

What we believe:

Uprooted refugees are entitled to a safe place to settle.

Families torn apart by war are entitled to be reunited.

Refugee newcomers have the right to be who they want to be.

The refugees we sponsor do not owe us anything.

Refugees contribute to our economy and create jobs.

All of us are enriched when we welcome refugees to Manitoba.

How you can participate:

Peruse "Options", a monthly refugee sponsorship news bulletin, on the Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council Web Site at www.miic.ca

Ask us about sponsoring refugees.

Come to our monthly meetings.



Manitoba Refugee Sponsors

c/o **Welcome Place**

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Manitoba



Refugee Sponsors

As I walked
the beach at dawn,
I noticed a woman
ahead of me picking up
starfish and flinging them
into the sea.
Catching up with her,
I asked her
why she was doing this.
The answer was that
the stranded starfish
would die if left until the morning sun.
But the beach goes on
for miles and there
are millions of starfish,
I countered.
How can your effort make any difference?
She looked
at the starfish in her hand
and threw it to the safety
in the waves.
It makes a difference to this one,
she said.

What we are concerned about:

The long time it takes to process our refugee sponsorships overseas.

The high rejection rate of privately sponsored refugees.

The indignities, injustices and inequities refugees face.

What we do:

Share an active interest in private refugee sponsorship

Exchange information about how best to sponsor refugees

Clarify issues that affect the settlement of privately sponsored refugee newcomers

Advocate on behalf of privately sponsored refugees

Promote activities that support sponsoring groups

How we do it:

We meet monthly, usually the third Thursday of the month, at the Welcome Place, at 12 Noon

We meet as Sponsorship Agreement Holder representatives, sponsoring group representatives and interested individuals

We invite Federal and Provincial immigration and settlement staff representatives, as well as interested service provider organization staff from the Welcome Place , to join us in our discussions

We have a mailing list of organizational representatives and individuals who take an active interest in sponsoring refugees to come to Manitoba

The Welcome Place functions as our secretariat.