

**London Interfaith Refugee Sponsorship Alliance
(LIRSA)**

LIRSA was formed in 1996 and was supported by six churches: Siloam, Metropolitan and First-St. Andrew's United Churches; St. Jude's and St. Luke's Anglican Churches; and St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church. In 2023, the participating churches were: Siloam, Riverside and Colborne St. United Churches; St. George's and St. Jude's Anglican Churches.

LIRSA sponsored and supported individuals and families who had been identified as refugees according to the United Nations Geneva Convention and had been approved as refugee claimants through Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada.

LIRSA was able to sponsor twelve different families from 1996 - 2023 when a decision was made to cease the sponsorship side of LIRSA. Financially, we were not able to continue to provide accommodation, clothing, furniture, etc. to help a new family get started in London.

Another part of LIRSA is still in existence. Westminster College Foundation has very generously provided grants to this part of the group to help with medical, dental and vital services that are not covered by government assistance for London and area refugee families. We are indebted to this organization for its help.