

Newsletter Date  
April – June 2017

# Community Connections Newsletter

## Upcoming Events:

April 26 -  
Volunteer  
Appreciation  
Tea

June 20 - World  
Refugee Day  
event

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## Message from Community Connections Coordinator



-Melissa Mitchell

Spring has sprung! We have been very busy at the Multicultural Council the last three months, in this time we have started a mens group, continued with our womens group and participated in various anti racism events. It has been a great start to the year. We look forward to the many great events, programs and volunteer opportunities happening in the next few months. Please continue to check our Facebook page and website for upcoming events.



## Featured Family

This month our featured clients are Marmaryi and Dawkhin. Marmaryi's son is married to Dawkhin's daughter who all came to Canada with their two grandchildren; their third grandchild in this family was born in Canada. They are originally from Myanmar and arrived in Moose Jaw in 2013.

We asked them what has been their experience since arriving in Canada and they said "when we came to Canada we did not know any English but now we are ok". The things that they love the most about living in Canada are the friendly and helpful volunteers at MJMC, planting vegetables with their class at Mosaic Food Farm and the donations that the community offers the clients and students at MJMC. They are very grateful to have come to Canada for many reasons, but a couple that they expressed are feeling safe going outside and not having to hide in their homes. They also said that the police officers in Canada are so nice and friendly, and that they are able to say hello without fear.



Marmaryi and Dawkhin



### Myanmar

**Population** 51,486,253

**Capital** Naypyidaw

**Currency** Kyat

## Country Spotlight

**This month we are featuring: Myanmar (Burma)**

Officially called the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and is also known as Burma. It is a sovereign state in South East Asia bordered by Bangladesh, India, China, Laos and Thailand.

Myanmar is one of the poorest nations in Southeast Asia, suffering from decades of

stagnation, mismanagement and isolation. Myanmar is home to four major language families: Sino-Tibetan, Tai-Kadai, Austro-Asiatic, and Indo-European. Sino-Tibetan languages are most widely spoken. They include Burmese, Karen, Kachin, Chin, and Chinese. More than a hundred languages are spoken in total. A diverse range of indigenous cultures exist in

Myanmar, the majority culture is primarily Buddhist and Bamar. Bamar culture has been influenced by the cultures of neighboring countries. This is manifested in its language, cuisine, music, dance and theatre. The arts, particularly literature, have historically been influenced by the local form of Theravada Buddhism.

## Volunteer Hall of Fame

Our featured volunteer is Mike Beck. Mike has been volunteering faithfully with MJMC for about 6 years. He helps in the class rooms every Thursday and assists the teachers with one on one tutoring and any other help he can provide. Mike spent 9 years living in the Middle East and in that time he learned Arabic. He also traveled there for business in 1998. Mike has also spent time in Ethiopia. Prior to that experience he was a quiet person and had no interest in meeting new people, he said that experience changed his life in a positive way.

I had a chance to sit down with Mike to talk about his volunteer experience. Overall he said that volunteering at the Multicultural Council has been a good experience each week. He wanted to share a story that still touches his heart and makes him laugh: He started working in the class room with a family, who before coming to Canada had very little English if any, and Mike decided to speak Arabic to them but since there are many different dialects of Arabic some words mean different things and they all had a very good laugh trying to understand each other even speaking the same language. This is a success story for Mike as he reflected on his time spent working with the couple from having no English to start with and in just a short year them being almost first in their class. "It's a great feeling."



## Volunteer Hall of Fame continued



Mike wanted to share some advice on how to help:

“There are many things that you can do to help, the best thing that you can do is to help them to have a good experience in Canada and a way to do that is helping them learn English so they can enjoy Canada and all it has to offer.”

He says, “I am not an English teacher and you don’t have to be to help!”

Thank you Mike for your dedication to MJMC and our clients!

We are also thankful to all our past, present, and future volunteers for everything they do! If you are interested in volunteering please check out our volunteer opportunities listed below or on our website.

## Volunteer Now

We have many opportunities for volunteering at the MJMC. If you are interested, contact Melissa Mitchell to fill out an application. Volunteers require a criminal record check and will participate in a volunteer orientation. Opportunities include:

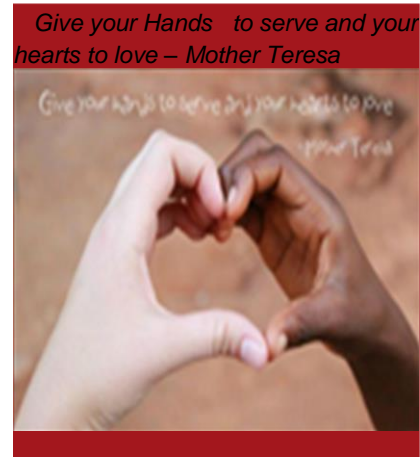
- ★ Community Connections (Community Café Facilitator, Discussion Group Leader, or Welcomer)
- ★ Translator, Interpreter-Language(s)
- ★ Client Computer tutor
- ★ English Tutor
- ★ Daycare Volunteer

- ★ Administrative Volunteer
- ★ Computer/Technology Assistant
- ★ Mover without a vehicle
- ★ Mover with a vehicle
- ★ Donations Organizer

### **Become a HOST Volunteer**

HOST is designed to match resident Canadians with Newcomers to Canada, to help them grow and learn in Canada. Newcomers come to Canada to build a new life for themselves and their families. Volunteers for HOST program will help guide matched Newcomer families to life in our community. Volunteer

HOSTs are carefully matched with newcomers. It’s an exciting chance to learn, grow and make new friends.





Join us for laughs,  
conversation and friendship

Thursday's  
11:30am – 1:00 pm.  
MJMC Meeting Room

## Program Showcase

### Men's Group

The Men's Group is for men of all ages from the community. The focus of the group is to encourage community engagement, peer support, friendship building and practicing English.



Do small things  
with great love.

- Mother Teresa -



www.allthelittlepieces.com

## Upcoming Events

### April

April 26th Volunteer  
Appreciation Tea

2:00 pm at MJMC

All volunteers are  
invited, please  
RSVP prior to the  
event.

### May

May 15,22,29

Nobody's Perfect  
training available  
for Permanent  
Residents

### June

June 5, 12  
continuation of  
Nobody's Perfect  
training

June 20th- World  
Refugee Day event  
in Crescent park  
11:00am – 3:30 pm

**Ongoing Programs**

*Community Cafe*

Thursday Night – 7:00pm to 8:00pm  
Moose Jaw Newcomer Welcome Centre  
432 Main St. N

April 6, 20  
May 4, 18  
June 1, 15, 29

*Get to know your Community. Meet new People. Practice your English.*

*Women's Group*

Wednesday Morning – 11:00 am- 1:00pm  
St Andrews United Church Social Hall  
60 Athabasca St E

*Children Welcome. Practice your English. Support and Friendships.*

*Men's Group*

Thursday Mornings - 11:30– 1:00  
MJMC Meeting Room  
60 Athabasca St. E

*Games. Laughs. Friendship. Practice your English.*

Ways to build your community.

1. Go Outside.
2. Say Hello to people on the street.
3. Smile at strangers.
4. Make friends with your neighbors.
5. Plant a community garden.
6. Visit your local library.
7. Get involved with projects that inspire you.
8. Have friends of all cultures, beliefs & abilities.
9. Respect elders.
10. Remember your ancestors.
11. Support community events.
12. Host a community event.
13. Share your knowledge.
14. Learn from others
15. Read books with your children.
16. Talk about and celebrate diversity.
17. Ask questions.
18. Notice problems and find solutions.
19. Pick up garbage.
20. Shop local & seasonally.
21. Keep your local park clean.
22. Make pies and give them away.
23. Volunteer.
24. Step in even if it makes you feel uncomfortable.
25. Never forget how important you are and how much your community needs you!!



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We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.mjmcinc.ca](http://www.mjmcinc.ca)

## Final Thoughts...

One of our biggest projects in the last 3 months included the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan's campaign for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to all of the community members, volunteers and local businesses for participating ! #MARCH OUT RACISIM #SHOWRACISIMTHEDOOR.

I would also like to thank everyone who attended our International Women's Day Tea and a special thank you to our volunteer Dusti who made some delicious treats for us for that day!



### ***About Community Connections...***

*Limited social networks continue to be a barrier to integration by both newcomers and the general public. Newcomers need support to understand their adopted community, form social connections and contribute to their new community. The Community Connections program is popular with local volunteers and newcomers in the Moose Jaw area. The program allows newcomers to meet new people, improve their English, and get to know more about their community. The program also assists the public in understanding the needs of and barriers that many newcomers may face through public speaking engagements, awareness campaigns, promotional resource development, and intercultural communication and integration training for community agencies and the general public.*

