



**United Way
of Greater Toronto**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNITED WAY INVESTS \$350,000 IN NEWCOMER COMMUNITIES
16 new projects across Toronto to receive funding

TORONTO, December 13, 2005 – United Way is investing \$350,000 in 16 new projects to give newcomers throughout Toronto opportunities to adjust to life in their new city and build new skills to achieve their potential.

“Despite our growing economic and demographic dependence on newcomers, we are doing an increasingly poor job of bringing recent immigrants into the economic mainstream,” said Frances Lankin, President and CEO, United Way of Greater Toronto. “These grants will help bring opportunities to life for newcomers so they can build their new lives in Canada and participate actively in their community.”

2005 marks the seventh year of United Way’s Newcomer Grants Program. Recent studies show many newcomers struggle with issues of isolation, culture shock, and access to employment. The funding will provide much-needed social programs and settlement services to the Somali, Korean, East African, Russian-Jewish, Punjabi, and Caribbean communities.

Funding will be distributed to the following:

- \$145,000 to city-wide service agencies
- \$85,000 to Scarborough agencies
- \$46,000 to downtown agencies
- \$38,000 to North York agencies
- \$36,000 to Etobicoke agencies

This year’s investment will support a number of projects – many in high-needs neighbourhoods – to help newcomers. For Youth Initiative works with youth from diverse communities to encourage civic engagement and raise awareness about education and social services, and economic and cultural opportunities. At the Centre for Information & Community Services of Ontario and the Southern Sudanese Community Organization of Greater Toronto, Sudanese women will be trained to deliver peer-based support to newcomer women. And at Conflict Mediation Services of Downsview, Somali newcomer youth can participate in conflict resolution and life skills workshops.

United Way of Greater Toronto works to create sustainable change in the lives of Torontonians. Through research, partnerships with government, volunteers, labour, and business, and by funding a network of 200 health and social agencies, United Way identifies needs and takes action to support people and develop strong neighbourhoods.

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NEWCOMER GRANTS DISTRIBUTION

SCARBOROUGH

Access Alliance Multicultural Community Health Centre will receive \$24,250 to train newcomer Tamil-speaking mothers to provide outreach and referral in the community. Women can also attend workshops to address parenting and home-based childcare issues.

East Scarborough Storefront will receive \$24,124 to fund a project connecting newcomer youth to services available in the East Scarborough community.

Malvern Family Resource Centre, a United Way agency, will receive \$20,000 to deliver outreach support to isolated newcomer Punjabi seniors.

YOUTHLINK, a United Way agency, will receive \$15,500 to provide information sessions to support East African youth and their families to address cultural and social adaptation

NORTH YORK

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS Toronto) will receive \$18,000 to fund a number of activities aimed at assisting Russian-Jewish newcomer youth in their settlement process.

Working Women Community Centre, a United Way agency, will receive \$20,000 to connect Chinese and Farsi speaking women to community programming to address settlement issues.

ETOBICOKE

Albion Neighbourhood Services, a United Way agency, will receive \$12,500 to enable newcomer youth at North Albion Collegiate Institute, who are attending ESL classes, improve their leadership and communications skills, and connect to the community.

Conflict Mediation Services of Downsview will receive \$23,110 to help newcomer Somali youth develop conflict resolution and life skills through various workshops.

NEWCOMER GRANTS DISTRIBUTION (*Continued*)

DOWNTOWN

Scadding Court Community Centre will receive \$22,884 to support isolated Chinese seniors who are primary caregivers for their grandchildren, to connect them to local community supports. The programs will also include social recreational sessions for the grandchildren of the participants.

Regent Park Focus will receive \$23,500 to engage newcomer youth in the production of a weekly spoken word public radio broadcast show and to contribute regularly to a community youth online and print newspaper on issues of their concern.

CITY-WIDE SERVICE AGENCIES

Centre for Information & Community Services of Ontario (CICS), a United Way agency, and **Southern Sudanese Community Organization of Greater Toronto (SOSCO-GT)** will receive \$24,927 to provide training for Sudanese women to deliver peer-based support to newcomer women.

Council of Agencies Serving South Asians will receive \$29,350 to improve service coordination for agencies serving newcomer women through the development of a settlement and domestic violence curriculum and workshops

For You Telecare Family Service Inc. will receive \$20,000 to fund numerous activities to assist Korean newcomer youth in their settlement process.

For Youth Initiative, a United Way agency, will receive \$30,000 to deliver *Rize Up – the Young Newcomers Project*. Working in collaboration with Grassroots Youth Collaborative, a collective of youth-led organizations, to develop the service and advocacy capacities of youth-serving organizations in Toronto.

Parkdale Community Legal Services (Workers' Action Centre) will receive \$24,533 to increase the capacity to deliver peer-based support related to employment and settlement issues through advanced leadership training.

Asian Community AIDS Service will receive \$17,000 to assist newcomer Asian youth in addressing and coping with gender and sexuality issues in ways that are culturally sensitive.

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