

## **#5 - New to the Country...Catholic Cross Cultural Services**

Every day, people who need help turn to ShareLife for assistance. ShareLife is a charity that collects money and gives it back to 34 different organizations that help those in need. Do you know how many people are being helped by ShareLife each year? More than 100,000 people – that means you could fill every seat at the Air Canada Centre more than five times – that’s a lot of people being helped. Here’s a quick story about a family who turned to ShareLife for assistance.

Kwali and his wife Shemba had escaped from Africa to make a better life in Canada. They dreamed of prosperity and the good life for their children. Only problem was they spoke very little English and arrived in Toronto with little money. In Africa they were both professionals – he was an accountant and she was a teacher. On their second day in Canada, they were told their qualifications weren’t transferable. Not knowing where to turn to, a social worker suggested Catholic Cross Cultural Services, a ShareLife agency helping recent immigrants to Canada.

They made an appointment and were connected with Emanuel, a settlement worker who made the next month so much easier. Emanuel was able to help them find a low-rent apartment and also gave them some assistance preparing their resumes. Emanuel connected them with a support group of other immigrants from Africa where they could talk about the struggles and challenges of moving to Toronto. Kwali and Shemba are both now working, proud to call Canada home and excited about the months and years ahead.

We sometimes take all that we have for granted. Consider those who have left everything because they see Canada and the Toronto area as the greatest place to be in the world. Our diversity is one of the greatest gifts we have in our community. Let’s not forget how much we have to be thankful for each day. Maybe giving back to ShareLife this year will give us a chance to tangibly say “thank you” to God for all that we’ve been given. We continue to pray for all those who are new to our country and hope that they feel welcome in a place that they will now call home.

*Our Father...(or other appropriate prayer)*