

Reason for receiving the Medal and Certificate:

In 2018, Jim Mercer (*a parishioner of Holy Child Parish*) visited Jwandoon Azimi, whose family had been sponsored by Holy Child Parish many years earlier. During the visit, Jim shared that Holy Child Parish had also sponsored many more refugee families.

Jwandoon now works for the [Honorable Salma Ataullahjan](#), Senator. He shared the information with Senator Salma, who was very moved by it, and they decided to nominate the parish for the [Special Canada 150 Medal and Certificate](#) which recognizes groups and individuals who are "thoroughly involved in their communities and, through generosity, dedication, volunteerism and hard work, make their home town, community, region, province or territory a better place."

As part of the nomination process, Jwandoon asked Jim Mercer, who agreed to act as a liaison for the parish's social justice committee, to send him details of the sponsorships and the community work that the church does broadly.

Below is a copy of the information that was sent by Faye Helmerson and Agnes Parisloff (co-chairs of the parish's Social Justice Committee).

“Holy Child/St. Joseph Social Justice Committee was formed in 1986, in response to a request from our then priest Fr. Joe Balzer. St. Joseph was our mother church and closed in 2015.

Below we have attempted to summarize some of the work done by the many dedicated members of our Social Justice Committee.

We have hosted and/or sponsored Newcomer families from Ethiopia, El Salvador, Afghanistan, Iran, Viet Nam, Congo, Eritrea, Karen State in Myanmar, Somalia and Iraq. We have assisted in the setup of homes for many. Through all of this we have made many lifelong friends. In giving we have received more than we could have imagined.

Donations of money and materials have been sent to Tanzania, Peru, Brazil, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Bosnia, Ghana, Karen State of Myanmar, Philippines, Kenya, Rwanda, India, Congo, Mexico, and Haiti.

Over the years we have also been involved with organizations such as Development and Peace, Amnesty International, UNICEF, Mennonite Central Committee, Saskatchewan Council for International Co-operation and Habitat for Humanity, and the Children's Hospital being built in Saskatoon.

Local projects include donations of money, food and material goods to soup kitchens, women's shelters, schools, seniors homes and our Aboriginal brothers and sisters. We also support Regina Open Door Society in their work settling Newcomers to Canada and Regina.

We funded these projects through 11 garage sales which alone raised \$82,500, numerous bake sales, raffles, other smaller projects and private donations.

All of this was made possible ONLY with the generous support of our priests and parishioners of Holy Child Parish and St. Joseph with their Time, Talent and Treasures.

Thank you."