p>

 <p>Volunteer Centre of Guelph Wellington Geraldine Howitt, Data Resource Specialist. updates@volunteergw.ca</p>	<p>For information seekers, we may see an increase in calls, visits, database traffic; we don't expect that volunteerism will necessarily be the first priority in the settlement process, but will be an opportunity once the newcomer is 'settled'.</p>	<p>Limited resources mean it is more challenging to get word out about our services, to this population. However, our information is shared with 211 Ontario who has multilingual service.</p>
 <p>Immigrant Services Guelph Wellington Jean Chow Settlement Services Integration Coordinator jchow@is-gw.ca 519-836-2222 ext. 226</p>	<p>Impact of an Influx would be in terms of putting pressure on existing supports. If clients have low English language skills, they are matched with a counselor who speaks their language. If this is not possible (i.e. Tigrinya, Nepali, Tamil) ISGW will pay for interpretation services. In terms of Arabic we have one part-time counsellor to provide that support. Pressure is also put on translation services as clients must have certain documents translated within a certain time to access other services.</p> <p>We also see an impact from service providers who require interpretation and translation services. Schools, for example, need interpreters to communicate with parents, families need to have their children's immunization records translated etc.</p> <p>We do see an impact in timely access to referred services. ESL classes, housing, subsidized day care etc.</p>	<p>Federal funding cuts, space, and client access to transportation.</p> <p>Groups (Nepali, Tigrinya speaking) often want a place to meet as a community. ISGW has no space for that.</p> <p>Some clients lack funds for transportation...(we do help them apply for the affordable bus pass)</p>

 <p>Better Beginnings, Better Futures Mitra Salarvand, Peer Parent Co-ordinator msalarvand@bbbfuelph.ca 519-824-8498</p>	<p>Our main challenge is our financial capacity to expand our programs. With fixed geographic boundaries, the influx of Syrian refugees will have a similar impact to previous trends. We have seen influxes of Vietnamese and Middle Eastern Immigrants and refugees, followed by influxes of Nepali and African refugees and immigrants and now potentially and influx of Syrian refugees. When we find a new trend in the languages spoken and cultures represented in our community, we try to hire new peer parent family home visitors that will serve the new group, often at the expense of letting go of another peer parent who serves a more established language group in our neighbourhood.</p> <p>If we open our boundaries to welcome all Syrian refugees from across the region it will have a large impact. Many of our programs are already underserved and have waiting lists. Without additional funding, opening our borders beyond the Onward Willow community would displace community residents from our programming.</p>	<p>We have 25 years of experience working in a community with a high population of newcomers.</p> <p>We would like to expand our peer parent family home visitor program to allow for an Arabic-speaking staff member.</p> <p>We would also like to be able to offer more programming in our spaces so that newcomers can access as many services as possible in one centralized location. This may include hiring a volunteer coordinator to facilitate the recruitment, coordination and training of volunteers to provide ESL classes and other services.</p> <p>Further, we would love the opportunity to expand our service boundaries so that we are able to support all Syrian families in the region. We do not currently have the financial capacity for these modifications.</p>
 <p>Judith Carson, President of Guelph Wellington Seniors Association until July 2016 , Board director until June 2017 Judith.Carson@sympatico.ca</p> <p>Maryanne Wilford Manager of Community Support Services, GWSA mwilford.gwsa@gmail.com</p>	<p>Any new members (55 yrs. and older) need to have enough English to participate with other members. We want more members.</p>	<p>The need for translation would be our greatest need.</p>

Additional Suggested Resources:

<http://www.wrwelcomesrefugees.ca/en/index.asp>

<http://www.guelphrefugeeforum.com/>

AWESOME NEWCOMER VIDEOS PRODUCED BY A SYRIAN REFUGEE WHO HAS ALREADY FIGURED IT OUT:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/oPg6c92rfN4>

AVAILABLE AT THE END OF MARCH:

The United Way will be sharing the Peel Newcomer Strategy report (from Peel Region) that may help relevant groups within Guelph create a more long-term/sustainable plan.