

Newsletter Date

October – December, 2016

Community Connections Newsletter



Upcoming Events:

- October 17
HOST Program
Lunch and
Learn.
- November 9
Cultural Fair at
Central
Collegiate.
- November 18
International
Dinner
Fundraiser at
St. Andrew's
Church.

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Message from Community Connections Coordinator



-Melissa Mitchell

Lots of exciting things going on at MJMC so make sure you check out the calendar of events in this issue. We have our International Dinner coming up and hope to see you there. It will be a night of great entertainment and good food. We are always looking for volunteers to help in different areas so make sure to look at our Volunteer section. Featured Volunteer Program for this issue is our Host Program; a great opportunity to meet new friends and help newcomers to Canada feel welcome. Have a great fall season. Our next newsletter will be out in January.



Featured Family

Our featured family is Mohamed Saeed Ali Mohamed and his wife Jimea Jime who arrived in Moose Jaw on May 29, 2014 along with their children Abdulkarim Mohamed Saeed Ali, Rayan Mohamed Saeed Ali, Rania Mohamed Saeed Ali, Abdulmunim Mohamed Saeed Ali, Abdulatif Mohamed Saeed Ali, and Abdulmohsen Mohamed Saeed Ali, all born in Sudan. Abdulwahab Mohamed Ali was born in Canada. Mohamed and his wife Jimea were born in Eritrea but have lived in Sudan since 1988.



We asked Mohamed what he felt the biggest change about living in Canada. He expressed, "Canada is good for everything, people here are good, and school for children is very good"



Eritrea

Population 6,380,803
Capital Asmara
Currency Nakfa



Sudan

Population 40,235,000
Capital Khartoum
Currency Sudanese Pound

“The diversity makes Moose Jaw so exciting and thrilling, and so much fun to be part of. Sometimes you feel like you’re not doing much, but if we all do a little bit, it makes a big difference” – Faith Case



Dusti Hennenfent and Faith Case

Country Spotlight

This month we are featuring two countries, Eritrea and Sudan.

Eritrea

Eritrea, which is known officially as the State of Eritrea, is a country in Africa on the border of Sudan (west) and Ethiopia (south) with an extensive coastline along the Red Sea. Eritrea is home to a wide range of ethnic groups and is rich in

history. Eritrea earned independence from Ethiopia in 1993. Mohamed Saeed Ali Mohamed expressed ‘Eritrea is a good country, but the government is not good.’

Sudan

Sudan is located in North Africa and borders the Red Sea and land borders with Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia,

South Sudan, Central African Republic, Chad and Libya. Sudan is the third largest country in Africa and the sixth largest country in the world. In Sudan, two meals is the social norm with the most important meal being the evening meal that is shared with family. Mohamed Saeed Ali Mohamed shared that Sudan is good; he was married and had his children in Sudan.

Volunteer Hall of Fame

Our feature volunteers are **Faith Case** and **Dusti Hennenfent**, a mother and daughter duo who love spending time together. Since volunteering in January of 2016, they have created new friendships and provided invaluable support to newcomers to Moose Jaw. They are currently participating in the Host Program and volunteer with MJMC in any way they can.

We want to say *thank-you* to both of them for their dedication to MJMC and our clients.

We had a chance to sit down with Dusti and Faith to share their volunteer experience.

What sparked your interest in volunteering with MJMC?

Faith – I worked in healthcare for 46 years and since retiring I wanted to do something meaningful. Syrian Newcomers prompted my involvement. I got involved with the Community Café and was able to meet many people from different countries all over the world. I volunteered in child minding and had a great experience spending one-on-one time with a child and thought – ‘when would you ever get such an opportunity to spend time with a child from across the world?’

Volunteer Hall of Fame continued

Dusti – I started volunteering when there was such a controversy about bringing Syrian Refugees to Canada. I felt that I needed to do as much as I could to make our community as welcoming as possible. I had a great experience when I moved to Korea for one year to teach English and I was able to recognize the challenges that a newcomer faces when coming to a new country.

*“They think we are coming for them, but really we take so much away” –
Dusti Hennenfent*

What has been your experience volunteering for MJMC?

Dusti – Volunteering with Community Café has been a great experience for us, we usually come and go together. After each time, we talk about what we’ve learned, the great people we’ve met, and how much fun we’ve have.

We are thank-ful to all our past, present, and future volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, check out our volunteer opportunities.

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

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

We have an exciting next couple months and we are looking for volunteers to help with the following events:

- ★ International Dinner Fundraiser
- ★ Cultural Fair
- ★ Halloween Party
- ★ Holiday Party

See the events calendar for dates.

IF you are able to help with any of these events please contact Melissa. Events like these need **volunteers** like you to be successful.

**“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”
–Helen Keller**

Program Showcase

HOST PROGRAM

Join a Whole New World of Friendship

Spend time with your new friend, taking them shopping, to the park, fishing, learning the bus, helping them understand some of the basic things we as Canadians take for granted.

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. If interested and want to learn more, we invite you to our upcoming:

LUNCH N' LEARN

October 17, 2016

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

60 Athabasca Street East

\$5.00 for Lunch

Please RSVP to Melissa at 306-693-4677

Host is an ongoing program; interested volunteers can apply anytime

Newcomer Steering Committee - RIC

We are in the process of welcoming a number of new members, while some others are leaving the committee:

- ★ Melissa Mitchell will be replacing Jaella on the committee and joins us as Co-chair effective immediately. Dalise will be taking maternity leave in Jan. and thus will be passing role of Chair to Melissa. The transition has already begun as Dalise and Melissa work together to implement an efficient and seamless transfer.
- ★ The schedule for meetings was discussed and it was decided that, we will continue meeting every third Monday of every second month.
- ★ From there, the committee spent time discussing each of the 5 objectives currently on the work plan and what to do with each item.
- ★ We finished with a time of networking where we were able to hear what is going on in each other's agencies and realms. A list of upcoming events was also shared.

Our purpose is to keep connected, understand what is happening in the region and to address gaps.

Upcoming Events

October

October 3 – 14 – Winter
Clothing Drive. Drop off
used winter clothes at
MJMC



October 17
HOST Program
Lunch n' Learn
12:00pm. to 1:00pm
\$5 Lunch, RSVP
at MJMC



October 29
Halloween Party
10:00am to 12:00pm
(staff and students only)

November

November 9
Cultural Fair
Central Collegiate
12:00pm- 1:00pm



November 16
Linking Organizations to
Newcomer Volunteers
10:00am. to 2:00pm
RSVP
Newcomer Welcome
Centre

November 17
International Dinner
Fundraisers
5:00pm
\$15 Adults \$10 Under 12
St. Andrew's Church

December

December 17
Holiday Party
1:00pm – 3:00pm
(staff and students only)



December 19
New Volunteer
Information Night
7:00pm-8:00pm
RSVP

MJMC Closed for
Holiday Break
December 23, 2016
to January 2, 2017



Ongoing Programs

Community Café

Thursday Night – 7:00pm to 8:00pm
Moose Jaw Newcomer Welcome Centre

Oct 6, 20

Nov 3, 17

Dec 1, 15

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

Woman's Group

Tuesday Morning- 10:00am to 11:30am
Church of God Basement -50 Hochelaga Street East

Oct 4, 11, 18, 25

Nov 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Dec 6, 13, 20

Children Welcome. Practice English. Support and Friendships.



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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.mjmcinc.ca

Final Thoughts...

We are very fortunate to be in such a giving community. We would like to thank all those generous Moose Javians who donate fresh vegetables, clothing, pillows, household items, books, school supplies and much, much, more. It is these acts of kindness that mean so much to our organization and the clients we serve. **THANK-YOU** 😊

“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”

-Mother Theresa

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.

