



HOPES IN YOUR HEARTS

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Prepared By:

Hope in Your Hearts Team

RESETTLEMENT AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT

Hope In Your Hearts



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Message From Our President

I am neither an Immigration Lawyer, nor am I an Immigration Consultant. I am a mother of four who once upon a time landed in Canada as permanent resident through a government assisted program, refugee Re-settlement back in 2004, and ever since, Canada has been my safe haven.

Since our 2019 establishment as a constituent group, we have maintained our tight collaboration with sponsorship agreement holders to facilitate the resettlement of refugee families in Canada. In order to help sponsored families settle in, our team worked closely with them, developing personal relationships that served to both ease their transition into the community and provide them with valuable life lessons. Through our six years of refugee sponsorship in Canada, we have gained invaluable experience and knowledge. We discovered that we can welcome refugee families of any gender or ethnicity with open arms. It became clear to us that even a small act of humanitarian work might have far-reaching consequences for the future of the refugee and our dearly loved Canadian society. In 2023, we have accomplished a lot together. We had roundtable discussions with members of Parliament and Liberal Government parties to explain our vision and aims for resettling and supporting refugee families in Canada.

• • • • We wrote many letters and communications to Minister Miller Marc, advocating for equitable, transparent, and accessible emergency response frameworks, as well as requesting assistance from Iranian and Canadian authorities. We continued our effort to repeal the Safe Third Country for Refugees Act, highlighting the significance of practical and compassionate avenues to entice donors to contribute to refugee private sponsorship. When required, we went to the Canadian government to promote justice and protect refugees' right to seek asylum.

By raising awareness among the Iranian community in Canada and beyond through live video orientations and frequent social media education sessions, we will raised funds to assist refugees abroad in 2023. We accomplished our goal of raising \$22,000 on GoFundMe by the end of December 2023. We are currently helping six human rights defenders based in Turkey. Those individuals went blind in 2022 while protesting in Iran. All hours of the night and day, our group is trying to raise money to sponsor these people.

The City of Refuge, situated in St. Catherines, Ontario, is a sponsor agreement holder, and we were able to establish contact with them. We got their OK to put together a sponsorship package for those six individuals. On top of that, our church in New Zealand has set aside funds for the fall of 2023 so that we can apply to the Community Sponsorship Program in Canada to sponsor a Malaysian family of four.

The number of Canadian nationals requesting to sponsor two UNHCR-protected individuals in Turkey has increased by two more. Our group will be the principal sponsor and will be responsible for all re-settlement costs, and we are collaborating with other groups to submit the sponsorship application through community sponsorship. In addition, in 2024, our organization will be the component group delivering a complete settlement through one sponsorship application that will be submitted through Mennonite Committee Central Ontario, the holders of the sponsor agreement. We are fortunate to have a financial sponsor that helps with the sponsorship monies.

After numerous adjustments, conversations, and reflections, it was time to begin a strategic discussion about our organization's future. In a broad consultation effort involving our membership, volunteers, and staff, we envisioned a course for the coming years, and a new strategic plan was formed. Our strategic plan draws on the community's strengths while also acknowledging its challenges and the larger context of organizations and topics that HIYH works on. Within the next year, we anticipate welcoming new leadership to the staff team to help us implement our strategies and further HIYH's purpose.

I would like to use this opportunity to express my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to HIYH's success over the years and to share with you this year's annual report.

Hope for the best!
Things are looking up!
Standing united!

Sara Izadi
Chairwomen / Chief Executive Officer



Who We Are

Our Mission

Hope is that glimmering bird in our hearts that maintains, in the face of all evidence to the contrary, that something better awaits us if we have the strength to seek it. Hope is daring; hope is survival; and hope is attainable.



As a non-profit organization, Hope in Your Hearts ("HIYH") was registered under the Ontario Corporations Act in 2023. Its mission to assist refugees and immigrants in settling in Canada has been a constant presence in the community since its founding. Among the many Canadian organizations fighting for the dignity, safety, and future of migrants and refugees, Hope in Your Hearts Inc. stands head and shoulders above our Iranian community crowd. The groups that make up HIYH are all doing important work in and around these communities across Ontario.

Our mission is to promote social justice and alter society by fighting racism, colonialism, and other forms of systematic oppression. To do this, we engage in policy monitoring, advocacy, network building, and public education.

How We Work

Our members bring forward an issue

There are multiple channels via which members can raise concerns. From the effects of racism to immigration detention, anything that hinders our members' work and, by extension, the rights of arrivals on the ground might be considered an issue.

The HIYH takes on the issue

Our three working groups—Immigration & Settlement, Inland Protection, and Overseas Protection & Resettlement—discuss various topics as needed.

Understand and discuss the issue

We offer a variety of workshop formats during our consultations, including webinars, virtual meetings, and conversations between members, to match the demands of our clients.

Plan and act on the issue

Members vote on the best course of action for the HIYH to take on this matter and then determine whether to approve a resolution, make policy or practical resources, raise awareness through the media, start a public opinion campaign, sue, or negotiate with the government.

Government policies and practices change, community actors change, concerns become more widely known, CCR members learn and grow, and legal challenges are brought forward as a result of our work.



MEMBERSHIP:

We are a federation that unites groups in the Greater Toronto Area that aid immigrants, newcomers, and refugees. We have these groups as members.



Membership

Membership in HIYH is open to groups who share our goals of promoting human rights and inclusive communities, including settlement groups, faith-based organizations, lawyers' associations, private sponsors, and more. Our mission is to meet the members' demands for advocacy, networking, and information exchange.

Administration platform for members:

We brought on an administrative coordinator and restructured the administrative team near the end of the fiscal year. They are responsible for helping the Membership Coordinator with membership-related chores so that we can keep up with our rapidly expanding membership and provide better service to our existing members.

OUR TEAM



Executive Committee

Chair/ Chiefs Executive Officer : Sara Izadi

Vice-Chair: Maral Kiumarsi

Treasurer: Aram Jabbari

Secretary/ Chief Technical Officer: Sanaz Minarine

Director at Large/ Chief Marketing Office: Elham Bahram Goorbandi

Director At Large: Roonak Younsei

Director At Large: Farahnaz Elmi/ Chief Operational Officer

Working Group:

Immigration and Settlement Coordinator: Shiva Vahidpour

Counsellors:

Bryan Stephenson

Rav Singh

Niloufar Dehghan

Sepid Rahmani

Ed Saleh

Taranhe Vahidpour

Mike Khamseh

Shahriar Khadem

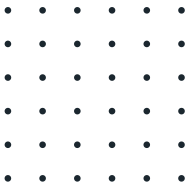
Policy and Advocacy



"Hope in Your Hearts" sponsors refugees on the grounds that each individual has the right to a secure and harmonious living environment, as well as the freedom to express one's thoughts, opinions, and self-perception. Every refugee is entitled to both protection and a lasting resolution.

In addition to those who receive government resettlement, we help some refugees in Canada realize these rights through sponsorship. In alignment with the overarching objective of sponsorship, which is to ensure the realisation of refugees' rights, we pledge to uphold and advance the dignity and human rights of every refugee, with a specific focus on those whom we sponsor.

While our capacity to provide sponsorship for refugees requiring resettlement is limited, we shall adhere to the principle of non-discrimination when determining which individuals to support. Acknowledging the intrinsic power asymmetry that exists between sponsors and sponsored individuals, we pledge to conduct ourselves in a manner that mitigates the potential for oppression within this dynamic. With an understanding of the importance of sensitivity in a cross-cultural environment and regarding the asymmetrical relationship between sponsors and those being sponsored, our objective is to advance gender equality. We are fully dedicated to upholding our responsibilities, including those outlined in the law, to safeguard the rights of sponsored children and other sponsored individuals who are particularly susceptible.



Communications.

One of the Strategic Plan's aims and goals was to create an engaging and inspiring identity while also ensuring accessible communications. In 2023, our Communications Coordinator developed a communication plan based on insights obtained from staff workshops, member interviews, and contextual research. The communications strategy was critical in guiding the rebranding, website redesign, and rollout of new advocacy tools.

An updated visual identity.

The HIYH is a one-of-a-kind collective powered by its members, partners, and community. The new branding reflects this strength: it seeks to build on the past rather than eliminate it in order to achieve continuous success.

As a passionate and influential presence in the Canadian immigration industry, the HIYH deserves an identity that is as symbolic and bold as it has been in its previous six years of existence.

An updated website.

We planned to make our website more accessible and easier to use for all of our diverse audiences, in addition to applying the new branding to the website and following through with the priority that was highlighted in the Strategic Plan.

Fundraising.

Despite the fact that the current economic climate has been challenging for a great number of people and communities across Canada, we have overcome some of the obstacles that we have encountered in our efforts to work and interact with our supporters and contributors. We were astonished to discover that their dedication has not diminished.

All of our income comes from charitable contributions. Those individuals who contribute money in order to sponsor refugee families in Canada.

Financials



Copies of full audited statements including notes are available from the CCR office.

Statement of operations for the year ended December 2023.

Hope In Your Heart Inc.
Statement Of Financial Positions
As at December 31, 2023
(Unaudited)

Assets	Dec-23
<i>Current Assets:</i>	
TD Chequing - 1	67,580
TD Chequing - 2 (GoFundMe)	27,300
<i>Total current assets</i>	\$ 94,880
<i>Fixed (Long-Term) Assets</i>	
Furniture and Equipment	-
Leasehold Improvement	-
Less: accumulated depreciation	-
Investment	-
<i>Total fixed assets</i>	\$ -
Total Assets	94,880
<i>Liabilities and Owner's Equity</i>	
<i>Current Liabilities:</i>	
Accounts payable - Advertising	15,150
Accounts payable - Web Services	5,000
Advances - Sponsorships in process	67,580
Advances - GoFundMe	27,300
	-
<i>Total current liabilities</i>	\$ 115,030
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 115,030

Approved on behalf of the board
Director

Hope In Your Heart Inc.
Statement Of Operations
For the 8 months ended December 31, 2023
(Unaudited)

for the period of April 22, 2023 to December 31, 2023

REVENUE:	Dec-23
Government Grants	-
Fees for Service	
Interest and Other	
Other donations	92,660
Other Income	-
Total Revenue	\$ 92,660
EXPENDITURES:	
Advertising & Marketing	15,150
Interest and Bank Charges	310
Rent	6,750
Office Expenses	5,000
Supplies	120
Professional Fee	850
Computer Related expenses	3,080
Total Expenditures	\$ 31,260
Excess of Expenditures Over Revenue	\$ 61,400

Approved on behalf of the board

Director





Hope is that glimmering bird in our hearts that maintains, in the face of all evidence to the contrary, that something better awaits us if we have the strength to seek it. Hope is daring; hope is survival; and hope is attainable.

"To be called a refugee is the opposite of an insult; it is a badge of strength, courage, and victory."

Contact Us :



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