

2019 GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARD

NEST SASKATOON was founded in July 1997 when a small group of Saskatonians, motivated by a desire to respond to the needs of a Nigerian refugee, met to discuss a suggestion from a refugee group in Winnipeg that Saskatoon should create its own group. Although the government refused to accept the young man that they had hoped to sponsor, by 1999 the first successful sponsorship brought Margaret, a Sudanese woman who had spent five years in refugee camps, to Canada. Since then, people from Iraq, Liberia, Burundi, Uganda, Afghanistan, Colombia, Ecuador, Syria, and Myanmar followed. Many have been single women with young children; others have been relatives of families already here.

Over the years, Nest Saskatoon has developed a few guiding principles: our job is to help build independence, ensure that refugee families can make their own decisions, and support the challenge of adjusting to a new country.



Many of the Nest Saskatoon members

Nest members work to develop positive relationships with the people who have had to leave their countries of birth and start over in a new country, often after years in exile. In 2018, Nest is a diverse group and counts Margaret among its members, while other members born outside Canada interpret, cook huge meals, and sit on the executive.

While Nest has been supported by many people over its 20-year history, Thelma Howard, Heather Kleiner, Margareth Peterson and Faith Rohrbough have been nominated to represent the group: they were at that first meeting in 1997, and are still there today, exemplifying the spirit of peace and friendship that the Global Citizen Award represents.