

## **ABOUT US**

At Refugee Women's Network, we help women through their settlement by providing sustainable skills to enable them to support their families, to advocate for their children and to support aging family members. These are the same challenges Canadian women face. We will help assess their language abilities, provide language programs, prepare them for formal education, provide financial support for training and development, and help them become confident, empowered, and self-sufficient.

## **OUR MISSION**

To empower refugee and new immigrant women with tools and resources to enhance and develop their skills through education to successfully integrate into Canadian society while still maintaining respective cultural values.

## **OUR VISION**

To help refugee and new immigrant women become a vibrant part of Canada's economic and social development growth.

## **LEARNING LABS**

Learning Labs are designed to help refugee and new immigrant women learn English in a supportive and safe environment. English is a crucial tool for women to help settle in their communities. Being able to communicate proficiently enables a woman to advocate for their children, speak to their doctors about their care and provides them with opportunities to upgrade their education.

Proficiency in English is a significant empowering tool which will change the life of a woman from being withdrawn and afraid to empowered and an advocate. The confidence motivates refugee and new immigrant women to upgrade their education and pursue higher education. An educated woman can help provide for her family and feel like a contributing member both to her family and to her community.

When you change the life of a woman, the effects are felt through the entire family. She will be determined to help move herself and her family out of poverty and become self-sufficient. Her strength will be the role model her children will need to pursue their own education. This may also motivate her to pursue further education by attending a post-secondary institution and getting her Diploma or Degree.

## **WOMEN HELPING WOMEN**

Women Helping Women is a support group offering refugee and new immigrant women opportunities to share and find support for the challenges they may be facing.

These challenges include dealing with physical and psychological scars from fleeing war and losing their possessions, losing loved ones and enduring slavery and torture. Being tortured and forced into slavery and raped daily mentally debilitates a woman. Without a nurturing, supportive environment to find access for support and referrals to counselling, women would continue to be isolated and depressed.

The Women Helping Women support group also encourages women to take an active role in their caregiving duties and access support systems in their communities. They also help women to become advocates for their children and elderly family members by seeking support from the group.

Refugee and new immigrant women need the support of the Women Helping Women support group to help them through the physical and mental trauma they have faced. Together we can help them to find access to supportive programs and help them adjust to their new community.

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT**

Education and Training & Development supports women arriving in Canada with a Professional Degree from their country which is not recognized in Canada, by retraining at a Canadian University. The program builds a bridge between language assessment and financial support to undertake the Degree program as a beginner.

Women arriving to Canada with a Professional Designation must retrain to requalify in Canada. This can be burdensome for many. Not being able to practice their profession in another country is a huge disappointment and leads many to be disheartened and depressed.

Imagine spending the time and money to qualify to be a Doctor only to not be recognized as one in Canada? The ramifications of this is faced not only by the woman herself but by her family as she faces the challenge to decide to either re-qualify in Canada or find employment to support her family. And if she chooses to re-qualify, how can she afford to do so and support her family at the same time?

Investing in a woman's future is investing in the future of her family. It changes the life of one woman but affects positively the lives of her family and her community.

Completing skills based training program will ensure qualified training leading to employment. And employment will enable a refugee or new immigrant woman to support her family, financially, emotionally and become a confident empowered member of the economic fabric.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are an integral part of Refugee Women's Network. Our programs are volunteer-run, from the Learning Labs, Women Helping Women support groups, to the Education and Training & Development program.

Our programs are based in centres across the GTA to accommodate the refugee and new immigrant women spread out across the GTA. We offer our programs in a safe, comfortable environment, and maintaining their cultural values.

We want to ensure every refugee and new immigrant woman achieves success in her settlement in Canada. We want them to feel secure, confident, and self sufficient.

### **We have several opportunities to volunteer:**

1. Become a Tutor at our Learning Labs and help women learn English to be able to communicate to advocate for their children with their teacher or to their doctor.
2. Lead a conversational support group with our Women Helping Women program to help with career guidance, school choices, counselling, family issues, and helping them support their children.
3. Help mentor a woman working towards upgrading her professional skills through a Post Secondary Institution with tutoring and guidance.

Helping women feel empowered gives them to confidence to succeed.

## **SUPPORTER**

Our goal at Refugee Women's Network is to help refugees and new immigrant women become settled as confident, empowered members of the Canadian society and maintain their cultural values.

Our programs offer women opportunities overcome the language barrier through the Learning Labs, overcome fear and depression by attending the Women Helping Women support groups, or by upgrading their education at a post-secondary institution.

Be a **Partner** and Support our Learning Labs:

\$5000.00

Be a **Visionary** and Support the Women Helping Women Group:

\$10,000

Be a **Mentor** for the Education and Training & Development grantee:

\$15,000

Be a **Motivator**:

\$25,000

Be a **Scholar**:

\$50,000

Be an **Innovator**:

\$100,000

Your support and generosity will change the live of a refugee or new immigrant woman and her family's.

**THANK YOU!**