

CHRISTIAN-BASED REFUGEE SHELTERS IN ONTARIO

The shelters welcome refugees from all religions, ways of life and countries of origin without discrimination. However, they vary in capacity, length of stay and services. Therefore, follow the links to get more detailed information about each shelter.

Adam House is located at 430 Gladstone Avenue, Toronto, ON, M6H 3H9, Canada. It accommodates 21 people for an average stay of eight weeks offering meals; information and referral; legal aid, immigration and social assistance; settlement services; and reception. Christians from many denominations support Adam House. David Nath is the Executive Director. For more information visit www.adamhouse.org.

Casa el Norte is a transitional home that offers shelter to refugees coming into Canada. It is strategically located in Fort Erie where many refugees travelling through the United States on their refugee journey cross over into Canada via the Peace Bridge. Catholic sisters operate the house located at 281 Central Avenue, Fort Erie, ON, L2A 3TA, Canada; phone 905-871-4483; fax 905-871-3317. The director is Lynn Hannigan and the Counsellor is Sister Judith Carroll. Contact them at mcasaelnorte@cogeco.net.

Christie Refugee Welcome Centre is located at 43 Christie Street, Toronto, ON, M6G 3B1, Canada. The home accommodates 65—70 people for an average stay of six to twelve weeks offering a full range of shelter programs and services. In addition, the centre assists churches that sponsor refugees. World Vision operates CRWC. Linda Moorcroft is the Executive Director. For more information go to www.christiestreetc.com.

FCJ Hamilton House is located at 208 Oakwood Avenue, Toronto, ON, M6E 2V4, Canada. The home offers temporary shelter to women and children for up to one year, as well as, providing them with orientation, legal support, social assistance and counselling. The Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus, and former refugees, Francisco and Loly Rico co-founded the home. They have an excellent website that is chock full of valuable information for refugees and refugee workers. Most interesting is their *Refugee Help in Refugee Hands* (RHRH) manual that is over one hundred pages, details the immigration process, explains outcomes and alternative action, and links to valuable resources. In addition, they do training workshops for groups working with refugees. Francisco Rico-Martinez and Loly Rico are the Co-Directors. For more information: www.fcjrefugeecentre.org.

Harbour Light is located at 160 Jarvis Street, Toronto, ON, M5B 2E1, Canada. It is a transitional shelter that is not only for refugees but also for anyone in need of housing because of family violence, substance abuse, chronic medical problems and recent immigration. It provides secondary assistance for individuals leaving shelters, teaching them skills to live successfully in the community. The Salvation

Army runs the shelter. It has 98 bachelor apartments and residents can stay up to eleven months. For more information visit <http://www.harbourlight.org>.

Matthew House (Fort Erie) is located at 183 Central Avenue, Fort Erie, ON, L2A 3S8, Canada; 905-871-6059. It is a first place of welcome for refugees crossing over the Peace Bridge from the United States. It accommodates ten individuals for a one month stay. Jim and Shirley McNair coordinate the ministry that is an initiative of the First Baptist Church, Fort Erie, but has a broader support base from the community. Contact the McNairs at mmatthew.housefe@sympatico.ca.

Matthew House (Ottawa) is located in Ottawa at an undisclosed address. The mailing address is 1363 Woodroffe Avenue, Unit B, P.O. Box 84067, Ottawa, ON, K2C 3Y9, Canada. The home is opening in 2010 and is a collaborative project of Bethany Baptist Church, Nepean, ON, 613-224-5611; Bromley Road Baptist Church, Ottawa, ON, 613-722-2834; and Eglise Evangelique Baptiste d'Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, 613-789-3202. For more information visit www.matthewhouseottawa.org.

Matthew House (Toronto) is located in downtown Toronto at an undisclosed address. The phone numbers of the office and house are 416-364-8287 or 416-203-7848 and the mailing address is 67 Shirley Street, Toronto, ON, M6K 1T2, Canada. The home can accommodate 12 people for an average stay of eight to twelve weeks. In addition, Matthew House has two transitional homes that can accommodate refugees who have gone through a shelter but need additional support. Churches and individuals from many different denominations support Matthew House. Anne Woolger-Bell is the Executive Director. For more information: www.matthewhouse.ca.

Matthew House (Windsor) is located in Windsor at an undisclosed address. The phone number is 519-945-7627 and the mailing address is 500 Tecumseh Road East, P.O. Box 28088, Windsor, ON, N8X 5E4, Canada. It is a first place of welcome for refugees crossing over into Canada from Detroit, USA. Churches and individuals from different denominations support the home. Heather Mantle is the Executive Director. Contact her at mmatthw@sympatico.ca.

Micah House is located in Hamilton at an undisclosed address. The phone numbers of the office and home are 905-296-4387 and 905-296-488. The mailing address is 333 King Street East, Hamilton, ON, L8N 1C1, Canada. The home accommodates 12 people for an average stay of two months. Churches and individuals from many different denominations support Micah House. Scott Jones is the Executive Director. For more information visit www.micahhouse.ca.

Romero House is located at 1558 Bloor Street West, Toronto, M6P 1A4, Canada; 416-763-1303; romerohouse@bellnet.ca. The home provides housing for refugees until their hearing. The founder, Mary Jo Leddy is the author of five books. *At the Border Called Hope: Where Refugees are Neighbours* is an

especially important contribution to refugee literature from a Canadian perspective. The Roman Catholic Church supports the home. Heather White is the Director. For more information link to www.romerohouse.org.

Welcome Home is located at 260 King Street East, Kitchener, ON, N2G 2L1, Canada. The phone numbers for the office and house are 519-568-8696 and 519-569-7418. The home provides refugees with shelter for up to one year. International Teams operate Welcome Home and churches and individuals from many different denominations support it. Sharon Johnson is the Program Director. Contact her at 226-220-4081 or mwelcome.home@iteams.org.