

REFUGEES

World Refugee Day Events in 2006

Once again Canadians across the country have marked World Refugee Day on June 20. The selected theme for World Refugee Day 2006 was HOPE. This theme was chosen to highlight the continuing efforts of UNHCR and its partners to find lasting solutions for millions of refugees and displaced people worldwide. As was the case in the past, UNHCR and its national partners organized special events to mark the day. UNHCR organized events in three major cities Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa. UNHCR's main objective for

promoting WRD events is to raise public awareness of refugees and the issues that affect them here in Canada and around the world. It is an opportunity to combat negative stereotypes and perceptions about refugees. It is also an occasion to pay tribute to the dedicated work of voluntary agencies and faith communities that help refugees rebuild their lives in Canada. None of the events would have been possible without the participation and support of Canadian businesses and numerous volunteers.



Yonge-Dundas Square, Toronto, Canada. UNHCR/J. Wagner/June 06

Yonge-Dundas Square was, for the second year, the focal point for WRD celebration in Toronto. The 2005 WRD event in Toronto was so successful that UNHCR and its local partners decided to hold a similar event in 2006. In 2006 the celebration featured a talented line-up of artists and dancers such as Krystaal, Afrafranto, Mapalé Latin Band and Capoeira Camara. In addition to the repertoires that suited all tastes, were two guest speakers: Toronto City Mayor David Miller and Jennifer Heil, 2006 Winter

Olympic Gold Medallist and Right to Play Athlete Ambassador. Participating agencies in the WRD 2006 included Access Alliance, Amnesty International, Canadian Red Cross, CCVT, CLEO, COSTI, CultureLink, FCJ Refugee Centre, Immigration and Refugee Housing Task Group, JVS WISE, Matthew House, Médecins Sans Frontiers, MCC, OASIS, Oxfam, Passages to Canada, Refugee Law Office, Refugee Rescue, Right to Play, Romero House, RSTP, Salvation Army,

St. Stephen's, World Vision and WUSC.

The 2006 WRD celebration at the Yonge-Dundas Square drew twice as much people as in 2005 – an estimated 5,000 people attended the event. National print and broadcast media were also present. Publicity for the event was ensured through the projection of a 30 second WRD video spot which featured refugees from different parts of the world and ended with a powerful message from Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie to “remember World Refugee Day.”

“On this World Refugee Day of 2006, we honour refugees and displaced people all over the world who, on the strength of that hope, have overcome enormous odds to start rebuilding their lives. Each refugee has a different story, but collectively theirs is a story about the triumph of hope over despair.”

António Guterres, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees

In **Montreal**, a free event with diverse artists and colourful displays took place at Place Louis Pasteur on St. Denis Street. Participating NGOs included Médecins du Monde, UNICEF, Amnistie Internationale, Right to Play, Centre Afrika, Centre Multi écoute, La Maisonnée, Hirondelle, la Mission communautaire de Montréal, Refuge Juan Moreno, Rivo and YMCA Jardin couvert. Opening remarks were made by François Crépeau, Scientific Director of the Centre d'études et de recherches internationales de l'université de Montréal (CERIUM) and Stephan Reichhold, Director General of La Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes.



Place Louis Pasteur. Montreal, Canada. UNHCR/R. Hamel/June 06

The evening event took place on the premises of the National Film Board where the documentary film "Qui a tire sur mon frère?" by the Colombian origin German Gutierrez was screened. About 250 people attended the event. UNHCR Canada also worked with the Refugees Branch at the Department of Citizenship and Immigration (CIC) on a news release announcing Canada's group resettlement of Myanmar refugees to coincide with World Refugee Day. Announcement garnered extensive

media coverage both in Canada and world wide.

In **Ottawa**, UNHCR organized a benefit musical event at the Rainbow Bistro in the By Ward Market. The line-up of artists included a cappella wonders Sifa, the mime interpretations of Lerato & Bonani, the soulful music of the African Gospel Ensemble, and an R&B rockslide from Slippery Slope. UNHCR was delighted to present an evening of musical entertainment performed by new and long time Canadians, with a distinctive African

flavour. The musical offerings of Sifa and African Gospel Ensemble flowed beautifully into Slippery Slope's African American repertoire from the Motown and Stax labels. Event tickets were available in advance through Compact Music. The net proceeds went to UNHCR's refugee programs overseas. Rogers television, CHUO 89.1FM and CHIN Radio helped promoting the event. Prizes of ninemillion.org high-performance soccer balls were distributed at all three events.

Thank you to our Sponsors

A heart-felt thank you to the following corporations and agencies that generously contributed to World Refugee Day Events in 2006:

In Toronto:

- RBC Dominion Securities Inc.
- Clear Channel Outdoors
- Starbucks

In Montreal:

- National Defence
- National Film Board
- YMCA
- City of Montreal
- CERIUM

In Ottawa:

- The Rainbow Bistro
- Allegra Print & Imaging
- Compact Music



Rainbow Bistro. Ottawa, Canada. UNHCR/G. Nyembwe /June 06

What People said about World Refugee Day 2006

Congratulations for organizing a great event on Tuesday. I dropped by late in the afternoon and it was great to see and hear the spirit of so many people on this important occasion. **Lynne Leblanc**

Great exposure for refugee work yesterday. Thank you so much for your vision and for all your efforts in creating this event and opportunity for participation. **Ruth Kimmins**

Thank you very much. It was a real pleasure to be there yesterday, the atmosphere was great. **A. Kusi-appiah**

2006 World Refugee Day Media Coverage:

Newspapers		Radio Stations		Televisions	
<i>Globe and Mail</i>	<i>Edmonton Sun</i>	<i>CTV Newsnet</i>	<i>CBC-TV Toronto</i>	<i>CBC Metro</i>	<i>chin Radio, Ottawa</i>
<i>Toronto Star</i>	<i>Calgary Sun</i>	<i>CTV-AM</i>	<i>Rogers Television</i>	<i>Morning Radio</i>	<i>CHUO 89.1FM</i>
<i>Toronto Sun</i>	<i>MacLeans online</i>	<i>CBC Newsworld</i>	<i>Salt and Light TV</i>	<i>Radio Canada, Toronto</i>	<i>Sel et Lumiere</i>
		<i>16:00 news</i>		<i>560 CFOS Radio</i>	<i>OMNI Television</i>

Other 2006 World Refugee Day across Canada:

British Columbia		
<p><i>Vancouver</i> Organizers: S.O.S. (Member of VRSA - Vancouver Refugee Services Alliance) Program: Open House and the launch of SOS website.</p>	<p><i>Regina</i> Organizers: Regina and Area Support Group and Regina Open Door Society, CIC Program: Presentation, Entitlement, Guest Speakers, and Food.</p> <p><i>Saskatoon</i> Organizers: Mennonite Central Committee and the Saskatoon Refugee Coalition *The City of Saskatoon has declared June 2006 Refugee Month Program: News conference, interviews, Citizenship Court & Celebration at City Hall, Multi-faith Event, Global Supper with International Women of Saskatoon...</p>	<p>Organizers: Our Generation Program: Screening of two documentaries <i>Invisible Children</i> and <i>Mis Boon: Daughters of the Horn</i>, poetry, drinks...</p>
Alberta		
<p><i>Calgary</i> Organizers: The Southern Alberta Branch of the Canadian Red Cross, Women in need Society (WINS), Calgary Multicultural Centre and YMCA Event: Bridges of Hope Refugee Festival – A cultural and awareness event with a distinguished panel, booths, cultural show and free food.</p>	<p style="background-color: #f4a460; text-align: center;">Ontario</p> <p><i>Hamilton</i> Organizers: Settlement & Integration Services Organization (SISO) and New Dawn Refugee Reception House Program: Conference with Keynote Speaker Wade Hemsworth – award winning journalist.</p>	<p><i>Ottawa</i> Organizers: Immigration & Refugee Board (HQs) Program: A mini film festival and an art exhibit by four artists who came to Canada as refugees.</p> <p><i>Windsor</i> Organizers: Windsor Public Library, YMCA and the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County Program: Testimonies by former refugees, poem and story reading along with information kiosks.</p>
Saskatchewan		Québec
<p><i>Red Deer</i> Organizers: Central Alberta Refugee Effort (C.A.R.E.) Committee and the Red Deer Public Library Event: showing of video "Hopes and Dreams - Stories from Young Refugees In Calgary."</p>	<p><i>Toronto</i> Organizers: Presbyterian Church Program: Different workshops on Refugees</p> <p>Organizers: Action Réfugié -Afrique Program: Conferences, testimonies by francophone refugees about their integration in Canada</p>	<p><i>Québec City</i> Organizers: Québec Intégration et Liaison Internationale Venue: Bibliothèque Gabrielle-Roy Program: Exposition, display</p>
Prince Edward Island		
<p><i>Moose Jaw</i> Organizers: Moose Jaw Multicultural Council Program: entertainment, lunch, presentations from the Aboriginal community and newcomers to Canada and canoe rides.</p>		<p><i>Charlottetown</i> Organizers: PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada Program: Drama, speakers, music and dance</p>

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