

Volunteer Opportunities At CCVT Scarborough Location

We have several volunteer opportunities at this location and the process is as below:

The first step in our screening process for all potential volunteers is a face to face interview. The interview lasts approximately thirty minutes and is an opportunity for you to learn more about CCVT and the different programs we offer, and provides an opportunity for us to learn more about you. An updated Resume is required.

After the initial interview, accepted candidates will be asked to provide 3 references, sign a Confidentiality Agreement and Volunteer Contract. We ask all volunteers to commit to a minimum of one year of service with CCVT (the amount of time per week varies within the different programs).

All volunteers will attend an Orientation session which is the first in a number of trainings that CCVT offers to provide insight and the tools necessary to support individuals and their families affected by war and torture.

Below are the Volunteer opportunities at this location (2425 Eglinton Ave. E., 2nd Floor, Suite 218- Eglinton/Kennedy):

1. **Homework Club:** *(This program requires participants to have a Police Check Report except for High School students).* Other programs do not need this requirement.
Monday Homework Help for High School Students—from 3.45 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays — Children from Grade 1-8 from 3.45 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.
Fridays — Youth Group Activities, Information Sessions and watching educative movies.
2. **Befriending** – A Volunteer is paired with a CCVT Client to provide on-going personal, non-professional support i.e. basic information, life skills, general assistance to help the client adjust to the life in a new country.
3. **One-on-One ESL Tutoring** -Mon. -Fri. (9-4.00 p.m.)-Young Adults & Seniors, time will be set.
4. **Computer Basics & Intermediate** -Mon.-Fri. (10.00 a.m.– 3.00 p.m.) -Youth, Young Adults & Seniors.
5. **ESL Class by TDSB Teacher** -Mon.-Thur. 9.30-12.30 p.m.-Young Adults & Seniors,
6. **English Conversation Practice** – for The Support Group – Mon. to Wed. from 1.00 – 2.00 p.m.
7. **Youth Circle** -Youth, Ages 16-24, Fridays from 4.00 - 5.00 p.m.
8. **Escorts and Interpreters** – Volunteers accompany clients to appointments with Physicians, Specialists, lawyers and Social Service agencies.
9. **General Office Support**— Helping at the Front Desk; Writing **Monthly Newsletter** for the Branch; helping with organizing Social Events; etc.
10. **Yoga Instructor**— Fluent in English and/or Tamil Mon.—Wed. from 2.00-3.30 p.m.
11. **Other Opportunities— Special Events** i.e. UN June 26, Picnic, Income Tax Clinic, First Light etc.

Please note: For Program 2 time will be set according to your availability.

For more information or to get involved with any of these programs, please contact Juliette Ntege, Volunteer Coordinator, Scarborough location, at 416-750-3045 ext. 205.

Email: jntege@ccvt.org. **Did you resign?** To be removed from the mailing list, please use the same contact.

By Juliette Ntege, Volunteer Coordinator

The Connection

A PUBLICATION BY THE VOLUNTEERS OF
**THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR
VICTIMS OF TORTURE**
SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

A NEWSLETTER FOR ALL CCVT VOLUNTEERS

February 2013 | Volume 4 | Issue 2



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Editors' Note:

The information provided in this publication is not controlled by the CCVT, and therefore may not reflect the Centre's views.



FREE INCOME TAX CLINIC IN PROGRESS AT CCVT SCARBOROUGH BRANCH



CCVT Income Tax Clinic is open to serve all CCVT already registered clients.

If you know any survivor of war or torture or a relative of a survivor who also has a low Income, please do not let them spend money preparing their taxes for a FEE, refer them to your Centre CCVT Scarborough for FREE Income Tax Refund Preparation Services.

This Clinic opened for the Season on Friday February 22, 2013 and will be open on FRIDAYS from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. until Friday April 26, 2013. It is operated by CCVT experienced Income Tax Volunteers. Those who are not yet clients of CCVT and are interested to come for this service, will have to register with our Counselors first and then will be referred to the Clinic for Income Tax Services. Booking appointments will be required on Tel. #416-750-3045.

By: Juliette Ntege, Volunteer Coordinator, CCVT Scarborough Branch

The International Women's Day

"There is one universal truth, applicable to all countries, cultures and communities: violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable."

- *United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon*

Each year, March 8th marks International Women's Day around the world. It is a day to celebrate the political, economic, and social achievements of women and to recognize the struggles of women against all forms of discrimination and exploitation. This year's theme as declared by the United Nations is "A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women", aiming to strengthen the international community's commitment to fight violence against women.

Despite the many great strides women have made over the years to empower themselves, unsettling statistics remain which emphasize that more work needs to be done, for example:

- Globally, 603 million women live in countries where domestic violence is not yet considered a crime;
- Over 60 million girls worldwide are child brides, married before the age of 18;
- Up to 70% of women report having experienced physical and/or sexual violence at some point in their lifetime

On March 8, 2013, the song "One Woman" featuring singers and musicians from all over the world will be released to spread a message of unity and solidarity among UN Women.

By: Maxine Bond, Volunteer, CCVT Scarborough Branch

World Day of Social Justice

WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE – FEBRUARY 20

"As we seek to build the world we want, let us intensify our efforts to achieve a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable development path built on dialogue, transparency and social justice."

Message for the 2013 World Day of Social Justice by: Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. We uphold the principles of social justice when we promote gender equality or the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants. We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.

For the United Nations, the pursuit of social justice for all is at the core of our global mission to promote development and human dignity. The adoption by the International Labour Organization of the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization is just one recent example of the UN system's commitment to social justice. The Declaration focuses on guaranteeing fair outcomes for all through employment, social protection, social dialogue, and fundamental principles and rights at work.

Compiled by: John Zheng Wang, Volunteer, CCVT Scarborough Branch

CCVT GIVES HOPE AFTER THE HORROR!

Volunteers' Activities and Testimonials



Angela and Yaya

★ My dear friends at CCVT, I have been a part of the CCVT "family" since October last year. The experience has offered me the opportunity to meet a variety of interesting, caring and loving people. It has been an incredible life changing event. Volunteering in the ESL program with **Yaya**, the devoted English Teacher.

I really enjoy teaching the students in the ESL program, the ladies are very motherly and Kala offers me a wonderful cup of tea during every break. Also, I get to try various treats the ladies bring in on special occasions.

I have been very fortunate to be able to find this volunteer position, where I can offer my teaching ability and have a purpose to help and be part of a great organization like CCVT. I am pleased to have met people from different walks of life, who have found a new life and home in Canada. Furthermore I enjoy being able to help them adjust to their new environment.

Being an immigrant myself (25 years ago), I have some understanding of integrating into a new life away from home. My three Canadian born children (17, 19+21) are my only family here. Canada has given me and my kids great opportunities to succeed in education, sport and overall wellbeing.

I am looking forward to continue working together with the students and other dedicated volunteers and enjoy the happy moments with you all. Thank you!

Love, Angela Sarjeant, Volunteer, CCVT Scarborough Branch

The New Outreach Board Display at CCVT Scarborough Office



"I have been volunteering at the CCVT for exactly a year now, and I can't tell you enough what a wonderful experience it has been being a part of this great organization. One morning at the Centre I caught a glimpse of two beautiful display boards which were devoted to CCVT. At that moment I decided that I wanted to do a latest version of the presentation board to highlight last year's events and programs. This goal was made possible thanks to the Scarborough CCVT staff who supported this project, and allowed me to collaborate with Ms. Kamala, a client of CCVT with lots of experience in designing. Together, Ms. Kamala and I, were able to apply our creative skills to make the presentation board by displaying images of not only all the amazing events or programs from this organization, but also the wonderful pictures of staff, volunteers and the clients. I am grateful with Ms. Kamala for being such an awesome partner by helping me plan the design layout, and then creating such wonderful handcrafted flowers for display. Thank you CCVT for creating an environment where one feels welcome, and able to express their creativity and thoughts."

By: Aniqah Rahman, Volunteer, CCVT Scarborough Branch

Standing Proud: Uganda's LGBTI Community's Continual Fight for Equality



Uganda is a dishearteningly homophobic nation and with the revival of the infamous Anti-Homosexuality Bill (often referred to as the "Kill the Gays Bill"), a change in government attitude seems unlikely. Ugandans who are brave enough to identify as members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, are marginalized in society as being "un-African" and "un-Christian" and live in perpetual fear of being "outed" due to the impending passage of this Bill that would further criminalize and impose sanctions against same-sex relations in Uganda. The Anti-Homosexuality Bill was first introduced in Ugandan parliament in 2009, with the aim of "strengthening the nation's capacity to deal with emerging internal and external threats to the traditional heterosexual family", and to "protect the cherished culture of the people of Uganda, legal, religious and traditional family values". While same-sex relations are presently illegal in Uganda, the passing of this Bill would extend this criminalization further by prohibiting the promotion or recognition of such acts. Furthermore, this Bill proposes tougher sanctions for those convicted, ranging from a life sentence to the death penalty for the charge of "Aggravated Homosexuality" - an umbrella term which numerous activities and offences could potentially be punishable under.

Stemming from deeply rooted Christian values that often dictate Ugandan's lives and outdated laws that are remnants from British colonialism, government officials have been aggressively pushing for the Bill's passage since its reintroduction. Uganda's Parliament reconvened in February 2013 and have placed the Bill as the eighth item under business to follow, according to the Order Paper from Ugandan Parliament of February 6, 2013. Western leaders have strongly condemned the Bill, including US President Barack Obama who described it as "odious". Human Rights Watch has criticized Uganda's government for demonizing homosexuality, deliberately misinforming the public and stirring hatred amongst Ugandans.

Although Uganda has been publicly reprimanded by the international community and faces the imminent threat to funding being cut off from financial aid organizations, many Ugandan MP's adamantly support the Bill and speak freely about their intentions. Notorious for making controversial remarks, Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, the speaker of Ugandan parliament, was reported by the Associated Press as stating that: "Ugandans want that law [the Anti-Homosexuality Bill] as a Christmas gift. They have asked for it and we'll give them that gift." While Hon. Kadaga was visiting Canada in October 2012, Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird warned Uganda not to trample on people's human rights, to which she replied: "If homosexuality is a value for the people of Canada they should not seek to force Uganda to embrace it. We are not a colony or a protectorate of Canada."

Despite all the injustices and losses that Uganda's LGBTI community face, they have not lost hope.

Pepe Julian Onziema, Program Director and Advocacy Officer of the gays rights organization Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG), conducted a special report with CNN in February 2013 and proclaimed that he refuses to be invisible any longer. "There are no homosexuals in Uganda", Yoweri Museveni, Uganda's president, stated a few months prior, to which Onziema retorted, "They say I am evil. They say my love is illegal. But in 2013, they can no longer say I am not here." The tragic murder of David Kato, an outspoken gay rights advocate in 2011, along with many other homophobia-fueled murders and suicides, did not discourage the LGBTI community from celebrating the first Pride March in August 2012, a proud and hopeful moment for many in the face of legislation that is proposing their death for such a celebration. The upcoming months will undoubtedly be a stressful time, but Onziema remains optimistic, "Our desire for freedom has taken deep root. The roots will one day prove deeper than their hatred, deeper than our closets. That's what keeps me optimistic."

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By: Nicole Formosa, Volunteer, CCVT Scarborough Branch

RECONSTRUCTION OF GENDER NORMS WITHIN SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The World Day of Social Justice (February 20) is observed every year to raise awareness about the need to tackle issues such as social inequality, poverty, exclusion and unemployment. The goal of social development is to create social justice, solidarity, harmony, and equality among and within countries as fundamental values for all societies. Institutions play an essential role in creating social justice through the creation of a framework for action to promote social justice at regional, national and international levels. These social institutions also promote an equitable distribution of income and greater access to social resources through equality and equal opportunity for all hence "A society for all" based on social justice and respect for all human rights and fundamental human freedoms.

We are advancing social justice when we are removing barriers that people face because of race, ethnicity, culture, religion, gender, age or disability. Special attention should be attributed to the construction of gender equity. The realization of gender equality can be achieved by reconstructing gender norms in various institutions. In order to achieve gender equity, we should be aware that gender is something constructed and accomplished through interaction and socialization under various social institutions. Unlike most roles such as "nurse", "doctor" which take situational identities, gender role is our master identity regardless of social contexts. Thus, current conceptualizing of gender is problematic in terms of reducing its explanatory usefulness in discussions of power and inequality.

Gender equality can be also achieved by reconstructing gender norms in private institutions. Through male's ability to demonstrate strength, greater size, more experience and the appreciation of these displays among

females creates gender inequality. Therefore, the reconstruction of gender norms in private institutional level is needed to eliminate gender inequality.

Gender equality can be achieved by reconstructing gender in public institutions. Public occupational institutions play a role in preserving gender inequality by constantly repudiating the feminine. Gender inequality sustained by dominant masculinity group constantly disdain femininity characteristics. Ordinary people have a tendency to focusing on information that most readily fit into their conceptual framework. For instance, media institutions response to this phenomenon by reinforcing and reproducing culturally dominant gender norms, symbols, ideologies, and stereotypes. Media institutions also provide idealized depictions on appropriate comportment for both male and female. Sometimes, educational institutions indirectly impel gender inequality. For example, preschool children primarily distinguish between themselves and others in order to achieve social competence. Children's concern with being seen as socially competent may trigger their initial gender identities. In this process, boys absorb the male gender ideology such as exercising physical strength or appropriate skills to deal with physical and social environment as compared to girls henceforth a gender inequality may begin at preschool level.

All institutions (both public and private) play a key role in achieving a holistic approach in achieving a gender balance.

Links:

<http://scholar.google.ca/scholar?q=Reconstruction+of+Gender+Norms+Within+social+institutions&hl>

<http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf>

<http://economics.ucr.edu/winter10/Fletschner>

Compiled By:

Elaine Kaishi Chen, Volunteer, CCVT Scarborough Branch

Clients' Events and Activities



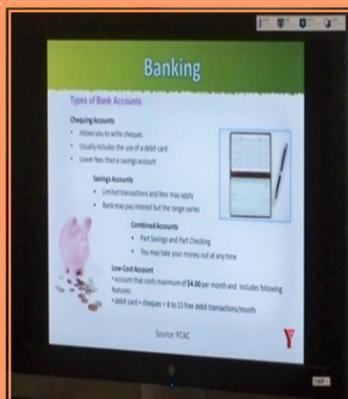
The Main Support Group On The Women's Day March 8, 2013

The International Women's Day celebrations at the CCVT Scarborough Branch were led by the Support Group members who came together and shared their experiences of being part of CCVT.

They read articles and shared poems about the history of the Women's day. They also sang songs that filled the day with much fun.

By: Thilaga Jeganathan, Settlement Counselor/Branch Coordinator, CCVT Scarborough Branch

The Arabic Group



The information session for the Arabic Group in February 2013 was about Banking and Credit card system in Canada. The Presenter was Ms. Simran Gill from YMCA, Scarborough. Clients who attended the session reported satisfaction about the information they got about budgeting, how to build credit history, facts and myths about credit cards, and other helpful information about banking system in Canada.

By: Samar Ahmed, Arabic Counselor

The Homework Club in February 2013



Valentine Day Activities on February 14, 2013



Clients' Events and Activities

March Break Activities from March 11 to March 15 2013

Looking for something to do for this coming March Break? There are a variety of events and activities for both families and youth of all ages. This article will explore some popular and common activities and events located around the city.

March Break Camps:

There are many different March Break Camps located across the city from March 11 to 15. For youth or parents with children interested in science, the Ontario Science Museum is offering a March Break Camp. The theme of the camp is titled "Science of the High Seas", where children can "set sail for an adventure as you uncover the science secrets in the life of a pirate". Children can also attend the Mad Science March Break camps. Mad Science Camps are designed to create an experience that is sure to impress children. Mad Science of Toronto offers a large selection of March Break Programs at various locations.

For music and art lovers, the Allegro Academy of Music and Art March Break Camp may be the camp for you. This March Break camp offers children the opportunity to develop their musical abilities while interacting with their peers and getting out of the house. The camp is held from March 11 to 15. As an alternative, parents can enroll kids in the Art Gallery of Ontario March Break Art Camp. Discover amazing artworks in the AGO's collections and make terrific artworks of your own.

Animal lovers can check out Pawsitively Pets March Break Camp or the WHIMZ Live Animal March Break Programs both camps are held from March 11 to 15.

For history lovers, the City of Toronto Historic Sites, featuring March Break Adventures A One-Day Camp at Gibson House, Cooking Capers: Time Travel at Montgomery's Inn, and March Break Pioneer Adventure Day Camp at Scarborough Museum. March 11 to 15.

For parents and children interested in a variety of activities, the March Break programs offered at Adventure Valley, allows campers to choose 5 of their favourite activities with specialties in chess, animation, cooking, martial arts, outdoor adventures, yoga, Bollywood dance, robotics, crafts, sports, and fashion! The camp offers buses to many areas of the GTA

Miscellaneous March Break Fun:

Families looking for non-camp related activities can check out Comic Book Heroes at TIFF from March 9 - 24. Harry Potter lovers can check out the Potted Potter at the Living Arts Centre from March 12 to 14. Tickets: \$31 - \$46. Families can also check out the following live shows and performances during the break: P!nk, Scooby Doo Live!, Magnificent Munsch and the Berenstain Bears Live.

By: Jason Lawrence, Volunteer, CCVT Scarborough Branch

The Youth Group workshop on Scholarship and Job Opportunities



By: Mbalu Wembo, Child/Youth Settlement Counselor

The Black History Month—February Presentation by the Youth



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