

Volunteer Impact by the Numbers

At OMRA, we are incredibly proud of our volunteers who come together with a shared purpose: to uplift others. We believe that when one person grows, we all grow and benefit. Our volunteer's commitment is a powerful reminder that our community is built through kindness, consistency, and human connection.

These are not just numbers – they represent lives touched, challenges eased, families supported, and

futures strengthened.

Behind every number is a person who chose to give their time, energy, and heart to create a welcoming and supportive environment for refugees seeking safety and stability in Canada. While numbers cannot fully capture the depth of your impact, they help us recognize the strength of what we have achieved together.

- Language tutoring and conversation support
- Job search assistance and resume building
- Fundraising and community engagement initiatives
- Social connection and integration activities
- Furniture delivery and moving

Moving Forward

The kindness our volunteers create has a real impact. Their commitment builds futures. Their presence brings comfort and confidence to those who need it most.

Thank you to our team for continuing to support, uplift, and strengthen our community.

Let's keep spreading kindness and building a welcoming home for all.

62 volunteers supported OMRA initiatives in 2025-2026
2733 hours of dedicated volunteer service contributed
40 new volunteers welcomed into the OMRA community

Areas of Impact

OMRA's volunteers made a difference in very tangible ways:

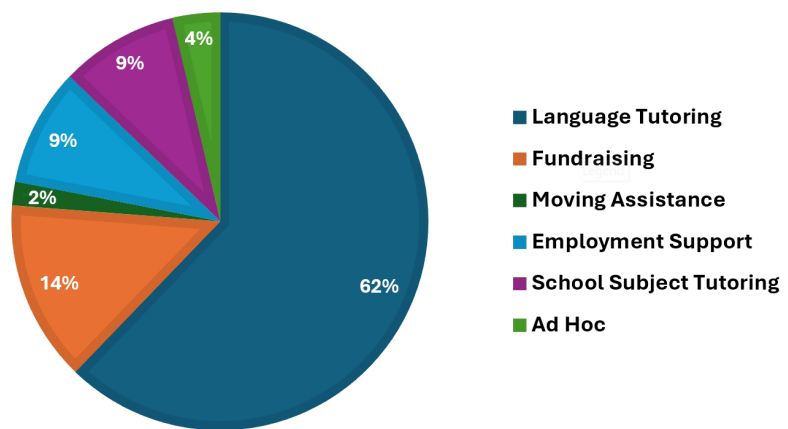
OMRA AGM

Please mark your calendars and join us at our AGM on Monday, June 15, 2026, from 6:30 to 9:00 pm at the Ottawa Mennonite Church, 1830 Kilborn Ave.

Come at 6:30 to enjoy some refreshments and visiting. The meetings starts at 7:00. Your participation and interest in OMRA is very important. More information will be provided closer to the date.

Monday, June 15, 2026,
6:30 to 9:00 PM
Ottawa Mennonite Church, 1830 Kilborn Avenue, Ottawa

VOLUNTEER IMPACT ACROSS OUR PROGRAMS



The OMRA Board is Recruiting

OMRA is looking for new members for our board. If you are passionate about supporting vulnerable newcomers, we have a place for you! The OMRA board is a working one, requiring hands-on participation and engagement. Experience in the sector would be an asset, plus having financial, governance, mental health, and/or social work backgrounds.

Please contact Maria Rigby (rigby.omra@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining this dynamic group. More information on our organization is available on our website, OMRAottawa.org.

The OMRA Board Members invite you and your family to our

Annual OMRA Potluck Picnic!

**Brantwood Park, 39 Onslow Cres
August 15, 12:00 to 3:30**

Come and join us for an afternoon of friendship, delicious food, great conversation, fun and games and a paddle on the Rideau River.

What to bring:

Yourselves and your family, food to share, drinks for your family, a blanket or a lawn chair. OMRA will provide plates, cutlery, napkins etc.

No rain date – let's hope for blue skies!

How to get there:

Bus routes 5 and 55 go down Main Street – exit at stop 7641 or 7642 (Main and Bower/Beckwith) and walk east, through the stone gates, and downhill on Beckwith Street, 2 short blocks to the park.



RSVP:

Rigby.OMRA@gmail.com

Tamarack Run-raiser!



Time to support your favourite runner.

OMRA's Fourth Annual Tamarack Race Weekend Fundraiser is May 23-24!

Make sure you've registered for a day of FUN, Friendship and Fundraising for TEAM OMRA.

Our goal this year is \$30,000.

Everyone can be part of Team OMRA and support OMRA's rent subsidies!

You can support our team here:



<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/omraottawa26>

And it's not too late to sign up to fundraise:

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/omra26team?invite=true>

Need help? Have questions?
Contact Keely by email:
keelydavison@omraottawa.org

A Table of Belonging: Sharing Ramadan Together

During the holy month of Ramadan – a time of reflection, generosity, and community – the Intercultural Dialogue Institute Ottawa opened its doors and hearts to several OMRA families through a beautiful initiative called “Meet Your Neighbour.”

The evening brought together families from different backgrounds to share something simple yet powerful: a home-cooked meal. Hosted by members of the Turkish community, the gathering was filled with warmth, kindness, and care. Guests were welcomed with open arms and treated to delicious Turkish dishes, followed by the comforting



ritual of tea shared around the table.

But the evening was about much more than food.

For many OMRA clients – some living alone, others separated from loved ones and waiting to be reunited with their families – it was a rare and meaningful moment of connection. Conversations flowed easily, as stories of home, culture, and faith

were shared. In those moments, differences faded, and what remained was a shared human experience: the need to belong, to be seen, and to be welcomed.

Laughter, storytelling, and quiet understanding filled the room. Bonds were formed, contact information exchanged,

and small homemade gifts were offered as tokens of care. For a few hours, strangers became neighbours – and neighbours became a source of comfort.

Initiatives like this remind us that community is not just built through programs, but through people – through open doors, shared meals, and genuine connection. For those who may feel far from home, these moments matter deeply.

Because sometimes, the simplest gesture – a seat at the table – can make someone feel like they truly belong.



OMRA's High Tea WAS A JOLLY GOOD TIME!

On Saturday, March 28, OMRA's High Tea fundraising event took place at the Ottawa Mennonite Church. There were two different sittings over the afternoon, and it was an unqualified, jolly good, success! We had a total of 252 people over the two sittings and raised just over \$10,000 for OMRA. Our patrons enjoyed peppermint, black and Earl Grey tea, scones with clotted cream and jam, mini sandwiches and desserts all piled on elegant, tiered plates – just like in the movies! There was quite a buzz throughout the afternoon, and the warmth and championship helped chase the early spring chill away. A huge thank-you goes out to the over 45 volunteers that helped out. Many attendees commented that they would love to come back again next year!



25 Years Old!

OMRA is celebrating 25 years of helping newcomers in our community! Look for our special Anniversary Newsletter coming in June, ahead of our AGM.