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News Release from MJMC Volunteer Coordination Team

Dec 2, 2015

Welcoming our new Syrian neighbours, like all refugees and other classes of newcomers, takes the entire community. Welcoming happens in many ways: everything from the attitudes we hold, to the way we greet people, to the level of cultural competence we attain in the jobs we do, to the hours we volunteer to make a difference in the lives of those who are new in our community. There are a number of agencies throughout our community whom have developed expertise in certain aspects of serving vulnerable people. Your skills and interests will help you decide which agency's work you could best support as a volunteer.

Because of our formal relationship with Canada's immigration department (IRCC), our direct role, and years of experience in receiving, orienting, and beginning the process of integration for hundreds of Government Assisted Refugees, Moose Jaw Multicultural Council is the agency through which you are most likely to volunteer directly with the newly arrived Syrian Refugees. In order to protect our clients' privacy and rights, and to ensure that those helping them are equipped to provide the best support possible, MJMC has a formal process through which we screen and equip our volunteers.

In light of the current situation, MJMC's process requires expansion. We are working diligently to prepare a process that can handle the volume of enthusiastic volunteers we have been hearing from. We thank everyone for their patience. Be assured we value your interest. Volunteer forms will be available online in the near future through a new section for volunteers (yet to be developed) on www.mjnw.ca. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, we would like to invite everyone to join us for one of the following presentations that we will be offering to equip the community to provide our new Syrian neighbours with the best welcome possible.

We All Belong: A Guide to Welcoming and Working with Newcomers

December 15th at 1:00 pm

Hillcrest Church Auditorium

1550 Main St North

All **community agencies** are encouraged to attend.

We All Belong: A Guide to Cultural Competency

December 15th at 7:00 pm

1550 Main St North

Hillcrest Church Auditorium

All **community members** invited.