Chris and Mit* and their two children, then 5 and 7 years of age, moved to Calgary from an eastern European country 4 years ago to escape the armed conflict and with hopes to make Canada their new home. The parents were excited to be members of the vibrant community of Calgary and their kids were looking forward to making new friends.

The family however was also aware that making a fresh start in a new place was not going to be an easy task. They visited many agencies looking for information about accessing public transit, housing, job searching, and their children's education. Soon it was December and they were unsure how they could provide Christmas for their kids. It was a stressful time.

Meanwhile, they learned about Closer to Home's West Central Community Resource Centre (WCCRC). During one of their visits to the WCCRC, they learned about Closer to Home's annual Adopt-a-Family initiative and decided to register. Fortunately, CTH was able to find a donor for the family.

When they found out that they were adopted, Chris and Mit could not be happier. “It was like somebody took the burden off our shoulders,” recalls Chris. They were so thankful.

The kids loved their Christmas gifts and so did the parents! But it meant more for the family. “We found a connection with the community. We noticed that Calgarians have warm hearts and they care about their fellow community members,” says Mit.
Continued from Page 1......

Fast forward three years. Chris and Mit are deeply engaged in their community. Mit volunteers in various programs at the WCCRC including Family Café, a joint program with Brown Bagging and Women’s Group. Chris also serves as a board member at their community association.

They were moved and inspired by the support they received and that is why they committed to giving back to the community.

“Mit is like a goodwill ambassador for us and does not hesitate to jump in and offer us help whenever we need it. The couple’s contribution to the agency is exemplary because not everyone can be so dedicated like Chris and Mit,” says Minoush, Program Coordinator at the WCCRC.

Would you like to connect more families like Chris and Mit with their communities? Register for Adopt-a-Family by completing the donation form on this page or register by visiting our website at www.closertohome.com.

* Names changed to protect privacy
Imagine…

What would it feel like to be separated from your family, moved to a different home and surrounded by other children and adults you didn't know?

For many of the youth referred to Closer to Home’s Community Teaching Homes, the experience can be very difficult. Their entire world has been torn apart, and they might be feeling angry and alone, like they have nowhere to turn and no one to talk to. Because of the stress and trauma of their situation, they may have a difficult time dealing with their emotions.

Closer to Home works hard to give these youth a sense of stability and belonging during this transitional period in their lives. Our Community Teaching Homes are a special kind of group care that provides a safe haven for children and teenagers who’ve experienced significant trauma in their lives.

Children and their families come to us for many different reasons. They may be experiencing mental health concerns, addiction, poverty, abuse, neglect or a multitude of other issues. Raising a family isn't easy, but Closer to Home is here to help.

Our Community Teaching Homes are family-style and community-based. Whenever possible, we have Teaching Parents who live in the home.

Teaching Parents work closely with youth to ensure they have the support, skills and confidence to tackle life’s challenges and reach their full potential. They go on vacations with the children, enjoy outings together, and as much as possible, they do everything a typical family would. They help children and youth find a sense of belonging, build their confidence, discover their potential, and realize they have an incredible future ahead of them.

You can help.

Please consider making a donation today to support children and families who have hit a speedbump in their lives. You can fill out the form on page 4, or sign up online at www.closertohome.com.
Thank You!

 Closer to Home would like to recognize our supporters for the last quarter (July 1, 2016 - September 30, 2016)


And many donors who choose to remain Anonymous.

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Foster Parent

This is a full-time live-in position (24 hours a day) in your own home for an individual or couple looking to have a positive and lasting impact on children and their families. Foster Parents’ primary objective is to provide specialized, family-based care for children who may otherwise be placed in more restrictive programs, follow all legislative and agency mandated policies and procedures involved in the care of foster children, as well as participate fully in the process of family reunification, when possible.

Adopt-a-Family Volunteer Gift Shopper

In this volunteer position, gift shoppers will work with CTH staff to purchase gifts for low-income families in the Calgary community during our annual Adopt-a-Family initiative. Shifts will be approximately 3-4 hours each during the 3 weeks leading up to Christmas (Dec 5th – 22nd, 2016), based on your availability.

For detailed information on above positions or to check out more career and volunteer opportunities, please visit our website at www.closertohome.com.

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Method of Payment:

☐ My cheque made payable to “Closer to Home Community Services” is enclosed.

☐ I would prefer to use my credit card.

For credit card donations, we will call you to verify information and process your donation through CanadaHelps (www.canadahelps.org). Ph: _____________________

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Please return your completed form to:

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Or fax your completed form to (403) 246-6406

Questions? Contact us at (403) 543-0550 Ext. 250

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Join Our Team

I would like to make a MONTHLY GIFT of:

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OR, here is my SINGLE GIFT of:

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☐ I would like to remain anonymous, please do not recognize my name in the Donor Recognition section of CTH publications such as this quarterly newsletter.