

Host-Traditional Matching Program

YMCA's of Cambridge & Kitchener Waterloo Cross Cultural & Immigrant Services

Description of Service	A friendship program designed to help newcomers feel more welcome as they settle in Canada. Through this program individuals and families new to our country are paired with volunteers for a period of 4-6 months. Over this time newcomers and volunteers meet in the community for 1 or 2 hours per week. In this way newcomers receive help with English practice, community orientation, and learn about the Canadian culture. Volunteers learn about other countries and cultures, while gaining valuable experience in being able to use their knowledge and skills. Conversation Circles are also provided which allow newcomers to practice conversational English in a social and unstructured group setting. These are held at various locations throughout the community with the help of experienced volunteers.
Who is service designed for? Who is eligible?	This service was designed for Landed Immigrants and Convention Refugees, recently arrived to Canada. Depending on newcomers needs the program may be more flexible.
How can this service be accessed?	By connecting with the Host Program Coordinator
Name of contact within agency for more information	Christina Koenig
Hours for service	Monday-Thursday: 8:30-4:30 Friday: 8:30-12:00
Address for service	800 King Street West Unit 301 Kitchener Ontario N2G-1E8
Phone contact for	(519)579-9622 ext. 243

service	
Email address for service	ckoenig@kwymca.org
Can you offer any further information or recommendations for referring agency?	Social events are also planned for newcomers and volunteers. Homework help is available for children and youth. Volunteers and newcomers can receive a membership to the YMCA.
What is the best way to refer/connect someone interested in this service?	A link to the Host Program can be found on the internet at www.kwymca.org . The Host Program Coordinator may be contacted by e-mail at the following address: ckoenig@kwymca.org