

Successful Integration

Since the war started between Ukraine and Russia, we have served more than 100 families (Not sure about the #) through our organization, the Portage Learning and Literacy Center (PLLC), in Portage La Prairie.

One aspect that I appreciated during this process is the collaboration with all our various services at the PLLC: Settlement Workers, SWISS Workers, Employment Consultant, Literacy and ESL Teachers and our volunteers. Different services have come together to support the integration of refugees from Ukraine. It is rewarding to see how everyone works together for this common purpose. Through a long history of evaluating previous client input, we have established a great process in addressing newcomer necessities such as:

housing, food, employment, transportation, clothes and furniture. This collaboration has allowed newcomers to feel supported in their transition to their new homeland. The group effort makes people realize there is a community behind them and leads to a speedier, more successful integration. I am proud to be part of such a wonderful team.

Family of 3 person

My first experience with the Ukrainian refugee started at the Ukrainian job fair at Stride Place on Thursday July 21, 2022. Around 100 families attended. I met and talked to a lot of them. A family of three: Husband, wife and son reached out to me. They started asking questions about Portage La Prairie, finding a jobs, housing, etc... First off all I connected with Hi-Tec Industries and they received an interview. The husband was nervous because he could not make it to Hi-Tec from Winnipeg for the interview due to no TRANSPORTATION. With the help of Cathy Dowd, our Program Director and our volunteer, Bill Knott, we assured that they attend their interview on time. After their interview, Mr. Knott offered them a very good lunch at the local restaurant and gave them ride back to Winnipeg. A couple of days later, the husband called me and let me know that he and his son were hired by Hi-Tec. With, Miriam T. the settlement coordinator, we started the moving/ relocation planning. The family was offered a two-week stay at a hotel and daily meal allowance until rental accommodations could be found. After finding suitable rent, they were assisted with obtaining furniture with the help of the of Blair Hordeski. The wife was also able to able to secure employment at McDonald's during this time.