

This is Part of Who I Am

Sabih Ottawa just graduated from Ryerson University with a degree in Commerce and has a promising future ahead. Sabih's family immigrated to Canada in 1997 and her first home was situated at 151 Queen Street, a hub of many Wesley programs.

Sabih remembers, *"Like so many other newcomer families, we had little money, no family close by and a lot to learn. My father was a single parent to my sister and I, and had to navigate enrolling us in a school system, securing housing and finding a job with limited English skills."*

Sabih's first encounters with Wesley were only a few steps away from her apartment. At a young age, she participated in early years programs where she remembers that *"the community came together and raised their children side by side."*

As Sabih grew up, she attended Wesley's after school, summer camp and teen drop in programs and fondly remembers receiving a knapsack each year. *"There was very little I could count on growing up, however come September, the same phone call would ring, inviting my sister and I to come downstairs and choose a knapsack filled with school supplies for the new school year."*

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Message from Daljit Garry, Executive Director



I am delighted to share Sabih's story with you. Her personal success is made possible by the help of many generous donors and funding partners. Our Board of Directors also gave Sabih a scholarship to assist in her university studies.

It has been a remarkable winter and spring. We warmly welcomed close to 1,000 Syrian refugees, including 595 children and youth. For more details, please read our [Refugee Progress Report](#) at wesley.ca and click Syrian Refugee Information Portal.

We are currently seeking volunteers to be Friends of Newcomers to provide social and community connections. Wesley supports groups wanting to sponsor refugees with the help of a staff member specializing in Private Sponsorship.

We continue to support children and families living in high priority neighbourhoods and youth and adults experiencing homelessness. In addition, we have been expanding our services for isolated seniors and have two new Youth Outreach Workers in Brantford.

We rely on the community's support and I look forward to seeing you at our 25th Annual Case for Kids Walk, Run, Ride on Sunday June 5th!

25th Annual

CASE FOR KIDS WALK, RUN, RIDE

End Child Poverty!

Sunday June 5, 2016

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Bayfront Park, Hamilton

For more information, or to register:

wesley.ca, 905 528 5629, c4k@wesley.ca

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Last summer, Sabih worked at Wesley as a resource development intern, helping to organize the same knapsack drive which she received each year growing up. She also had the opportunity to serve lunch at Wesley Day Centre. *“Serving lunch daily alongside dedicated staff and meeting the kind smiles of clients has taught me to be patient and kind and the importance of compassion and empathy.”*

As Sabih begins the next chapter of her life, she reflects, *“Every step that has led me to be the person I am today has been supported by Wesley in some shape or form. They taught me how to share my toys and tie my shoes, how to be curious and finally how to believe in myself as a teenager... This is part of who I am.”*

Sabih’s story is featured in the 25th Annual Case for Kids Walk, Run, Ride video.

24TH ANNUAL Wesley Open Golf Tournament

Monday September 12, 2016

Century Pines Golf Club

12:30 pm start

Register or Sponsor:

wesley.ca or
905 528 5629



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

Highest Score for Newcomer



Salma, a Syrian refugee privately sponsored by Wesley, is such a bright, determined, and friendly young woman that it is difficult to imagine her fleeing war and suffering. She has a four year university degree in biology and a one year diploma in children’s education and worked at a medical laboratory in Syria. She is currently attending Mohawk College for ESL and lives in Hamilton. As she reflects on her first few months in Hamilton, ***“Of course I miss my family, my Mom especially, but I am happy and Wesley has helped me a lot. In the beginning, I was sad but now feel more determined and want to keep improving myself. I have a goal in front of me, a purpose in my mind, to continue in my schooling and find employment.”*** A highlight of Salma’s first month in Hamilton was when she joined our Bowl-A-Thon, to support our Housing & Homelessness programs, and her team won with the highest score!