



Giving back to S.U.C.C.E.S.S.

From using its services to becoming a volunteer. A S.U.C.C.E.S.S. client's way of saying "thank you"

Daily routines such as going to school or shopping at the local store in Vancouver sounds easy for most young Canadians but not for Mina Kim. Mina, a young woman in her twenties from Korea immigrated to Canada knowing only her family and very little English. You could imagine how daily routines for Mina would be full of challenges due to language barriers and dependence from her family who relied heavily on her to communicate with the local people. She attended school and learned basic skills but still struggled with daily life and felt invisible among her community. Mina was a bright girl and used her resources to find help in making her transition into a new life and new community easier. Mina's search led her to S.U.C.C.E.S.S., one of Canada's largest multi-service, multicultural agencies. Mina took advantage of the many resources available through S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and with the guidance and encouragement from S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and program staff Mina was able to gain self-confidence and became an integral part of her community.

Today Mina is happily married with a baby and a volunteer Parent Ambassador of S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Knowing the difficulties of moving to a new country and the desperate need for guidance Mina leaped at the chance when approached by S.U.C.C.E.S.S. to volunteer.

According to a UBC Research study led by Dr. Iraj Poureslami, ECD services were insufficient and inaccessible to most immigrants. He states it is imperative that existing programs improve their cultural competency in order to meet the real needs of immigrants who represent more than 25% of BC's population. S.U.C.C.E.S.S. continues to seek funding for ECD programs for new young immigrants in order to provide the support and guidance that is so desperately needed.

There are several S.U.C.C.E.S.S. programs for expecting woman including; Childbirth and Education and Hospital Tours, Cantonese Prenatal Class and the Richmond Health Program. S.U.C.C.E.S.S. also provides programs in family education, counselling and resources for multicultural families.

Early Childhood Development programs and family services for underprivileged immigrants would not be made possible without the support of S.U.C.C.E.S.S., government funding and its donors.

For more information visit www.success.bc.ca