

Dear friends,

As June 20th marked World Refugee Day, it is a fitting time to take a moment and thank you for your participation with us in supporting and welcoming refugees from around the world.

In making ourselves available as sponsors, the committee made a conscious decision not to ask specifically for Syrian refugees, reasoning that the severity of their plight does not diminish the severity of others¹ plights.

With this mandate in mind, we were delighted to accept 19-year-old Ibrahim as our first refugee. Ibrahim comes to us from The Gambia, and over the past month and a half, he has been busy settling into his new life in Toronto.

Our team has been busy helping Ibrahim with the many practical tasks facing a newcomer identification papers, medical appointments, banking and finances, enrolling in school, finding appropriate housing, etc. as well as offering welcome, support, and guidance in whatever ways we can. He is settling in well, excelling in school, making new friends, and loving his new city.

Our hope is that this will be just the start of an ongoing ministry to refugees, and we are in the queue to welcome a family sometime later this year.

It has been our privilege to support Ibrahim in this life-altering move, and we recognize that it is truly a community effort. Thank you so much for joining us in the journey!

With thanks,

The Refugee Settlement Team
Church of the Redeemer