

# THE OPEN HOUSE



## ccvt Scarborough Branch



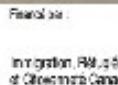
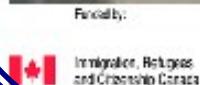
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### THE WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2019

#### OPEN HOUSE

**The Theme: Global Compact on Refugees**

YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO JOIN US ON THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH TO  
COMMEMORATE WORLD REFUGEE DAY  
AT THIS LOCATION FROM 10.30AM—1.00PM



# The Connection

A PUBLICATION BY THE VOLUNTEERS OF

THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR  
VICTIMS OF TORTURE  
SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

A NEWSLETTER FOR ALL CCVT VOLUNTEERS

APRIL–MAY 2019

Volume 8

Issue 1



CANADIAN CENTRE  
FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

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**CCVT IS A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE!**

# TRIUMPH OVER TORTURE.

International Day in  
Support of Victims of Torture

**June 26**

Please join us for dance,  
theatre, musical performances,  
food, vendors and more!

Wednesday, June 26  
Innis Town Hall Theatre  
2 Sussex Ave.  
12:00-pm - 4:00pm

[www.ccvt.org](http://www.ccvt.org)



## CANADIAN CENTRE FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

COME JOIN THE FUN WITH  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS ON

**SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2019**  
**11:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
**HIGH PARK PICNIC AREA 2**  
**(SEE MAP BELOW)**

YOU CAN BRING YOUR FAVOURITE MUSIC OR AN INSTRUMENT TO PLAY. IF YOU HAVE A SPECIAL DISH YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE, FEEL FREE TO BRING IT ALONG. BUT, MOST OF ALL, BRING YOURSELF!

For more information, please call (416) 363-1066

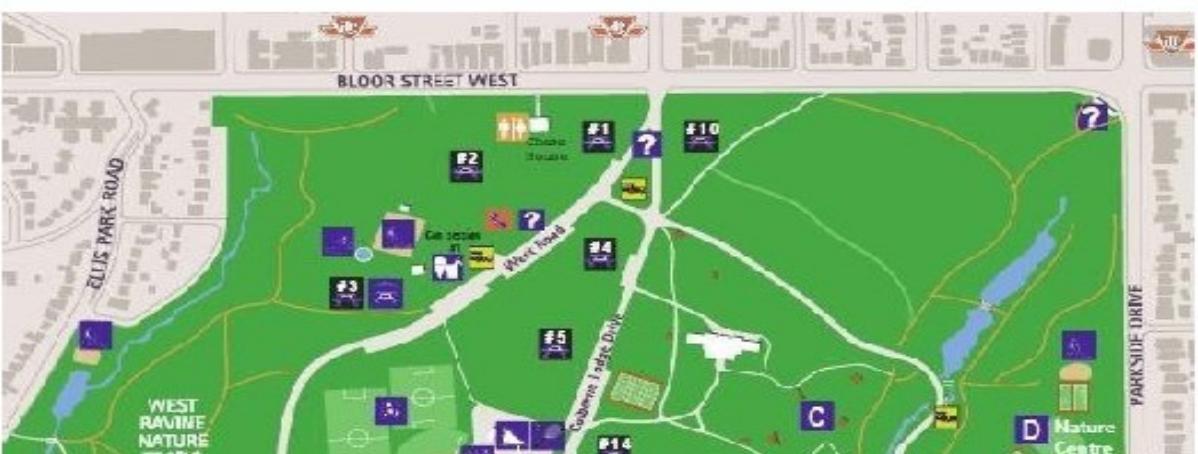


NOUS VOUS INVITONS NOMBREUX À NOTRE PIQUE-NIQUE ESTIVAL ANNUEL QUI AURA LIEU AU:

HIGH PARK ZONE 2 (VOIR LA CARTE CI-DESSOUS)  
LE DIMANCHE, 28 JUILLET, 2019  
DE 11h00 À 16h00

VOUS POUVEZ APPORTER VOTRE PLAT PRÉFÉRÉ POUR PARTAGER, DE LA MUSIQUE QUE VOUS AIMEZ OU  
L'INSTRUMENT QUE VOUS JOUEZ. MAIS, SURTOUT, C'EST VOTRE PRÉSENCE QUI COMpte!

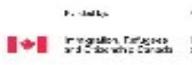
Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez appeler le (416) 363-1066



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TEL. (647) 847-2334



Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR YOUTH  
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

# GAME NIGHT

**JUNE 8TH, 2019 • 12:00-3:00PM**

The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture  
2401 Eglinton Ave. E. (Near Kennedy Station)

RSVP to Rosy at 416-750-3045 Ext. 3029



## The Mentorship Program At CCVT Scarborough Branch



The Youth Mentorship Program at CCVT is open to all Youth aged 12-25 years old. It is dedicated to the newcomer Youth in helping and aiding them with their integration into the Canadian society. Throughout the year, our Youth are matched with local Volunteers in the community who will mentor them and help them achieve their goals. Supported by their Mentors, the Youth participate in educational, social workshops and events throughout the year.

In the above image, we see the successful matching process of 4 of our Youth with their Mentors who are ready to learn, discover and make new friends!

You are ALL welcome to join this rewarding Program as a Mentor!

### Volunteer Mentor Requirements:

- Must be at least 21 years of age
- Reside in the GTA
- Agree to one year commitment
- Attend Mentor Training as required
- Commit to a minimum of 4 hours per month with a Mentee

### As a Mentor:

- You will work with Newcomer Youth from ages 12-25
- Involved in one-on-one Mentorship
- Contribute towards your Mentee's goals and lifestyle choices
- Create a healthy and a positive relationship

*By: Rosy Bossoke, Facilitator, Youth Mentorship Program, CCVT Scarborough Branch*

## Volunteers' Events and Workshops

### HARD TO BELIEVE

HOW DOCTORS BECAME MURDERERS  
AND WHY WE TURNED A BLIND EYE

#### Presenter:

Dr. Norman Epstein  
Emergency Physician & Human  
Rights Activist Chair, Student  
Action Committee, International  
Coalition to End Transplant  
Abuse in China



#### Trigger warning: The following includes details of violence.

On May 22nd, I had the privilege of joining the CCVT Community and those were Staff, Volunteers and Doctors, for an important presentation on organ transplant abuse in China, including a screening of the documentary "Hard to Believe" with commentary by emergency physician and activist Norman Epstein.

The presentation introduced us to the incontrovertible evidence showing that China is committing egregious human rights violations against its prisoners of conscience: the non-consensual harvesting of organs, sometimes pre-mortem, in service of the lucrative transplant industry. The details were hard to hear, but it's crucial that we

help raise awareness about this harm being done. If there's one takeaway from the event, it's that those harmed need the support of allies in advocating for themselves—and that a small dedicated community has the power to make great changes. I would like to say THANK YOU to Dr. Epstein for his hard work and passion, and to everyone who attended for their interest and contributions. And, of course, a big thank you to the organizers, who are the backbone of such informative events!

*By: Helen Baker, Volunteer, CCVT Scarborough Branch*

## ESL CLASS CELEBRATING THEIR COLLEAGUE WITH A SURPRISE BABY SHOWER



On Wednesday, May 23, 2019, all of us in the ESL Class held a Baby Shower for our classmate. This was a Surprise Baby Shower for her and we all students contributed towards the success of this event.

Amazingly, it was confidentially coordinated by our Teacher, ★ Patricia Hope Ramsey, who worked hand in hand with us and we kept all the planning process to ourselves.

On the day of the event, everyone was excited but it was difficult to set up the room as our friend was in the Class. It was difficult getting her to leave the room as she usually never does but with much effort, she later went downstairs and other students quickly decorated the room as planned. When she returned, everyone shouted "SURPRISE" and it was a great fun together party, eating and congratulating her.

Our friend was very happy and thankful for her surprise Baby Shower and in her speech, she told us that she was overwhelmed by the kind of love she experienced as she had never had a Baby Shower for her pregnancies before and that was her first Baby Shower that was offered at the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture which is now her second home!

Gifts included baby clothing and some financial support.



By: ESL Class Student, CCVT Scarborough Branch

## Clients' Workshops Arabic Support Group



On Friday, May 10th, the Arabic Support Group had a Workshop about Tenant/Landlord Rights and Responsibilities and was facilitated by Anita Fortuno-Settlement Worker from Access Alliance.



On Friday, May 17th, the Arabic Support Group had a Workshop about Ramadan and the Healthy Eating. Yousra Dabbour a Dietitian from Access Alliance/Access Point Danforth, facilitated this workshop.

## **Volunteers' Activities and Events**



## **ESL ONE-ON-ONE TUTORING**

08/05/2019



# **CITIZENSHIP CLASS**

15/05/2019

I have been volunteering with CCVT since March 2019. Although not a long time, I have had many enriching experiences.

A detailed orientation and professional development class prepared me well for my volunteer endeavours. Currently, I spend two days a week at the Scarborough location leading Canadian Citizenship classes, providing one-on-one support with English and Computer training, and assisting the TDSB Instructor with ESL classes.

As to be expected, there are many times when communication is a challenge. However, this is what I enjoy most about my

experiences with the CCVT clients; finding a way to connect. I have developed many close and rich relationships, and look forward to the many more sure to come.

The CCVT staff are knowledgeable, dedicated, and always available to answer my questions. As well, the regular social events (Christmas Party, Game Night, Volunteer Appreciation Event) allow Volunteers to feel supported, appreciated, and part of the team.

I am most thankful that CCVT has given me this opportunity.

*By: Lee Corlett, Volunteer,  
CCVT Scarborough Branch*

**CELEBRATE PRIDE  
WITH CCVT**

CANADIAN CENTRE  
FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

**EVENT LISTINGS**

**PRIDE INFO SESSIONS**

Register to march with CCVT in the Toronto Pride Parade by attending one Info session on:

**Tuesday June 18th at 194 Jarvis St.**  
**Option #1 - 1:00pm-3:00pm**  
**Option #2 - 5:00pm -7:00pm**

Info Sessions will cover parade route details and offer light snacks & self-care swag bags.

**PRIDE PARADE - JUNE 23**

Join thousands of Queer folk and Allies as we march in celebration and solidarity with our 2SLGBTQAI+ community!

**PLEASE RSVP:**  
**WPORTER@CCVT.ORG**  
**416.363.1066 EX 239**

United Way Greater Toronto

Government of Canada

Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration

Toronto

irct International Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims

## Volunteers' Activities and Events

### VOLUNTEERS' APPRECIATION DINNER ON APRIL 9, 2019



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## Volunteers' Activities and Events

### VOLUNTEERS' APPRECIATION DINNER ON APRIL 9, 2019



CCVT held a Volunteers' Appreciation Dinner on the evening of Tuesday, April 9th, 2019 to celebrate all past and current Volunteers who have lent their support and dedicated themselves to CCVT's programs.

The Executive Director, Mr. Mulugeta Abai, opened the evening by talking a bit about CCVT's history and how the Centre began. Starting earlier than its foundation in 1977, a group of Doctors, Lawyers and Social-service professionals who at that time were working as Volunteers on a pro-bono basis began what CCVT is today. They came together and offered their expertise to help support newcomers to Canada who were suffering from the immediate and long term effects of trauma and torture. Beginning as a an effort among Volunteers who were all passionately committed to helping people who were survivors of torture, CCVT has become a Centre for support and a pioneer in Canada on trauma services.

The Dinner was wonderful! As a Volunteer myself, it was great to learn more about CCVT and get to know other Volunteers who work at the Scarborough and Main office locations.

I was really touched when a fellow Volunteer, Mr. Eric Aagaard, shared his story about his experiences volunteering in the Befriending program. It reminded me of my own experiences working with children at the Scarborough office. Volunteering with CCVT has been so incredibly rewarding, it has taught me how lending your time can help someone and change their lives greatly.

I am committed to continue volunteering with CCVT and help the people who need it the most.

**THANK YOU CCVT!**

**By: Ashley Walcott, Volunteer,  
CCVT Scarborough Branch**