

Newsletter Date
July 2017

Community Connections Newsletter

Upcoming Events

July –August
MJMC Summer
Program
&
SWIS summer
program

July 3- July 14-
Employment Camp

July 27- Community
Café

August 24-
Community Café

August 16 –
MJMC Annual
summer potluck

September 14, 28-
Community Café

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Message from Community Connections Coordinator



-Melissa Mitchell

Summer holidays have started.

We have been busy preparing the summer for our youth clients with various programming to educate while having fun. We run an employment camp for our highschool students and our SWIS summer program is for ages 11 – 14 years. This program runs every Tuesday during the summer and our summer program for newcomer children is for ages 6 – 12 years and runs all summer long 5 days a week. We will wind up with our annual pot luck in the park on August 16th.

This time of year is always full of so many activities for families to enjoy.

Please continue to check our Facebook page and website for upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.



Featured Family

This month our featured family is Ahmad Alkhaldi his wife Neamat Halool and their three daughters Sara, Aya, and Sana.

Ahmad, Neamat and their daughters arrived in Moose Jaw January 7 2016 from Syria. Their daughters attend school and since arriving Ahmed has started a position with the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council as a settlement worker.

Ahmed and his family said that Moose Jaw is a very friendly city, with a lot of good people in it, and it's a great place to raise children.

Thank you Ahmed for sharing your story with us.



Ahmad, Neamat and Daughters



Syria

Population	17,064,854
Capital	Damascus
Currency	Syrian pound



Country Spotlight

Syria

Syria is a traditional society with a long cultural history. Importance is placed on family, religion, education, self-discipline and respect. Syrians' taste for the traditional arts is expressed in dances such as the al-Samah, the Dabkeh in all their variations, and the sword dance. Marriage ceremonies and the births of children are occasions for the lively demonstration of folk customs.

According to various sources, including the United Nations, up to 100,000 people had been killed by June 2013, including 11,000 children. To escape the violence, 4.9 million Syrian refugees have fled to neighboring countries of Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Turkey.

Overall population density in Syria is about 99 per square kilometer (258 per square mile). According to the World Refugee Survey 2008, published by the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Syria hosted a population of refugees and asylum seekers numbering approximately 1,852,300. The vast majority of this population was from Iraq (1,300,000), but sizeable populations from Palestine (543,400) and Somalia (5,200) also lived in the country.

In what the UN has described as "the biggest humanitarian emergency of our era" about 9.5 million Syrians, half the population, have been displaced since the outbreak of the Syrian Civil War in March 2011; 4 million are outside the country as refugees. – *Wikipedia*

Volunteer Hall of Fame

Our featured volunteer is Ruth Wong. She has been volunteering faithfully with MJMC for 2.5 years.

Ruth Decided that since she was retired and had a diploma in teaching English as a second language that she would put her knowledge to good use helping others. She also is a substitute teacher at MJMC.

Ruth told us that she has learned so much from working with the teachers in the classrooms at MJMC and also from the students. She is very appreciative of all the hard work that goes into the daily preparation of the teachers and because of this she sees daily improvements from the students.



Volunteer Hall of Fame continued

Volinspire is a growing online community of volunteers, non-profits, registered charities, volunteer centers, sports teams, school groups, good companies and anyone else that cares about their local communities. MJMC started using this program for our volunteer management in April of 2017.

One lucky Saskatchewan volunteer registered in Volinspire by the end of National Volunteer Week was randomly drawn to receive a donation that would benefit a charity of their choice. Thanks to Karin Pankow-Simrose, the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council won \$1,000 to support our volunteer capacity needs!

As a volunteer for their Community Cafes program, she explains, "it's a time for new English speakers to practice with locals. We converse about a chosen timely topic. It is so interesting to hear about newcomers' home countries and their experiences here."

Check out our profile on Volinspire:

<https://volinspire.com/organization/moose-jaw-multicultural-council-349504>

There you can check out volunteer opportunities and log your hours volunteered.

Thank you Karin and Ruth for your dedication to MJMC and our clients!



Champion of Volunteers



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)
- ★ Translator, Interpreter
- ★ Client Computer Tutor
- ★ English Tutor
- ★ Daycare Volunteer
- ★ Administrative Volunteer
- ★ Computer/Technology Assistant

- ★ Mover without a vehicle
- ★ Mover with a vehicle
- ★ Donations Organizer

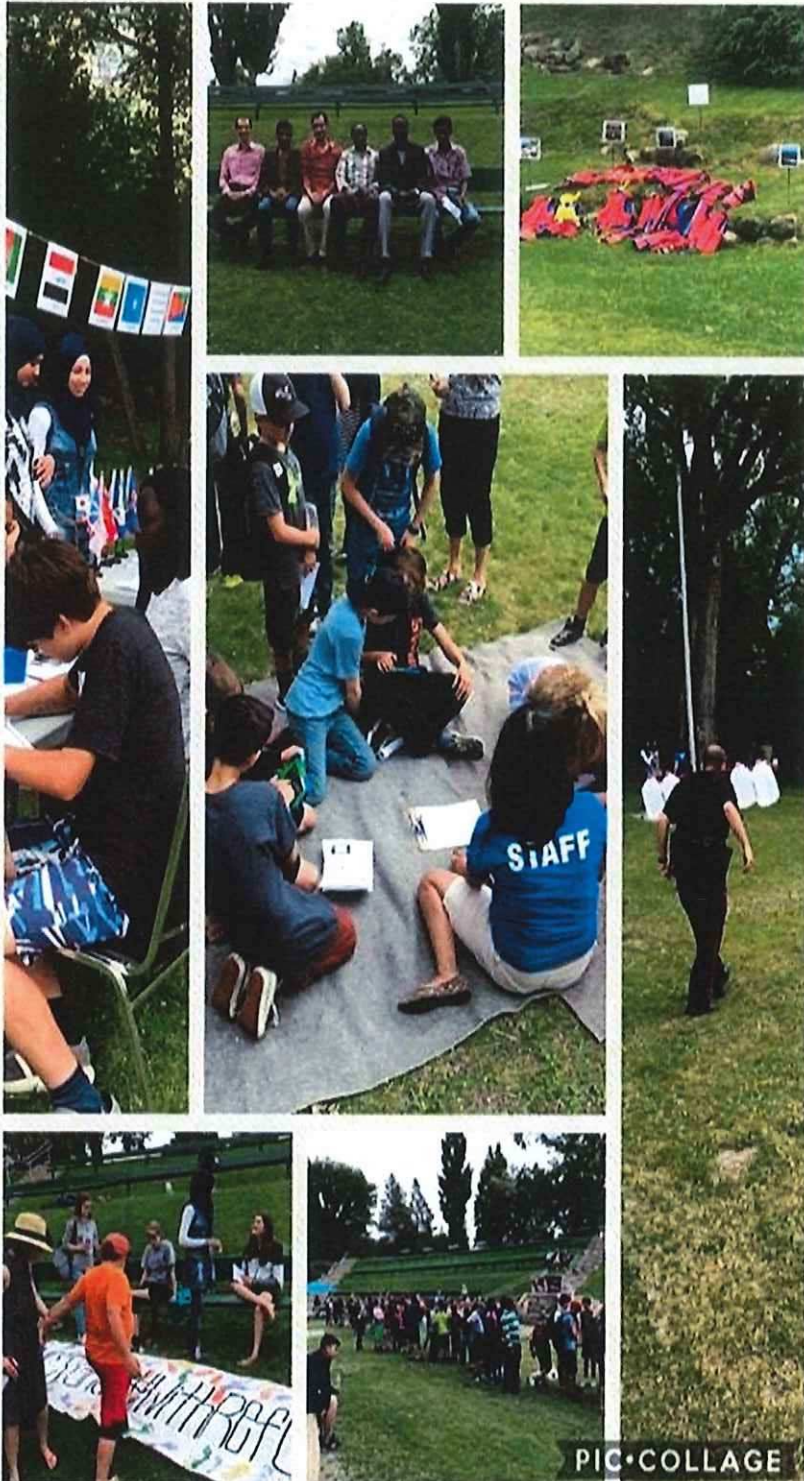
Become a HOST Volunteer

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 the 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.



Event Showcase



World Refugee Day June 20, 2017

#WeStandWithRefugees

Each day war forces thousands of families to flee their homes. In many situations they leave everything behind.

On World Refugee Day we encourage recognition of the courageous and resilient people from around the world having to flee from war, persecution and violence.

At MJMC we look forward to this day all year, we work hard to bring awareness to the community to prevent stereotypes, stigma, and discrimination.

On world Refugee Day we shared many interactive displays presenting information to the community. Our guests were asked to line up at our registration desk to help signify the long waits, patience, and perseverance that so many people face while applying and waiting for refugee status. Once they received their passport they could move on to explore many different activities including: a rice and beans lunch that could be a typical meal served in a refugee camp, the water carrying game was to represent the strength that it takes for a family to be able to safely bring home clean water for their family, we had a display set up to commemorate the dangerous crossing of the Mediterranean Sea by thousands of Refugees, along with many more interactive displays throughout the day. We would like to say a big thank you to all the staff and students who participated from Westmount and Sunningdale schools, MJPS for all their help throughout the day, our volunteers who devote so much time to our events and organization, the Moose Jaw Public Library for setting up displays and a tent to read stories and we would like to thank our Panel of Refugees for sharing with us

Upcoming Events

Community Welcome ☀️

MJMC Clients, Staff,
Volunteers Only 🌙

Thank You



for your Kindness

JulyJuly 3- July 14 🌙
Employment CampJuly 9 ☀️
Men's SoccerJuly 3-31 🌙
MJMC Summer
ProgramJuly 27 ☀️
Community CaféAugustAugust 1-25 🌙
MJMC Summer
ProgramAugust 13 ☀️
Men's SoccerAugust 16
MJMC annual summer
potluckAugust 22
Intercultural TrainingAugust 24 ☀️
Community CafeSeptemberSeptember 10 ☀️
Men's SoccerSeptember 14, 28 ☀️
Community Café

MJMC Children's Summer Program

The program is designed to provide an opportunity for newcomer children to participate in activities that are culturally sensitive, age-appropriate, socially, physically, and educationally advantageous.

The Program seeks to provide an opportunity for newcomer children to integrate into the community by accessing mainstream programming while feeling safe and comfortable with their peer group throughout the summer.

We would like to welcome our summer program staff: Sarah, Fred, Christell, and Zahra.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our funders for this year's summer program, without your support this program would not be possible.

The Moose Jaw Multicultural Council gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation, which is a public foundation serving the people of South Saskatchewan. The Foundation builds permanently endowed charitable funds for the changing need and opportunities of the community and provides grants to eligible charitable organizations in culture, health, education, environment, recreation, and social service sectors.



Ongoing Programs

Community Cafe

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

July 27
August 24
September 14, 28

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

Practice Your English. Games. Laughs. Friendship.



Did You Know....

- Refugees are people just like you and me who have had their lives torn apart due to violence and/or persecution
- Refugees can remain uprooted for an average of 17 years
- Over 14.4 million refugees around the world depend on the UNHCR for protection and support
- The UNHCR works in more than 125 countries around the world
- Over half the world's refugees are children



Final Thoughts...

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.mjmcinc.ca

The past few months have been very exciting for MJMC. We hosted a volunteer tea to recognize our dedicated volunteers and we were presented with a Community Safety Award from the Moose Jaw Police Service.

We work hard to create a welcoming and inclusive community so that everyone feels at home and safe and we couldn't do this without the support of our community and volunteers.

Thank you Moose Jaw



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.

