



FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION
OF TORONTO

For People. For Change.

Introducing Illahee Community Connection

Family Service Association of Toronto (FSA Toronto) is proud to introduce Illahee Community Connection, a new initiative that builds on FSA Toronto's long history of providing services to seniors. Illahee Community Connection pays tribute to FSA Toronto's Illahee Lodge and the memories created there by thousands of seniors and their families before its closure in 2004. Illahee Community Connection continues our commitment to capacity building in ethno-racial communities and the creation of new opportunities for partnership, community development and services for seniors.



Illahee Community Connection will work with immigrant and newcomer seniors living in Scarborough and North York. Based out of FSA Toronto's 747 Warden Avenue office, the majority of our work will be mobile, with FSA Toronto staff going out to seniors.

Illahee Community Connection will initiate and develop cross-cultural programming designed to reduce isolation, develop social networks and strengthen peer volunteer capacity among seniors.



The primary focus of the program will be providing interactive and engaging educational workshops on a wide range of topics of interest to, and identified by, seniors, including seniors' safety and wellness, access to housing, transportation, health, education and legal services, fitness programs, cultural events, outings and trips; and provide support for social events including arts and crafts. Other activities will include community forums and information fairs. The program will also

provide seniors with important information about community services and resources and provide referrals as necessary.



A Legacy for Illahee Lodge

For over 50 years, FSA Toronto provided a residential program for seniors at Illahee Lodge in Cobourg, Ontario. Our Illahee Lodge program allowed low-income seniors from diverse communities to use this vacation facility during the summer. Unfortunately, due to the high cost of residential programming and maintaining a large facility outside of Toronto, this program was forced to close in 2004. In 2005, FSA Toronto sought and secured funding to operate an Elderly People's Centre so that the agency could continue to provide wellness programs for seniors across Toronto.

Illahee Community Connection will focus its work in specific communities across Scarborough and North York. Programs will be open to all low-income seniors, however particular emphasis will be placed on outreach to Somali, Tamil and Iranian communities in the initial phases.

FSA Toronto will partner with agencies, community leaders, and volunteers as well as cultural groups and gathering places in order to create new opportunities for seniors in those communities where supports do not exist and to augment the wonderful work already being done in others.

Family Service Association of Toronto is a leading non-profit social service agency that provides service to 12,000 people each year. We believe that by strengthening individuals, families and communities, we can help build healthier lives for everyone. FSA Toronto provides free services to seniors and caregivers. Counselling and other types of assistance are available to enhance their capacity to access services for themselves and their families. Seniors are welcome in our offices for individual or group discussions or they can talk to a counsellor on the phone or arrange a home visit. Staff from the Seniors & Caregivers Support Services unit also provide educational workshops on topics ranging from elder abuse to accessing community supports.

Recently, FSA Toronto received feedback from seniors through a comprehensive survey. The results of the survey have provided valuable insight into the needs of seniors, the activities they are interested in, as well as the circumstances

of their lives. This information will form the basis of workshops and social events for the ICC program in the future.

If you would like to learn more about the Illahee Community Connection program or our survey, please contact Naga Ramalingam, Community Development Worker, at 416-586-9777 ext. 438 or by e-mail at nagara@fsatoronto.com.