

The greatest thing we do is

# CARE

for those who survive  
the unimaginable



**Refugee Health YYC**

## To Support Our Work

and help *Refugee Health YYC* support refugee children and families new to Calgary who have escaped unthinkable circumstances, visit:

[www.refugeehealthYYC.ca](http://www.refugeehealthYYC.ca)



@RefugeeHealthYYC



@RefugeeHealthYYC

e: [gefabrea@ucalgary.ca](mailto:gefabrea@ucalgary.ca); [Annalee.Coakley@mosaicpcn.ca](mailto:Annalee.Coakley@mosaicpcn.ca); [Cheryl.SanJuan@mosaicpcn.ca](mailto:Cheryl.SanJuan@mosaicpcn.ca)



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
O'Brien Institute for Public Health

**Refugee Health YYC** is a clinician-led Research, Innovation and Education platform at the University of Calgary's O'Brien Institute for Public Health. We work to improve the health and care for newly arrived refugee children and families in Calgary and across Canada.

## How your donation helps:

- Supports the design, implementation, and evaluation of innovative refugee care programs that improve the quality, efficiency and cost effectiveness of refugee health care in Calgary.
- Our goal is to help refugee newcomers heal and achieve health so they can participate fully as new members of our community.

## Our Stories

### Survivors of Daesh

In 2017, Calgary was chosen as one of four Canadian cities to resettle Yazidi refugees previously captured by ISIS who survived genocide. This is among the most complex and traumatized group we have cared for, but almost no information on their medical and mental health issues was available in Canada. The **Refugee Health YYC Program** is the only site in Canada able to rapidly characterize this population's health issues, clinic use, and care barriers to help improve our care. *We shared these findings locally and internationally and are using them to develop an innovative Community Health Worker program for refugees, by refugees*

**The world is facing the highest numbers of refugees and forcibly displaced persons in history, now nearly 69 Million**

### Anne

is a 15-year-old Yazidi refugee from Iraq who was brought to Canada with her mother and four siblings as part of *the Victims of Daesh Program*. Her father was killed by ISIS and the rest of the family was imprisoned for more than two years, during which time they were enslaved, sold, raped and tortured. Anne had developmental delay, difficulties with speech and hearing, as well as muscle wasting and weakness of her left leg, leaving her unable to walk.

### Jane

is a 39-year-old Yazidi woman with cognitive impairment who is wheelchair-bound and was brought to Canada with her elderly mother, sister, and four nieces through the *Survivors of Daesh program*. They arrived in acute distress due to trauma from imprisonment, rape, and torture. Jane's sister was unable to walk—her elderly mother would carry her on her back. They lived their first months in Calgary in fear, and needed to attend medical appointments together. With support, the children's mental health issues subsided and over time felt safe in Canada and could travel to the clinic using public transportation.

*Our sincere thanks to our supporters*

