
QUEBEC GIRL GUIDES TAKE ACTION TO WELCOME CHILDREN OF SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILIES - Over 1400 items donated

Montreal, Quebec – March 2, 2016– Girl Guides from across the province have collected over 1400 items to donate to newly arrived Syrian refugees. While community service has always been a fundamental part of the Girl Guide program, this project opened the eyes of many to the reality faced by refugees as they settle in to their new surroundings.

On February 20, at a provincial gathering of Brownies (girl members aged 7-9), activities centered on [World Thinking Day](#), 'a day of international friendship' celebrated by over ten million members of [WAGGGS](#) (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts). The 2016 theme of 'Connect' invited members to reflect on the relationships they have with members of their community, on both a local and global level.

"We talked about the challenges these [refugee] children would face, among them language," explains Québec Provincial Commissioner Valerie Zaloum. Over 70 hand sewn fabric bags were filled with books, art supplies, and personal welcome cards.

The 1st Greenfield Park Guides on Montreal's South Shore filled 15 large garbage bags with winter clothing, school supplies, toiletries, and more. They also took part in a number of activities based on a 'Syria' theme, discussed what it meant to be a refugee and learned about Syrian Girl Guides. One volunteer leader noted, "I think this made them realize that the refugees were real human beings just like them." Another volunteer leader Laurene Bennett explained, "This initiative gave our unit a common purpose that girls, leaders and parents all shared. And we saw how even small actions on our part can, and do, contribute to a better world."

The appeal was launched in November when the Quebec Provincial Council challenged members to participate in supporting refugees. A tally sheet was maintained to track the collective efforts from units around the province. Items have been distributed to local organizations collecting donations.

About Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada, Québec Council

Guiding provides a safe environment that invites girls and young women to challenge themselves, to find their voice, meet new friends, have fun and make a difference in the world. Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada (GGC) strives to ensure that girls and women from all walks of life, identities and lived experiences feel a sense of belonging and can fully participate. Girl Guides is an organization with more than 100 years of history and a strong and growing future. [Join Us.](#)

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