

Information for Sponsors for Family Reunification

- ◆ If you are considering becoming a Group of Five Sponsor, the following information is intended to assist you in making an informed decision. While we will do our best to ensure that information is up to date, please note that Immigration Refugee Citizenship Canada (IRCC) may change policies or procedures at any time.

- ◆ If the family or individual (hereafter referred to as family) you have been asked to sponsor has been approved for assistance by Flourishing Foundation, this means that the funds required by IRCC to ensure the settlement of the family have been placed in a trust account in the names of the family prior to the application for immigration being submitted to IRCC. Proof of the trust account must be provided to IRCC with the application. Please note the financial responsibility required by IRCC is for a period of one year after the family (or individual) arrives in Canada.

- ◆ The sponsorship process is a lengthy and often arduous process. Currently, the IRCC is estimating between 24 and 48 months for successful completion of the process and the arrival of the family in Canada. Your role as a Group of Five Sponsor begins on the date the family arrives in Canada and ends one year from that date. Your relationship with the family may continue for as long as you and the family wish, but your responsibilities end one year from arrival.

- ◆ All application forms will be prepared by Flourishing Foundation. You will be required to complete an application and financial statement including a copy of your most recent tax assessment (confirming you are employed) and a statement as to what you intend to provide to the family in the settlement process. Settlement can be very challenging, and we believe that the larger community plays an enormous role in providing hospitality and a genuine welcoming presence to arriving newcomers.

- ◆ Once all documents are ready for submission to IRCC, you will be asked to attend at a local RCMP or police department to obtain a Security Clearance (Criminal Records Check). You will not be eligible to sponsor if you have a criminal record or if you have been charged with a criminal offence and are waiting for a court appearance.

- ◆ You will need to provide a copy of your Birth Certificate or Passport as government-issued ID.

- ◆ Once all paperwork is completed and provided to the board member for submission, you will receive correspondence from IRCC directly as to the status of the application. As a Group of Five Sponsor, you are entitled to know all the details of the family and the application.

It is our goal to strive for complete transparency in all details of the family reunification files, with the exception of your financial information. If you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to speak to the family members directly or to contact the Foundation.