

HIGHLIGHTS 2017/18



10,458

Total number of participants/
clients served last year
(includes program participants,
volunteers, event participants,
etc.)



150+

Partners and Supporters



**ACTION FOR HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES**

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

People and Communities in Action

Tel: (780) 944-4687 / Fax: (780) 423-4193 / www.a4hc.ca / #100 10578 113 Street NW, Edmonton AB, T5H 3H5

Message from the Executive Director & Board Chair

The year 2017 was a period of unprecedented growth in all areas of AHC's operations. After moving to our new expanded office facility in late 2016, we focused more on improving programs and services for our clients and participants by strengthening internal capacities, and adding new resources to various program portfolios to better respond to our client needs. In the last year, our efforts moved towards re-alignment of our existing community development model and adding new programs and services, including: entrepreneurship development support for prospective entrepreneurs, strengthening employment support for newcomers, and child and youth programming. We also underwent an in-depth evaluation of our community capacities support to needy communities by initiating an organization-wide community development learning process, which enabled our team to better understand our core philosophy of community support through all programs and services.

During this past year, we had the privilege of providing support to more than 10,000 individuals, including families, youth, and children, through our programs and services. Our committed team of professional staff, volunteers, and board members are making efforts to ensure that individuals and families have opportunities to build their capacities and successfully integrate into society. We've been constantly growing and learning through our involvement with other partners and stakeholders. We have identified and developed new partnerships in all program areas to maximize the benefits of our collaborative initiatives for our clients.

This 2017-18 report is our opportunity to express our gratitude to our staff, volunteers, board members, funders, and supporters for their continuous support and generosity. It is a chance for you to read about your impact on thousands of children, youth, and families we supported during this past year. We are helping people build their capacities and find ways to better their lives and help create an inclusive society. We are striving to create a community of support that extends to all neighbourhoods in the city and nearby towns, in all population groups, through all our programs and services, volunteers, and staff.

In the coming year, we will focus our efforts on consolidation of existing programs and services by adding required resources to better respond to needs of our client groups. We strongly believe that our clients' success is our success. With the ongoing support of our donors, partners, board, and volunteers, we are ready for the challenges and achievements ahead in years to come.

Sincerely,

Aftab Khan



Executive Director

Michael Beard



Board Chair



5,901

Clients received services through various programs including Settlement, Integration and Employment Supports and Youth programs



291

Volunteer and Placement Students



43

Program Sites

Board of Directors 2017-18

Executive Committee

Michael Beard
Ahmed Dean Shaikh
Lisette Moores
John Alexander/Nancy Finlayson
Nan Yu

Chair
Vice Chair
Past Chair
Secretary
Treasurer

Outgoing Board Members

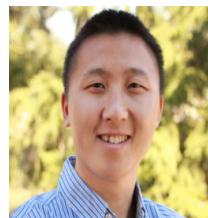
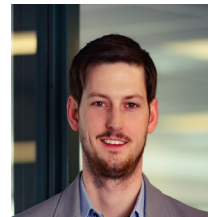
Lisette Moores
Nancy Finlayson
Lun Li

New Board Members

Meghan Mackintosh
Imoleayo Adeyeri
Amanda Serra

Directors

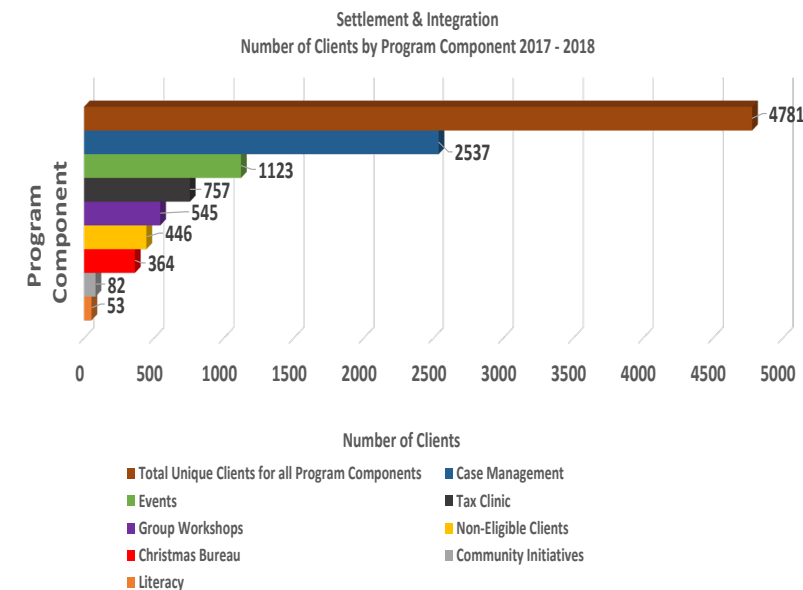
Sagun Pandey
Lun Li
John Alexander



Settlement, Integration and Employment Supports

AHC Settlement and Integration supports program focuses on assisting newcomers to Canada through our unique Community Development model, which centers on working with multiple stakeholders to enhance settlement and integration supports as well as promoting capacity building for newcomers to smoothly start their new life in Canada.

Newcomers receive personalized settlement and integration supports to address their short/long-term needs and goals, guidance to utilize their personal strengths and assets, and access to targeted opportunities to develop the skills and abilities they need, to meet their short/long-term goals.



AHC staff support newcomers in the following areas:

Settlement counselling and guidance:

- Access to affordable housing/health services
- Access to education and language training for children and adults
- Access to financial and legal services
- Connections to community services
- Other supports as needed

Training and personal/essential skills development programs:

- Literacy classes to support learning official language, computer skills and other essential skills
- English language supports such as conversation circles, self-directed language practice and more
- Workshops and learning sessions on various topics about Canadian culture, systems and others

Special events/activities for newcomers of all ages:

- AHC annual resource fairs (Employer Connections/Job Fair and Diversity Health Fair)
- Cultural showcase events and gatherings
- Community field trips

Employment counselling, guidance and training provided in the following areas:

- Work/job readiness & skills enhancement
- Career decision making and career growth
- Work/job search, networking and maintenance

Community-based settlement initiatives:

- AHC supports community-led settlement initiatives aimed at engaging newcomers in local settings

Healthy Children & Youth Program



AHC New Immigrant and Refugee Youth program focuses on providing support to facilitate the settlement and integration of newcomer refugee children and youth through skills development support and a community connection process. Youth are connected to AHC in school settings and also in their communities.

The program consists of the following major activities:

- In school group activities at partner schools during the school year
- After school programs at partner schools
- School break time activities (Summer Camp, Spring Camp)
- Youth Clubs at various community locations
- Youth Life skills support out of school time (Ready to Work, Learning Table, Leadership)
- One-on-one settlement support

Comments from the youth:

"I feel less nervous about going into grade 10 in September. I feel more confident. I was able to build a support network for next year. I feel more comfortable meeting new people."

"This program is indeed helpful for newcomers to cope in a new place. It prepares students to fit in this place by practicing English and learning about Canada's culture. This is all by the help of AHC staff and the wonderful teachers."

"I thank all the workers at this organization for making life easier for new immigrants especially the executive director of the organization."

- Samer Omar



Client Testimonials



"All our gratitude and appreciation to Action for Healthy Communities and all the staff involved. Special considerations to Mrs. Rola Chehayeb for the exceptional services provided for my family and I, whether it was translations, social, legal and work research. We wish Action for Healthy Communities continued advancement and success."

-Mohamed Jamal Shakhdouh



"I did my tax deceleration in this clinic with Zeinab. She was a very helpful and kind person. She even proposed to come to my house to do [my taxes] for me when she knew about my situation. I'm very happy with her service and would definitely recommend her!"

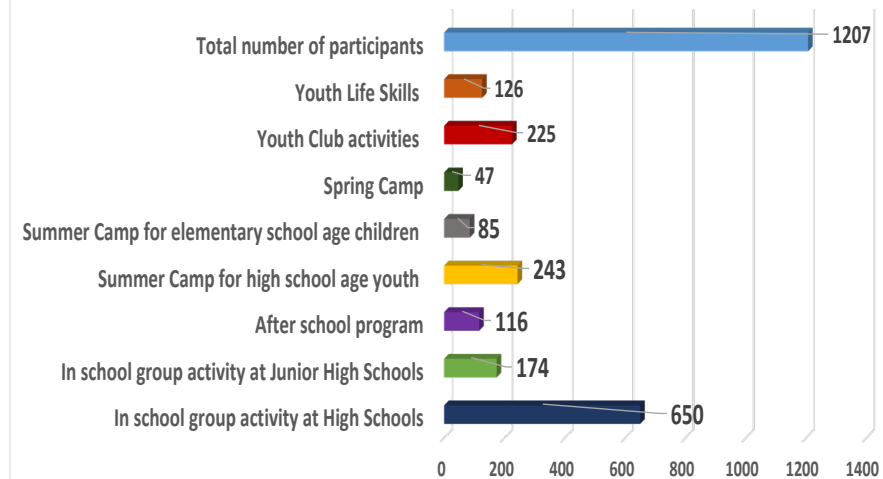
- Samia Hamadi



"AHC has made a real difference in the community."

- Canada Revenue Agency, Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

Number of Participants 2017-18



Healthy Active Community Kids (HACK)



The Healthy Active Community Kids (HACK) program aims at providing a safe and enriching environment for vulnerable elementary school children ages 6-12. HACK teaches children how to improve their physical, mental, emotional, and social wellness. In addition, the program includes outreach and support to parents/guardians on child development. The program staff and parents/guardians work in collaboration to overcome and prevent issues related to bullying, self-esteem, and nutrition. In this way, the program involves a strength-based approach to children's overall well-being.



Number of Participants/ Clients 2017-18

Athlone	44	Belmead	56
Brightview	38	Sherwood	62

Comments from parents:
"Savannah loves trying new foods now such as sushi, now that she made it in HACK."

"My son has shown incredible positive behaviour, I used to struggle with him hating himself, but he rarely does that now!"

Comments from partners:
"HACK offers developmentally appropriate activities for all of the children."

"AHC activities are really fun and engaging to help the students get out of their shell and improve their English."

"The youth really enjoyed all the activities AHC did. They were most engaged I have ever seen!"

Community-Capacity Building Initiatives & Adult Literacy & Skills Development

In 2017/2018 we supported around 30 Communities Initiative (CI) groups, recruiting three new CI groups. Our services provided to the community groups are diverse and comprehensive, including but not limited to: helping communities identify their needs, issues and challenges; finding the solutions to their challenges; developing essential skills including leadership, language, technology and numeracy skills; enhancing intercultural understanding; promoting healthy living and community well-being; and increasing enrichment of the lives of youth, women, elders and new immigrants.

Sponsored by the City of Edmonton, to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary, we held a special leadership training workshop. In the past year, we held three big multicultural gatherings which attracted over 900 participants. Our Adult Literacy and Skills Development program provided four learning opportunities to our clients: Computer, English as Another Language, Basic Math and Numeracy and Entrepreneurship Training. Over 300 participants attended the classes.

Testimonial from a student:
"I arrived in Canada in 2017, before I didn't speak English, never learned and used this language. As soon as I arrived in this new country, I started to look for English classes from the Internet, but I found that the price for learning English here is very expensive. After searching for learning opportunities without results for a long time, I felt tired. However, one day I got good news that Action for Healthy Communities can offer English classes for immigrants free! I was so happy for this precious learning opportunity and attended the class right away. Indeed, the class has helped me tremendously to improve my English."

- English Language Learner Student



3398

Total number of participants/clients served last year (includes multicultural gatherings, leadership trainings, community initiatives and ECALA classes)



30

Community Initiative groups supported



348

Total number of students in the ECALA classes (including: Math & Numeracy, English Language Learners, Computer Classes, Entrepreneurship Training)



1050

Total number of participants in the multicultural gatherings, workshops, trainings and activities



Small Business Development Supports

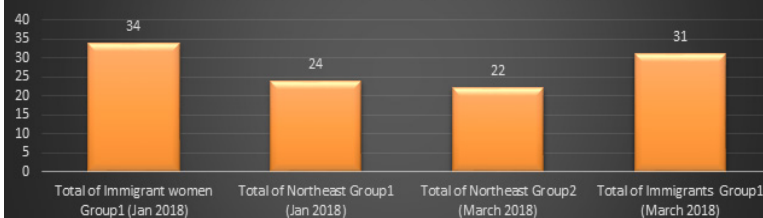
Since the launch of AHC's Business Development training program in 2015, to the end of 2017, AHC ran four cohorts of the 14 week training program, engaging altogether 122 aspiring entrepreneurs. Among the entrepreneurs engaged in the training during this period, 77 were male and 45 female.

In October 2017, AHC with the Somali-Canadian Women & Children's Association (SCWCA), Communities United and C5 Hub as strategic partners, launched its new and enhanced Supports for Entrepreneurs and Business Development (SEBD) program. This new program now has a broader focus on using targeted strategies aimed at reducing unique barriers for various groups of immigrant entrepreneurs facing challenges to thriving in the Canadian business environment.

The newly launched AHC SEBD program offers tailored supports and referrals to resources, catering to the needs of entrepreneurs and their businesses at the different stages, starting from the inception of business ideas, to development, all the way through to scaling and growing existing businesses.



Total number of Entrepreneurs engaged in the new AHC-SEBD Program by Group



AHC-SEBD Program Supports Strategies

1. Supports for Environmental, Skills and Asset Mapping Stage:

- Entrepreneurs Asset and Skills Mapping
- Business Idea Assessment
- Planning Next Steps (Roadmap plan)

2. Supports for Start-ups Initiation Stage:

- 14 Week Training on Canadian Business Environment and Strategies
- Coaching and Business Counselling
- Business Club for Networking and Learning

3. Supports for Start-ups Development Stage:

- Mentorship and Business Counselling
- Industry Connections and Networking
- Business Club for Networking and Learning

4. Supports for Start-ups Operations Stage:

- Business Consulting & Advisory Supports
- Situational Analysis and Problem-solving
- Business Club for Networking and Learning

5. Supports for Business Sustainability, Scaling/Expansion & Growth Stage:

- Situational Analysis and Planning
- Pathfinding to other supports
- Business Club for Networking and Learning

Entrepreneurs Engaged in AHC-SEBD Program

Entrepreneurs

111

Female

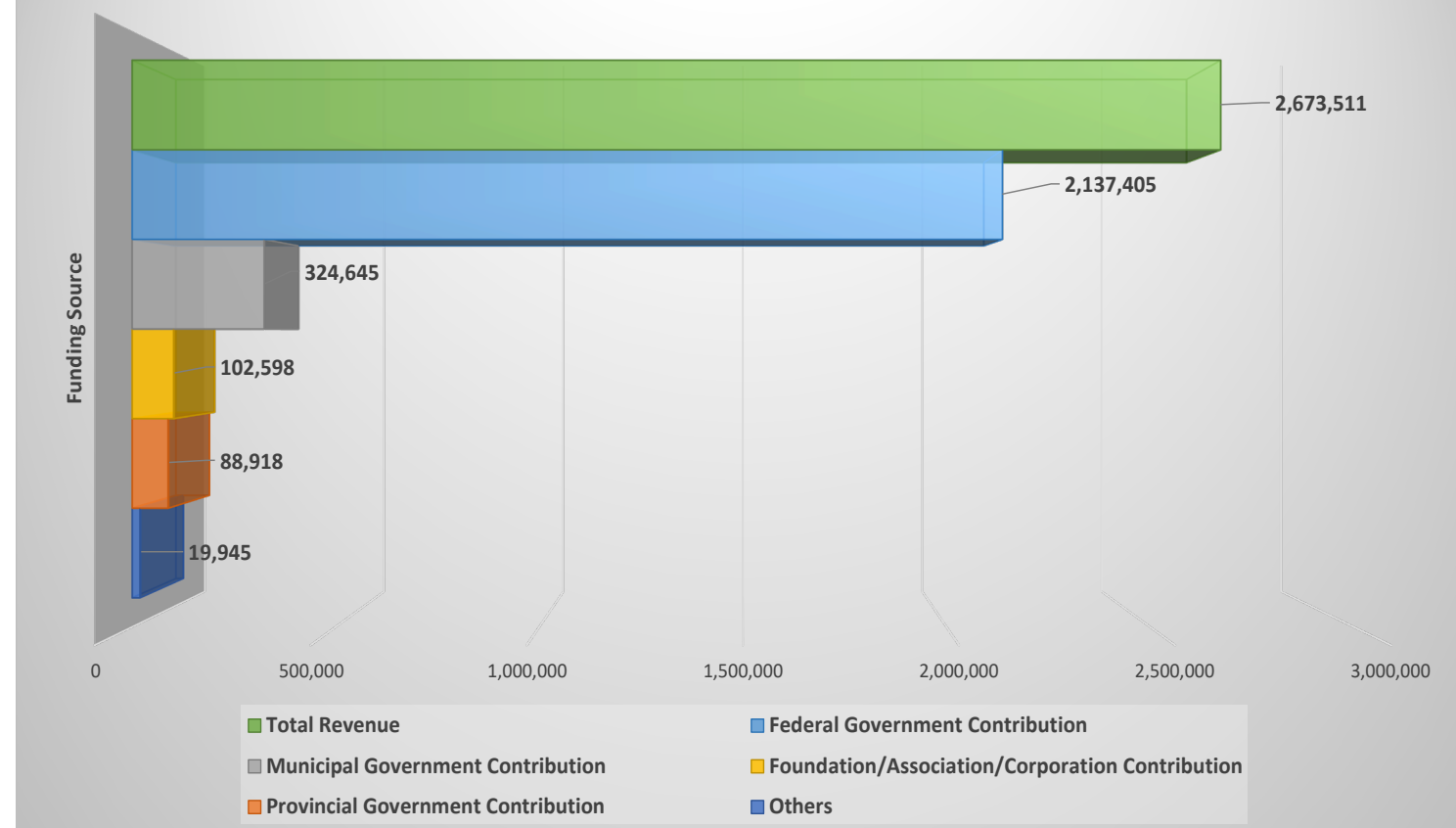
71

Male

40

Financials

Revenues



Our Partners and Supporters in 2017/18

Community Capacity Building

- Edmonton Food Bank

Santa's Anonymous

Start2Finish

The Running Room

Ji Hong Wushu & Tai Chi College
- Tilo Paiz Chevere Bumbu

Yoyo School of Dancing

Italian Appennini Dancers

Keskesse Milash Eritrean Community

Sangea Academy

Business Development Support Program

- MacEwan University School of Business

Dentons Canada LLP

Communities United
- Wildman Institute

Somali Canadian Women and Children's Association

C5 Hub

Healthy Active Community Kids

- MacEwan Nursing Students

The Edmonton Public Library

Flourish Consultants

Seats for Kids

Kids up front

Think Leaf

Zoo 2 u LTD

Edmonton Fire Rescue Services

Fit like a girl

Windermere Music Academy

Garcia School of Dance

The City of Edmonton Green Shack
- Reptile Parties INC

Edmonton Food bank

Leftovers Food Rescue

Belmead Community League

Inglewood School

Jamie Flynn- Cultural Liaison, EPSD

Edmonton Public School Disctrict

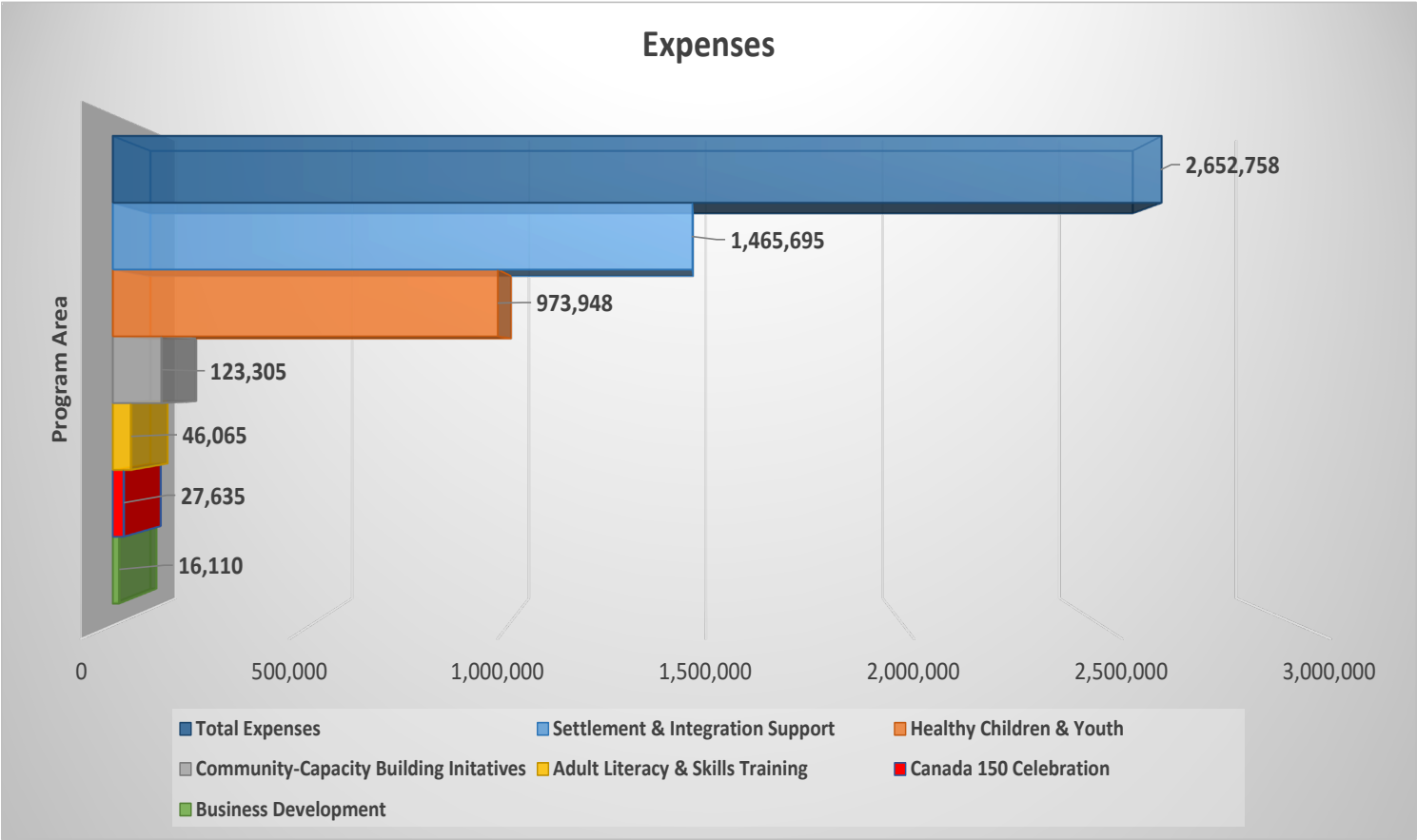
Empower YEG

NorQuest College

Reeves College

Academy of Learning

Sport Central



New Immigrant and Refugee Youth Camps

Elementary Schools

St.Elizabeth Seton School, Balwin School

Junior High Schools

Ecole Michael Jean, Killarney School, Mary Butterworth School, Londonderry School, Westmount School, John D. Bracco School, St. Alphonsus School, St. Catherine School, Edith Rogers School

Others

Metro Continuing Education
One World One Centre, Edmonton Catholic School Board

Settlement, Integration & Employment Supports

Money Matters Financial Education
Edmonton Police Service
Canadian Mental Health Association
Environmental Public Health
Rahma Mosque
Al Rashid Mosque
IFSSA Embroidery
Independent Counselling Enterprises
KalTire
Walmart
Two Men and a Truck
Hi-Flyer Food (KFC & Taco Bell)
Value Village
ViVa Salons
Christmas Bureau/ Christmas Hampers

High Schools

J. Percy Page High School, Jasper Place High School, Queen Elizabeth High School, M.E. Lazerte High School, Eastglen High School, Austin O'Brien Catholic High School, Cardinal Collins Catholic High School, Oscar Romero Catholic High School, Holy Trinity Catholic High School, St. Francis Xavier High School, Mother Margaret Mary Catholic School, Centre High School, Cardinal Collins Corpus Christi Campus, Millwoods Fresh Start

Edmonton Public Library (Castle Downs, Clareview, Jasper Place)
Toastmasters Program

Sport Central
St. Francis LINC program for women
Evansdale Pre-kindergarten program
ELVES program
Glenrose Hospital for families of children with disabilities
ATB Financial
City of Edmonton
The Learning Experience Daycare
Pizza Hut
Nurse Next Door
Mosaic
Japanese Village
Coast Edmonton Plaza
Goodwill

258

Volunteers



33

Placement Students



Volunteer Highlights

2017-18



Contributed

15,178

Hours



Contributed

5,663

Hours

Volunteer Spotlight

We believe volunteerism is crucial for our organization, in the day-to-day delivery of our programs, creating healthy, vibrant, and connected Alberta communities. Through volunteering, you can create a positive impact and help us to make our communities a better place to live.



"Volunteering gives you sense of purpose, especially when you realize that serious difficulties can happen to anyone. The human connection we've made has been so loving. It's not just us giving, but what we've gotten back from the people that we've visited. The joy and the love they have given back to us has been just such a beautiful thing."

Marilyn Scott & Neil Sawers

"I love this organization because people are very friendly here; the staff are easy to work with. There is no barrier between volunteer and worker and I like this type of atmosphere. It is also a great place to learn, meet people, and share with others."

Jean-Luc Aimé N'docho



Staff List 2017-2018

Executive Director
Aftab Khan

Managers
Sherry Park

Staff
Abida Tahir
Ada A. Mejia
Aftab Khan
Ali Faour
Andrea Streisel
Anita Sayaphet
Annina Plummer
Armando Munguia
Basem Alabd Alrahim
Carmen Muboyayi
Chris Ford
Christine Lirette
Dalvir Gill
Daniel Hwang
Erica Assely
Habiba Nur
Hagos Eman
Javaid Hayat
Jenna Boonstra

Departing Staff
Akila Akbari
Ambreen Minhas
Amna Hussain
Anum Tahir
Bree Hazelaar
Briana Dacosta
Elly Graff
Emily Moughtin
Felicity Chitty

Summer Camp 2017
Ankita Baid
Cameron Edney
Chantal Barrett
Courtney Dynna
Kailey Los
Kayla Hannan
Kaylee Onucki
Kevin Sun
Mackenzie Bruce

Suzana Dumo

Jing Zu
Joelle Kacou
Jonathan Spaner
Julia Tran
Kamal Takieddine
Kameran Akrawi
Kim Nowak
Laural Borys
Lida Arguello
Maria Lucila Mejia
Mark Frederick
Mery Gniazdowsky
Michelle Luyimbazi
Mohamed Sharif Abubakar
Muhammad Afzal
Mustafa Zahid
Nadine Moore
Nazrit Tekhlay
Nebiyeleul A Habtu

Hannah Somerville
Haya Negranza
Mirvat Choukeir
Naveena Dheenadayalan
Rabindra Prasad Rimal
Sujata Poudel
Tej Prasad Adhikari
Wehale Hassan
Ying Zhong

Marco Salinas
Marwa Al Fadli
Maryam Monib
Muna Jama
Philip Couture
Seth Lyster Reyes
Umutoni Kalimba
Yuheng Zhou

Yanyu Zhou

Neil Lamouche
Nelson Pereira
Nilton Romero
Omar Al-abdullah
Reham Hamzah
Rezan Bebaby
Rola Chehayeb
Romi Khabra
Roula Haydamous
Sheema Durrani
Shuang Wu
Steven Lin
Suraj Khatiwada
Tao Wang
Victoria Paonessa
William Heng
Yue Zheng
Zeinab Abdelaziz
Zubair Ahmed

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS!

Government of Canada

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 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

Government of Alberta



City of Edmonton



AHC Staff Photo 2017



Tel: (780) 944-4687

Fax: (780) 423-4193

#100 10578 113 Street NW, Edmonton AB T5H 3H5

Website: www.a4hc.ca

Email: communications@a4hc.ca

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Sun and Holidays: Closed

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