

New Life for Refugee Family

After ten months in Canada, Aden Hussein Noor and his wife Ishmey Ahmed Aden are already helping fellow newcomers. “Let me know if someone comes from the refugee camp,” says Ishmey through an interpreter. She offers to cook them a meal and share about life in Canada. Aden, Ishmey and their 6 children are adjusting well to their new lives, but it wasn’t an easy road.

After fleeing Somalia, spending close to 20 years in a Kenyan refugee camp, Aden and Ishmey arrived at the Toronto Airport and travelled to Hamilton. They soon started facing numerous challenges. Having grown up with an oral language, they were not familiar with the clock or calendar. Ishmey explains, “It was hard in the beginning. I was scared to ride the elevator, cook with an oven, take the bus and send my kids to school. I was even scared of snow!”

But Wesley helped by finding an apartment for the family, shared life skills, reminded them of appointments and even practiced taking the bus. As Aden says proudly, “I now know how to use the oven and what to say to a bank teller.” Unlike his wife, he was not scared of the snow and cold weather, “This is nothing for me!”, perhaps reflecting on his more dangerous hardships.

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Message from Daljit Garry, Executive Director

After our long and cold winter, it is wonderful to enjoy spring, a time of new life and beginnings!

I am pleased that Aden and Ishmey are sharing their story, beginning their new life in Hamilton. Wesley

offers the supports necessary for individuals, like Aden and Ishmey, to meet immediate needs and take steps needed to end poverty.

Featured in the newsletter is an elementary school that supported Wesley. I give an A+ for creativity and fun! We have more ways for children to support Wesley through Teacher Gifts and Birthday Parties. Contact us at 905-528-5629 or visit wesley.ca for more information.

With your help, we are able to offer innovative and creative programs, responding to individual and neighbourhood needs. As an example, we recently launched a new Friday night Teen Girls Program at the Beasley Community Centre.

We have many success stories, thanks to the generosity and support of people like you. Your commitment to helping individuals in need is truly inspiring and commendable.

Sincerely,



Daljit Garry

P.S. I look forward to seeing you at the **23rd Annual Case for Kids, Walk, Run, Ride**, Sunday June 1, 1 pm – 4 pm, Bayfront Park! Congratulations to Jennifer Trott (above) and her efforts with Carisle United Church for raising over \$5,000 at last year’s Case for Kids!



Vision:

Wesley Urban Ministries has a vision of community, where justice and compassion guide the way we live, where all members are treated with respect and dignity.

Mission:

- Decrease Barriers by developing and delivering programs that address the needs of people who are marginalized
- Increase Opportunities by providing services that help individuals to achieve their full potential
- Be a model and catalyst for social transformation

Case for Kids

The **23rd Annual Case for Kids** campaign was officially launched at the April Pacesetter Dinner. Barbara Harwood, whose husband Bob recently passed away, was presented with orange lilies to honour Bob's memory and his instrumental role in beginning Case for Kids. Numbered footprints were a reminder that 1 in 4 Hamilton children live in poverty and that 1 person can make a difference.

Join us at

Case for Kids Walk, Run, Ride

Sunday June 1

1 pm – 4 pm

Bayfront Park

Sponsor, sign up or purchase a footprint at 905-528-5629 or wesley.ca.

Thank you...

Special thanks to Casey Wren, Mohawk College Journalism Student, for her help with this newsletter! Over 30 students, like Casey, do their placements at Wesley each year.

"New Life for Refugee Family" *continued...*

Both Aden and Ishmey are currently attending English as a Second Language classes and have goals for their children to stay in school and get good jobs. They attend Wesley's Ontario Early Years Centre on Queen Street for literacy and cooking opportunities.

There is sadness, however, when they remember her Mom, Dad, brother and sister, living in the refugee camp. Ishmey's mother helped to raise the

children. She was like a second mother to her grandchildren, and there were many tears when they left her behind. They dream of their family being reunited, but will need to wait for private sponsorship or until their United Nations refugee number is selected.

For now, they find comfort in sharing meals and their experiences with other refugees, helping people with similar struggles.

Thank you Rainham Central!



The students of Rainham Central School, in the farming community of Fisherville, raised over \$900 for Wesley's homeless programs. Cole Sanger, President of the Student Council, shares "...Every Tuesday for about a month, if you brought a toonie every week for the entire month, you would get a toque. The kids from all ages really enjoyed wearing their hats for the day if they did bring in the money. At the end of the fundraiser we decided to give the class who raised the most money a movie day."

22nd Annual Wesley Open Golf Tournament



Monday September 8, 2014
Century Pines Golf Club
12:30 Start

Register or Sponsor:

wesley.ca or 905-528-5629