



Gearing Up for Another Year....

Refugees Sharing in Student Success

As parents begin registering their children for our Sharing in Student Success (SISS) program for 2017, we reached out to Rukia Warsame, a settlement counsellor at the Somali Centre for Family Services. She was instrumental in helping the Somali Centre to become one of our partner agencies in 2011, and has distributed backpacks and school supplies to around 60 students every year since.

In 2016, the number of students referred to SISS through Rukia’s organization **grew fivefold**. This growth was directly attributed to the number of Syrian refugees seeking assistance at the Somali Centre.

“Last summer, we distributed **more than 300 backpacks** for over 100 households,” Rukia says. “As a settlement agency, the Somali Centre’s main target populations are the newcomers, according to funding mandate. However, we do not turn anyone away. We assist people through the challenges of their settlement.”

The feedback from the Centre’s clients has been overwhelmingly positive, and the Somali Centre is **grateful for the Ottawa community’s response** to the increase in need they’ve seen in the past year.



Our first agency meeting with representatives from some of our partner agencies, including Rukia Warsame (centre) of the Somali Centre for Family Services. This meeting was to prepare for Sharing in Student Success 2017!

With **nearly 600 children** registered for SISS 2017 so far, and with immigration levels in 2017 already above those in previous years, it’s likely the need for SISS will be **even greater** this year. And with the generous support of people like you, we hope to have another successful year Sharing in Student Success.



Community Fundraising Report: #TipsforCops2017

We are so happy to always be finding new ways to engage with the community. Recently, we were the charity recipients of the Tips for Cops fundraiser at LOCAL Public Eatery in Lansdowne!

Caring and Sharing By The Numbers

2,046

Number of children registered for SISS (2016)

2,046

Number of SISS registrants that received backpacks (2016)

30%

Increase in need for SISS (from 2015 to 2016)

18,447

Individuals registered for hampers through the Christmas Exchange program (2016)

14,725

Individuals that received hampers through the Christmas Exchange program (2016)

\$420,740

Money saved in the last fiscal year through our Co-ordination Service (March 2016 to February 2017)

**More than
\$2.5 million**

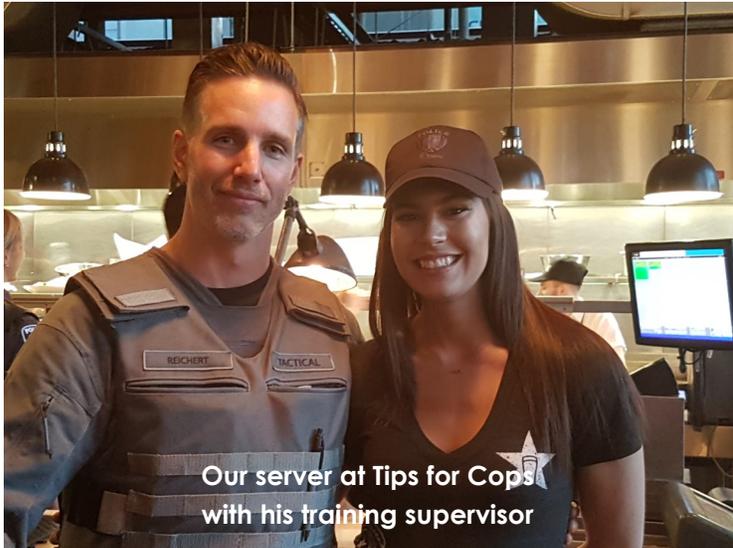
Total money saved through our Co-ordination Service (since 2013)

We were so honoured to be a part of this year's fundraiser, and they managed to raise a record amount of funds. Their generous donation is much-needed, as we once again expect a **substantial increase** in registrants for the Sharing in Student Success program.

To all the event organizers, the Ottawa Police Service, the local businesses that provided raffle prizes, LOCAL Lansdowne, and all those of you that came out to the event, **THANK YOU!**



Tips for Cops 2017



Our server at Tips for Cops with his training supervisor

Choosing to Be Kind For 10 Years!

This past February, we celebrated the **10th anniversary of Kindness Week!** We have a special statement from the Kindness Week chair, Rabbi Bulka, to honour this special campaign's success:

"It is hard to believe that we are already 10 years into Kindness Week in Ottawa. What is not hard to believe is the impact that simple acts of kindness has on everyone who gives and receives. The kinder we are, the better we are."

*Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka, C.M.,
Chair, Kindness Week*



Kindness Week 2017 Cheerleaders!

We are so thankful to the community, Rabbi Bulka, and to all sponsors for continuing to make Kindness Week so special!

Register Now for SISS 2017

We are now accepting registrants from all partner agencies for Sharing in Student Success. Registration will remain open until August 11th, and to keep the program as fair as possible, we operate on a first-come, first-serve basis only.

Every year, we aim to help every registered child, and we were fortunate to be able to provide backpacks and school materials to **all SISS applicants in 2016**, despite the increase in need.

With your help, we hope to do the same this year.

A Message from the Executive Director

With many students wrapping up the 2016/2017 school year, we've already begun working towards *next year's* batch of student registrants for Sharing in Student Success (SISS). We held meetings throughout May with our partner agencies to go over applicant qualifications for the program, registration procedures, timelines, and more.

As we move into summer, we will be working hard to collect donations for our **backpack-stuffing day August 22nd**. For those interested in helping to prepare backpacks for SISS recipients, please email the lovely Rebecca Nagrodski at referrals@CaringandSharing.ca and she will keep you up-to-date with all you need to know.

We are so grateful to people that continue to care about community... people just like you!



Individuals and organizations who demonstrate active support for the Caring and Sharing Exchange and who pay a membership fee can become a member of C&SE. Membership benefits include voting rights at the AGM. For more information, please contact Cindy Smith at director@CaringandSharing.ca, or call 613-226-6434 x.227.

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