



## **United Way of Greater Toronto**

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# **United Way Invests \$308,202 in 16 New Projects for Newcomers**

TORONTO – Newcomer youth will receive support to cope with separation and reunification with their parents and isolated newcomer women living in St. Jamestown will receive employment and settlement supports as part of 16 new projects receiving \$308,202 in funding through United Way of Greater Toronto's newcomer grants this year.

Helping newcomers achieve their potential is one of United Way's three priority areas. This grant funding is in addition to the \$51.8 million allocated to United Way's network of 200 agencies in Toronto and will help immigrants and refugees, particularly youth and seniors, adjust to life in our city.

"New Canadians bring so much entrepreneurial expertise, energy and culture to our city," said **Frances Lankin**, President and CEO, United Way of Greater Toronto. "We want to build on the services available to newcomers, especially in the inner suburbs. United Way is providing funds to help newcomers find employment, and settle and integrate through these new projects."

For a sixth year, these newcomer grants will fund culturally-appropriate projects that address the needs of people from diverse backgrounds such as the Chinese, African, Sri Lankan, Caribbean, Muslim, Iranian and Korean communities. People living in many of the high-poverty neighbourhoods identified in United Way's *Poverty By Postal Code* report issued earlier this year will participate in new programming. Communities include Morningside, St. Jamestown, Silversprings, Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park.

Here are some of the projects helping newcomers across Toronto:

**Yorktown Child & Family Centre**, a United Way agency, will receive \$12,197 to support Chinese and Caribbean youth, helping them cope with the experience of separation and reunification with their parents and caregivers because of immigration. Peer mentorship activities, expressive arts, group discussions and supports for parents will help them adapt to their new lives in Canada.

**Opportunity for Advancement**, a United Way agency, will receive \$22,900 to support isolated newcomer women and children living in St. Jamestown by assessing skills gaps and labour market integration opportunities. A part-time coordinator will work with 95 women and offer workshops aimed at developing skills which lead to employment opportunities.

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**New Experiences for Newcomer Women** will receive \$19,292 to support underserved and isolated newcomer and refugee women in developing a cross-cultural community network that builds social connections, helps access settlement and employment-related services and improves language and literacy skills.

**Canadian Tamil Youth Development Centre (CANTYD)** will receive \$21,753 to support 50 Tamil youth no longer in the school system who will participate in a violence prevention program. Five youth will receive training and deliver anti-violence presentations to peers.

**Reh'Ma Community Services** will receive \$10,000 to train 30 newcomer Muslim seniors to provide linguistic, cultural and faith-appropriate outreach to 200 peers primarily in Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park. These groups of seniors will discuss the unique settlement needs of seniors.

United Way of Greater Toronto funds a vital network of social and health service agencies in Toronto that support young children, youth, families, abused women, isolated seniors, disabled and homeless people and newcomers to Canada. United Way's fundraising goal for 2004 is \$88.5 million to support 200 neighbourhood agencies as well as other registered charities as designated by donors.

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