

Rainbow Connection



India Rainbow Community Services of Peel

Winter 2016

“The purpose of life is a life of purpose” - Robert Byrne

Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for a
Happy and a Prosperous New Year!



Welcome to our Open House

India Rainbow takes this opportunity to wish all its clients, members, funders and supporters all the very best for the new year. 2016 is going to be an exciting year as we dive into the many projects we have planned for the community. We want you to partner with us to change lives and realize new opportunities. We are glad to share these exciting possibilities here:

Firstly, we are opening a brand new location in Brampton North in January. This will be our 4th site in Brampton and has been created by reducing the size of our other locations. Secondly, and most importantly, we are organizing Open Houses at our sites in Mississauga and Brampton and would like to see each one of you there. At the Open House you will learn about all the new initiatives we have in the works. We would welcome your advice, ideas and suggestions as we shape our future! After completing 30 successful years to become one of the leading service providing agency in the region, we want to grow with our communities. IRCS needs to evolve, adapt and expand with the needs of the communities, to become an organization that distinguishes itself by creating new programs and services, and charting new territories. We need to hear from you! Your opinion is important for us to move forward.

Here is what is in the works:

- **Next Strategic Plan:** We seek your input to guide us in the next 3-5 years. Have your say!
- **Branding:** Does the name 'India Rainbow' reflect the new reality of who we serve?
- **What programs & services should we focus on?** Tell us about your needs!
- **Who do we partner with?** Give us your ideas!
- **Seniors Housing:** Dedicated to the values of our heritage. Isn't it about time we had a building?
- **What is your vision?** This is your agency. What should India Rainbow's focus be?
- **Accreditation renewal:** Time to reassess our strengths and best practices. How can we be even better?

We need to hear your opinions on these and other issues during our open house sessions. Learn about our programs and services, become a member by helping those we are trying to help. Fill out a survey and enter into a draw to win one of 3 gift certificates valued at \$100 each. We encourage you to come to our Open House, but if you are unable to attend, please complete the survey online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IRCS>

Open House days and times:

- **Saturday, January 16, 2016 - 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at 3038 Hurontario Street, Suite 206, Mississauga L5B 3B9.**
 - **Thursday, January 28, 2016 - 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm at 180-B Sandalwood Parkway E, Suite 3000 Brampton, L6Z 4N2.**
- This is our new site. Let us show you how we plan to expand our services here!

Bring a friend or a family member and show them how together we are shaping the agency's future! Be there!!

Staff and Board Year-End Dinner & Dance: The year-end Dinner & Dance tradition has always been about celebrating achievements, special memories and camaraderie. This year was no different as IRCS Board and staff members gathered together on Dec. 4 to share in the agency's success and growth.



Swarnali Chakraborty (2nd from left) winner of the 'Outstanding Leadership Award'!

Gurpreet Malhotra, Executive Director started the evening's proceedings by thanking the Social Committee for planning the event, the volunteer Board members, and also the family members for attending. The Staff Fundraising Team comprising of Shalini Kapil, Deepika Bhalla, Jayashree Varadharajan, Anju Arora, Angela Amin, Sarojini Sinnathurai and Venant Ferreira won the 'Exceptional Teamwork Award', while the 'Outstanding Leadership Award' went to Swarnali Chakraborty, Lead Activity Coordinator, Senior Services. Congratulations to the winners!



'Exceptional Team Award' winners!

A scrumptious dinner, lively games and high-energy dance performances added to the excitement of this fun filled evening. Later, the DJ got the dance floor rocking with a cool mix of Bhangra, hip-hop and disco music. A truly wonderful evening!

Heroes in the Home Award: Every day people in our community provide care and kindness, allowing others to live fulfilling lives despite their limitations. The Annual 'Heroes In The Home Caregiver Recognition Award', organized by the Central West - Community Care Access Centre (CW- CCAC) on October 28 celebrated the dedication and hardwork of these very people. The event was attended by over 200 guests including David Robertson, CW-CCAC Board Chair and Cathy Hecimovich, CEO of CW-CCAC.

It was truly touching to hear many wonderful stories from grateful family members and clients who benefit from these efforts of others. India Rainbow nominated nine heroes for their invaluable services. Present at the award ceremony were: Maria Dennis, Haliman Ali, Rani Mathura, Rita Oma Sookram and Javid Younas. One of the caregivers stated, "Seeing what others go through, we feel our pain is nothing compared to theirs."

All nominees received a Certificate of Recognition during this special awards ceremony.



Rani Mathura (centre), one of the 'Heroes' with her certificate

GivingTuesday: Every year in November, Canadians hit shopping centres to hunt for the best bargains and kick off their holiday shopping. On Black Friday, the malls are abuzz with eager shoppers, and on Cyber Monday, the net is surfed for the sweetest online deals of the year! The average Canadian knows all about Black Friday and Cyber Monday. But what about the philanthropic new phenomenon, 'GivingTuesday'?

GivingTuesday is a new global movement that takes place each year on the Tuesday following Black Friday and Cyber Monday. It is all about giving, volunteering and thinking differently.

On Tuesday December 1, students from the Holy Name of Mary College School in Mississauga decided to give back to the community by volunteering their time to paint our Senior Services area. Accompanied by their teacher and a parent, they completed the work in a record 5 hours and gave the area a fresh and vibrant look. A big 'Thank You' to the students, teachers, staff and parents for making a difference!



Students from Holy Name of Mary College School smile for the camera, after completing an awesome job!

Client Satisfaction Survey: India Rainbow is in the process of creating an agency wide client satisfaction survey. The survey is to receive feedback from all clients about their experiences and also an opportunity to identify gaps and explore best practices. To ensure user-friendliness, the survey will be available in English, French, Hindi, Tamil, Gujarati, Punjabi and Urdu for completion. The survey will be introduced early in the next fiscal year.

The feedback provided by you will be used solely for planning, evaluating and improving our programs and services. Once launched, the survey will be available on our website as well.

We are excited about this new initiative and look forward for your continued support, so we can do even better.



India Rainbow opens yet another location in Brampton North in the new year!

Thanks to the support from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, we are opening a new site at 180-B Sandalwood Parkway East, Suite 3000 in Brampton. The site at the intersection of Sandalwood Parkway and Kennedy Road will offer LINC classes and Settlement Services starting in January 2016. Plans are also underway to add Family Counselling and Job Search Workshops in the near future. This fully accessible site is easily accessible by public transit and has ample parking spaces.

This move aligns with our strategic direction - to optimize our programs and services to meet the emerging needs of the Peel immigrant community. We look forward to welcoming you at the Open House on January 28, 2016. Be there!!

At the same time, we will be closing the Unit 1 location at 3038 Hurontario Street. Settlement Services and Job Search Workshops will now be offered from Suite 206 located on the second floor.

India Rainbow's 2015 Fundraising Campaign for United Way: It was 'full steam ahead', as IRCS launched its annual United Way 2015 fundraising campaign by attending the United Way official kickoff event on September 18, 2015 in Mississauga. We also invited United Way speakers at our offices and to our professional development day to talk about the importance of giving. Our Fundraising Committee members, along with strong support from staff at all locations organized special lunches, snack sales, movie nights, henna applications, raffles, donations and staff pledges. The Fundraising Committee could not have done it without the support and assistance from our dedicated staff, clients and LINC students who contributed in one way or another. Their commendable joint efforts successfully helped us exceed our goal of \$3200 and helped us raise a whopping \$4923.30! Thank you to all our supporters!



Fundraising activities: (left) United Way raffle winners, LINC Mississauga; (right) at Regan Road - Henna applications



(L to R) Shalini Kapil, Chair, Staff Fundraising Committee, Gurpreet Malhotra, Executive Director, Kim Proudlock from United Way, Daksha Mulla, Senior LINC Manager and Angela Amin, Member, Staff Fundraising Committee at the cheque presentation.

Healthy Recipe

One Pan Mexican Quinoa

Ingredients: Small onion- chopped, ½ jalapeno- chopped, 1 can corn (drained), 1 can black beans (drained and rinsed), 1 can chopped tomatoes, ¾ cup quinoa, 1 tsp. chili powder, ½ tsp. cumin, 1 cup vegetable broth, salt to taste. Optional: small amount of chopped carrots, small amount of chopped okra.



Method: Fry onions and jalapeno until golden. Add: corn, black beans, tomatoes, quinoa, chili powder, cumin and vegetable broth. Add carrots and okra, if using. Stir well. Cook over medium-low heat. Cover and stir occasionally. Ready in 20 minutes.

Garnish: Squeeze ½ lime & chopped coriander
(Recipe courtesy - Diana Pakkala, LINC Teacher)

Membership Corner

Welcome New Members:

Indu Sharma
Ramindar Kaur
Chaman Deep

Membership Renewal Reminder

Membership renewal is due January 2016!

Membership can now be renewed for up to 5 years. Online renewal is available through PayPal on our website, or call us at 905-275-2369

Employee Service Awards: Congratulations to the following staff who received Service Pins for their years of commitment and dedicated service to the organization: Honored for **20 years of service:** Sarojini Sinnathurai, Finance Supervisor. For **10 years of service:** Shikha Bedi, Manager Senior Services. For **5 Years of service:** Linda Schellenberg Krahn, LINC Teacher; Swarnali Chakraborty, Lead Activity Coordinator, Senior Services; Paramjit Kaur, Network Administrator; Ramneet Lotay, Family Services Counsellor & Family Court Support Worker; Shahab Sakhawat, Client Services Coordinator; Farroukh Afzal, Activity Assistant; Anita Anand, LINC Teacher; Geetha Raman, LINC Teacher; Malkit Pabla, Early Childhood Educator; Jenna Jengalee, Lead Early Childhood Educator, and Venant Ferreira, Community Outreach Coordinator.

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Meadowvale Cemetery, Crematorium and Visitation Centre is a business name of Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries which is affiliated with Canadian Memorial Services. Funeral services provided by Canadian Memorial Services. Cemetery and cremation services provided by Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries.

Newsletter Team: Daksha Mulla, Venant Ferreira

The newsletter 'Rainbow Connection' is a periodical publication of India Rainbow Community Services of Peel. We invite readers to submit community announcements, articles of community interest and letters for possible publication.

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A United Way Funded Agency