

December 12016

Dear Faculty of Health Colleagues and Friends:

**FACULTY OF
HEALTH**

Office of the Dean

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Season's Greetings. We have just received news that the Syrian refugee we have sponsored will arrive on December 19th! With the arrival date fast approaching, we are asking for your help in ensuring that they are welcomed warmly to their life in Toronto. For more information on the individual we have pledged to help, see the next page.

We are deeply grateful for the support we have received so far, which has already helped us raise just over \$23,000. We know that we can do even more by continuing to mobilize the talents and resources of the Faculty of Health community- we hope that you will join or add to our efforts! As you know, our Faculty is deeply committed to values such as social justice, equity, and diversity. This is an opportunity for us to put our values into concrete action.

Here is how you can join me in helping:

- **Help us reach our fundraising goal of \$27, 000 by December 31st!**
If you donate **before** December 31, 2016 you will receive an instant charitable tax receipt! Go to <http://www.ryerson.ca/lifelinesyria/york/index.html> and click on the "Make a Donation" button, then under the Gift Information category click on the drop down entitled "Select a designation for your gift" and select Team Health (under York University Sponsor team leads). After December 31st, you will no longer be able to make a donation through this portal, and therefore you will not be able to receive an instant charitable tax receipt.
- **Offer temporary housing!**
- In order to ensure that the newcomer is involved in choosing their new home, it is recommended that initially they stay in a temporary (up to one month) home, while we help them find a more permanent option. If you have a room in your house, or an apartment vacancy, sublet or other opportunity to host, please let the team know by indicating it in the survey below or contacting apetro@yorku.ca. Rent will be provided.
- **Make an in-kind donation!**
From providing temporary housing, to support through translation, to donating furniture, there are a number of non-financial ways you can support a newcomer in establishing their home in a new country. To indicate your interest in making an in-kind donation, please complete this brief online form, and a Team Health member will follow up with you:
<http://health.apps01.yorku.ca/machform/view.php?id=140424>
- **Spread the word!**



Tell your family, friends and colleagues about Team Health's efforts, and encourage them to support our initiative.

Let me close by thanking the Health Team who has led the way in making the sponsorship possible: Anda Petro (Lead Coordinator), Lesley Beagrie , Beryl Pilkington , Mazen Hamadeh, Alaa Youssef, Habbiba Ahmed, Jala Rizeq, James FitzGerald, Harvey Skinner, Christo El Morr.

With gratitude,



Paul McDonald

Dean

Who are we sponsoring?

The individual we are sponsoring is in their early twenties and the youngest in their family. In 2011 when the political tension started in Syria, the family was separated and the individual we are sponsoring was the only one left in Syria. As the situation progressed further, many Syrians fled from their towns and were displaced to neighboring countries such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and other European countries. Eventually, the individual we are sponsoring was also forced to leave his town and country, without even packing.

Our team has had the opportunity to connect with this individual, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming him to Canada. He is a hardworking person eager to make a positive impression in his new country. He has plans to continue his education in business. However, he recognizes the need to start by strengthening his English language skills. His biggest hope is that, after waiting for five years, he will have the opportunity to be reunited in Canada with his family.

About Team Health

Team Health, comprised of faculty, students and staff, was established as part of the York University Syrian Refugee and Response Initiative. Our team is proud to join the dozens of other sponsorship teams that are sponsoring Syrian refugees through the Pan-GTA Ryerson University Lifeline Syria Challenge. To learn more about Team Health, visit: <http://health.yorku.ca/team-health-lifeline-syria-members/>

For more information contact Team Health Lead (Anda Petro email apetro@yorku.ca), or visit the Faculty of Health's website at <http://health.yorku.ca/lifeline-syria/> To learn more about the York Refugee and Response Initiative visit: <http://www.osgoode.yorku.ca/refugees/>