



BVOR NEWS

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program

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The Ripple Effect

A living room meeting leads to a BVOR sponsorship group

Yosief Araya, RSTP Director, remembers the first time he heard from what later became the Ripple Refugee Program, a Toronto group that has since sponsored 17 individuals, including two BVOR families.

"I got a call from Andrew Fitzgerald inviting me to speak about refugee sponsorship to some of his friends and neighbours," Yosief says. He has spoken about refugee sponsorship to groups across Canada, but "it was the first time I've ever been invited to speak in someone's living room." That was early in 2015, before the Canadian government committed to bringing 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada. Andrew's motivation was straightforward, "These are global problems. I can do something to relieve the sense of despair I have ... I can help at least one family." Aware that the group's help might be "just a drop in the ocean," members focus instead on the ripple effect of that drop, hence their name.



The Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program

The BVOR Program helps resettle refugees identified by United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) as the most vulnerable in need of resettlement. It is called blended because it is a cost sharing arrangement. Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) provides up to six months of income support for the newcomers, while private sponsors provide another six months of financial support, start-up costs and up to one year of social and emotional support.

The Ripple Refugee Project helps others learn from its sponsorship experience through a [blog](#), which includes everything from articles on the sponsorship experience to recipes and reflections from the newcomers. Members frequently speak with the media to raise the public's awareness of the continuing need for refugee sponsors. Ripple Refugee Project's first BVOR family of eight arrived in late 2015.

In December 2018 their second BVOR case arrived, a young Eritrean family of five led by a single mother. Members of this family became social media stars when a video of the children enjoying snow for the first time went viral. UNHCR profiled the family and Ripple Refugee Project's sponsorship activities in a video. ([see video](#))

Ripple Refugee Project now focuses on [sponsoring BVOR cases](#) with the help of its partner, Rosedale United Church. As frequent sponsors, they appreciate the [faster arrival times and lower costs](#) of BVOR sponsorship.

If you know a group of people considering refugee sponsorship through the [BVOR program](#), [RSTP](#) will be happy to talk with them. Please have them e-mail us at bvor@rstp.ca.

Featured BVOR profile

A single Jamaican Male looking for sponsors in Toronto.

This 25-year-old single Jamaican man Jamica currently lives in Trinidad and Tobago. He has 11 years of education, and has worked in the hospitality industry and as a security guard. He cannot return to his home country due to persecution on the basis of his sexual orientation. He has no contacts in Canada. He has expressed a preference for resettling in Toronto, ON. He would benefit from a sponsor's assistance sponsor while he makes a new home in Canada.

Every Canadian refugee
resettlement space is important.

Each one gives a refugee a chance at a building a future for themselves and their families.

BVOR incentive for SAHs (reminder)

There is a special time-limited incentive for SAHs which sponsor BVOR cases between November 1, 2018 and April 30, 2019. For each BVOR case a SAH sponsors during this time, they will receive an additional PSR SAH cap space in 2019. The additional PSR spaces will be given out after April 30th. SAHs can use the spaces to submit additional PSR applications starting May 1st, 2019. The spaces can be carried over into future years. The additional spaces cannot be traded among SAHs. They can only be used by the SAH that sponsored the BVOR that resulted in the additional space or spaces.

BLENDED VISA OFFICE-REFERRED (BVOR) PROGRAM

For more information, visit www.rstp.ca
or email bvor@rstp.ca

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Mark your calendars!
63 BVOR profiles for 181 people will be available on the RSTP BVOR Matching Database Monday, February 25 2019 at 1:00 pm EST.

Refugee populations in the BVOR program include:

- Syrian, Iraqi
- Congolese, Ethiopian, Eritrean
- Somali, Sudanese, Ugandan, Liberian

Particular vulnerabilities or reasons for resettlement include:

- Women and girls at risk
- Survivors of violence and/or torture
- Lack of foreseeable alternative solutions

To learn more about the countries BVOR refugees come from, visit: <http://www.rstp.ca/en/refugees/country-condition-information/>

Profiles of BVOR refugees needing sponsors can be found in the RSTP-BVOR Matching Database:

<https://cathcrosscultural.sharepoint.com/rstp>



Interested in sponsoring a BVOR refugee?

Phone us at 416.290.1700 x2403

RSTP will match you with a suitable profile and will help you through the process !