



In 2017, the Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) Youth Cabinet raised funds through its Project Be to help educate the public about the plight of refugees. A total of \$128,432.46 was raised to support various investments in Ottawa and the Outaouais through HealthPartners, Centraide Outaouais and United Way Ottawa.

Here are the investments that Centraide Outaouais has made with the \$49,009 it received from GCWCC Youth Cabinet members.

SETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE

Centraide Outaouais supports various programs that help refugees settle in their new community. **Through funds provided by the GCWCC Youth Cabinet members, \$35,000 have been invested in these programs in the past year.**

We helped 368 people find a new life through all steps in the process, from their arrival at the airport to finding housing, registering in school or daycare, applying for documents and navigating the health system and job market.

Interpretation and translation services are vital in this context. Hundreds of hours were invested in facilitating communication with refugees who had come mostly from the Middle East (38.4%) and East Africa (16%).

To settle into their communities, newcomers need to learn French. Several local organizations offer French-language training, enabling people to learn the language, get in touch with the host community and integrate into their new reality.

The investment from the GCWCC Youth Cabinet supported the following initiatives:

- 160 self-help interactions with 33 women to support them and their children;
- Interpretation services for 56 people, including many who needed medical and school services.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AND CULTURAL MEDIATION

To be a refugee means that you had to forcibly leave your country often under dehumanizing conditions. People arriving in the area are frequently traumatized in any number of ways—culturally, emotionally, geographically or psychologically. Many of these newcomers require special care and

psychological support. Such support should also extend over several years since post-traumatic stress disorder can have long-term effects.

Cultural mediation is another important service to prevent conflicts that are generally created by misinterpretation of individual realities. Such services comprise awareness workshops and conflict-resolution support.

The investment of the GCWCC Youth Cabinet members for these services totalled \$14,009 and had the following results:

- Of the 113 people who received psychosocial support, thirty individuals were helped with funds from ProjectBe.
- Five cases were managed under the cultural mediation program, and people were provided with the tools to prevent future conflicts.

