



1008 Bathurst Street Toronto ON M5R 3G7 T : 416 535 6262 F : 416 535 3293

Finding Family in a New Land

I arrived in Canada on February 15th 1984 on a bitter cold night from a Hong Kong refugee camp. My parents and their four kids were greeted at the airport with a warm reception from Mr. Dirk Jongkind and a few other members from First Christian Reformed Church (CRC) of Toronto. I remember hitting it off right away with Mr. Jongkind and him carrying my little sister to the car. When we drove to The Lighthouse, my first impression of Toronto was of how dark and sparse it was compared to the brightness in Hong Kong. I felt sad and missed my school friends there.

At The Lighthouse, we were told that we would be staying there for 2 weeks until our rental was ready for us. During these two weeks I remember that my siblings and I missed our friends in Hong Kong and wanted to move back there. We often pulled pranks on my parents. One evening we hid so quietly underneath the office desks that my parents panicked and nearly called Mr. Jongkind to report us missing! Meeting Rita Wong was comforting as we could speak Cantonese with her. She set us up with medical services and other needs.

Within the 2 weeks of arriving in Canada, my parents found work. Dad at Sears and my Mom at Downsview Stamping (a car parts subdivision of Magna Inc.). Before we moved into our rented place, Mr. Jongkind took me to register for school. I still remem-

ber his care and earnestness, and like a real grandfather, he offered me words of encouragement which I still remember to this day. After we moved into our apartment on Wallace Avenue, First CRC of Toronto held a warm reception for us and provided us furniture and other necessities. As time passed we started to attend a bible study group at The Lighthouse and my parents loved meeting different people there. Within a few years my parents



saved enough money to buy a townhouse up north and we started to get even closer with the Jongkinds. We started calling them Oma and Opa (Grandma and Grandpa) and my parents referred to them as Mom and Dad.

Unfortunately, about three years into our stay in Canada my father tragically died in a car crash, with both my brothers injured. With no other relatives around, Opa Jongkind and The Lighthouse helped plan my father's funeral. The support and love we received from friends at The Lighthouse, First CRC Toronto and Christian communities was overwhelming, something I'm always grateful for.

As I was particularly close to my Dad, life was difficult for me after he died. After a tough last year in high school I enrolled at the University of Toronto. The year I started university in 1988 I was asked to 'fill in' for Rita at The Lighthouse since she was going to be in China for missionary work. I was grateful for the opportunity to see Opa and Oma (Rie) Jongkind often, and happy to be able to use my language skills to help The Lighthouse's Asian ministry. During this time, I met and was inspired by many of Samia Saad's clients and decided to study Spanish in order to converse with them. By the end of that summer, I was recruited by Barbra Schliffer Commemorative Clinic to be trained as a Cultural Interpreter for victims of domestic abuse and worked for them throughout university. By the time I finished university I had been offered a job at the United Nations in Hong Kong as a translator.

Throughout the years, I stayed closely connected with the Jongkinds. At the age of 91, Opa proudly walked me down the aisle when I got married. Mr. & Mrs. Jongkind served with love and humility and there was never a doubt in my mind that it came from their deep love for God. My two children will always know of the special bond I had with the Jongkinds, as well as my history with The Lighthouse. It is wonderful to see how The Lighthouse's vision and services evolved with the times and needs of the communities. I am deeply grateful for your work and dedication. Thank you!

- Eva Benwell, April 22nd 2018



Summer Student Staff Person

Nadine Ingabire

A 2nd year Sociology student at York University. She was interested in working for The Lighthouse because of its programs geared towards education and therapy, particularly for children. During her time at The Lighthouse, Nadine hopes to gain experience working with people in need, and working with children.

Summer Student Staff Person

Christopher Devries

A 2nd year Global Health and Neuroscience student at the University of Toronto. Chris became interested



in working at The Lighthouse due to the numerous programs that serve the community, particularly programs targeted towards educating and elevating underprivileged families in the local community. While working at The Lighthouse, Chris hopes to gain experience helping people and families who are in need, and a better understanding of how to help others.



Meet our New Placement Student

Sarah Kelley

A student at George Brown College in her second year of the social service worker program. As a second placement, The Lighthouse has provided many learning opportunities and insights on social issues such as poverty and hunger. Sarah has chosen The Lighthouse in search of growth and as a great way to complete her program.



It's that time of the year again!
Friends and supporters of The Lighthouse are registering teams and signing up for The Ride for Refuge

Visit www.rideforrefuge.org and sign up to ride on **September 29th 2018** in support of The Lighthouse



50th Anniversary Dinner & Auction
November 3

Benefit Concert
November 17



/thelighthouseontario

www.lighthousecentre.ca



Jelle Koersen Summer Community Development Assistant

What has been your involvement at The Lighthouse?

I first started at The Lighthouse as an intern through Kuyper College in January 2016 through the month of April. During this time I received a broad exposure to what The Lighthouse is all about and I helped out with the food bank and the Chinese ministry. Last summer I was back serving as one of the summer students. I have been a member of the Fundraising Committee since my internship which includes monthly meetings and volunteering at different fundraising events.

This summer will be my third time at The Lighthouse returning as a summer student.

What is your role this summer as a summer student?

I am the Summer Community Development Assistant. I am spear-heading a research project to explore what ministry opportunities there are in the Scarborough North Area. I hope to help The Lighthouse executive leadership and board discern how to effectively move into communities of need. I hope God will bless The Lighthouse in continued presence towards community transformation.

What do you do outside The Lighthouse?

I am a student at Wycliffe College working towards my Masters of Divinity and Masters of Theological Studies in Development. I am hoping to go on an international internship for my program in the Fall. I am a member of All Nations Christian Fellowship, a tight knit Christian Reformed Church congregation that meets inside The Lighthouse facilities. Happily engaged, my fiancée and I enjoy exploring new places and discussing our passions.



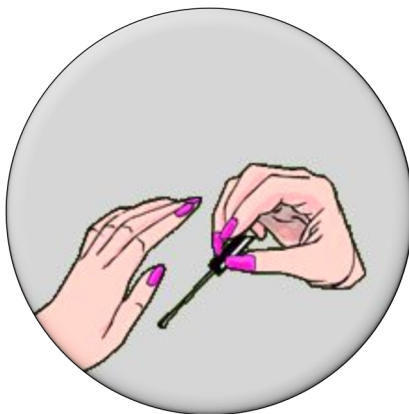
CONGRATULATIONS to the 2018 Graduating Class of The Hispanic Manicure/ Pedicure Program

Thanks to the teachers, volunteers, program director and our Lighthouse supporters who help to make this course possible every year. These courses offer community, support and income generating skills - empowering individuals and changing lives.



COMING SOON:

In September 2018, The Lighthouse will be engaging in a pilot Manicure/Pedicure program with individuals in need within the Vietnamese Community. Look out for updates on this new project!



Check Out a New Resource:

To learn more about how to best help a newcomer refugee(s), how to sponsor a refugee(s) and how to help with the resettlement of a refugee(s); take a peek at a new resource by World Renew!

Read the full handbook at:

<http://lighthousecentre.ca/>



From Rob's Desk

Today, I want to say: "Thank You!" I want to thank each and every one of you who has supported the ministry of The Lighthouse over the past 50 years.

Thank you to those who have given in-kind donations or financial support. Whether you give as an individual, church, organization or business, your support is critical for the day-to-day operation of this ministry.

Thank you to our Board of Directors. It is through your wise leadership and selfless service that The Lighthouse is celebrating 50 years of ministry in the Greater Toronto Area.

Thank you to the staff, volunteers, summer and placement students. It is through your ongoing dedication, hard work and deep passion that our programs are so meaningful and life-changing.

Thank you to those working quietly behind the scene. It is through your encouragement of others to get involved and donate that we are able to do all we do.

Thank you to all those who pray for The Lighthouse. Your prayers are heard, felt and appreciated.

Finally, and most importantly, I **thank God** and Creator! He continues to encourage and challenge us to get involved in his work. He stirs the hearts of many to be involved in this awesome work. It is because of Him, with Him, and through Him that we do this important work in the world.

Feeling deep gratitude.



Board of Directors

Ed Boekee
Theody Corton
Harley Dekker
Juan Rojo
Fadi Sharaiha
Marieke Vandekolk
Roger Visser (Interim Chair)

Staff

Rev. Rob Datema
Executive Director

Tabitha Eastman
*Neighborhood Coordinator
and Administration*

Tracy Nguyen
Vietnamese Assistant

Madeley Perez
Hispanic Assistant

Samia Saad
*Psychotherapist and Hispanic
Program Director*

Thuy Tran
*Psychotherapist and Vietnamese
Program Director*

Helping People / Changing Lives

Thank you for being partners with us in this ministry.



Yes, I would like to help with a donation of \$ _____

☐ Cheque enclosed

☐ Visa/MasterCard # _____

Expiry Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Other Ways to Help-Contact us for details

- ☐ PAR (PreAuthorized Remittance)
- ☐ Monthly Visa or MasterCard donation - makes it easy for you and for us
- ☐ Canada Helps on line at www.canadahelps.org
- ☐ Giving through Christian Stewardship Service
- ☐ United Way Payroll Deduction - just provide our CRA # and address
- ☐ Matched Corporate Giving - many companies match employee donations

Please mail your contribution to:

The Lighthouse
1008 Bathurst Street
Toronto ON M5R 3G7

Receipts will be issued in the New Year. Canada Revenue Agency #13036 3740 RR0001



/thelighthouseontario

www.lighthousecentre.ca