

HAVE SYRIAN KIDS
COME TO YOUR
SCHOOL? WERE YOU OR
YOUR FAMILY PART OF
A GROUP THAT HELPED
BRING A SYRIAN
FAMILY TO CANADA?

SPONSORING SYRIANS

A terrible war broke out in Syria — a country bordered by Turkey, Iraq and Lebanon — almost 10 years ago. As different groups within the country fought each other, thousands of innocent people were killed and hurt. Many Syrians were desperate to find safety. They fled their country any way they could. The Canadian government offered to help these refugees. Small groups of ordinary Canadians also got together to bring Syrian families here and help them get settled in their new life. Both efforts are known as **sponsoring** refugees. Starting in 2015, these two types of sponsorships have helped bring more than 50,000 Syrians to Canada where they can study, work and live in peace.



WHY DOES CANADA
HELP PEOPLE WHO ARE
TRYING TO ESCAPE WAR?



BASEL'S STORY

Basel, Idress and Shatha Al Rashdan with their father Amjad soon after coming to Canada. Their mother Ghouson isn't shown. Tamim, a younger brother, was born in 2017.

When I was seven years old my home country Syria wasn't safe. My family and I had to find a safe place away from war. We went to Jordan, a nearby country. I left behind my friends, house and family. I was heartbroken and sad. Life was very hard in Jordan. The refugee camp was very scary and my father had a hard time finding work. My siblings and I were so young.

Three long years later, we received a call saying we were moving to Canada! My family was really happy and excited because we could finally live where education and schools are much better and my father could find a proper job. Canada, a land of opportunity!

In December 2015 we flew to Canada which was exciting and nerve-wracking! After we landed at the airport, lots of people welcomed my family with love, warmth and kindness. What a pleasant shock that was! People made us feel at home.

Canada is SO cold compared to Syria and so very beautiful in the summer. I love my school, learned how to speak English and have made many awesome friends. I had the chance to speak at the United Nations and participate in the Heritage Fair to share my story.

Canada has changed my life for the better and I feel home again!

Basel Al Rashdan is 15 years old and attends Colonel Gray High School in Charlottetown, P.E.I.



Basel Al Rashdan