

## MOSAIC

### NEWCOMER FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK

#### FAST FACTS

- Mosaic has a 5 ESL class locations, we receive about 15 new referrals for ESL every week.
- 16 family programs are running this fall, in 7 neighborhoods

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... and more!

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- Laura Dela Rosa
- Reem Abdulkader
- Shler Ali
- Queehyung Nam
- Val Cavers
- Melinda Pascual

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# Mosaic Minder

SEPTEMBER — NOVEMBER 2016

## Mosaic's New Family Drop-in!



Witnessing the continuous growth of Mosaic never ceases to amaze me. During the past months, we have embarked on a fresh and exciting project: our new Family Room! We have worked together to build up a welcoming and engaging space so newcomer families and everyone else that is part of our community could benefit from it, and although it had its challenges in the beginning, the room and the idea gradually took the appropriate shape. Today, we can see a community that is growing and getting more involved with different activities and family programs, and more importantly, that has found a safe and inviting place to start from: our own family room!

Mosaic has responded to the needs of the community one more time, and now we have a new place to enjoy, have fun, relax and socialize. Our family room is open on a daily basis, and the families can use it as they need it. We currently have a drop in program, where we provide age appropriate activities for children giving them the opportunity to learn through playing, while the

adults are invited to participate and support this learning as well. We practice rhymes and songs, play games, and encourage creativity. We have a multilingual library with books in English and different languages, and a comfortable space for adults to relax and socialize. In this program we also promote good nutrition, so everyone has the chance to enjoy a healthy and delicious snack while learning about its benefits.

This multifunctional room also serves as a family programs site, so the participants have the possibility of joining different programs. Storytelling, Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting, Nobody's Perfect, and Parent Child Mother Goose are some of the programs that have been hosted here, and many more are coming.

This is just the beginning... we will continue working towards a place that responds more sensitively and effectively to the needs of our growing community.

-Laura Dela Rosa Family Room Coordinator

## Settlement Work At Mosaic



Reem (left) with her Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting program at Islamic Social Services Association, ISSA.



Our “very much in demand” Settlement Workers Shler Ali and Reem Abdulkader

**H**i! I’m Reem! I’m a Settlement Worker at Mosaic. My job is to help and support newcomers to Canada. I am a newcomer myself; I came to Canada in 2007. Some of the things I do are: offering information, providing support and helping newcomers find programs and services available in the community.

I also facilitate a program called “Positive Discipline in Every Day Parenting” the best moment for me is when a parent tells me how the program made a good change in his family’s life. I support the students in their day to day challenges like translating documents, planning appointments, and their housing issues. I make sure newcomers and refugees understand their rights and responsibilities whilst living here in Canada by doing interesting presentations such as “Parenting in a New Country” and “Safety in Canada”. If they need Referrals, I make sure to refer them to the suitable place that can serve them in the best way!

Starting in 2016 with the great influx of Syrian refugees, there was a huge demand for settlement services. Mosaic has always been in the front line supporting newcomers through English classes, Family Programs, and Settlement Support. My favourite part of my job is when I visit the childcare and help the little ones to express their feelings and emotions and assist their parents to communicate clearly with our wonderful team of childcare workers! Mosaic is a great place that empowers people and helps them settle down in the most positive and friendly way.

- Reem Abdulkader– Settlement Worker

CanadaHelps is a charitable organization dedicated to help other charities in Canada. Their website has a database of organizations that people can give donations to. You can now give to Mosaic through CanadaHelps. For more information, visit their website and search for Mosaic. [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)



# Welcoming New Staff At Mosaic



## Shler Ali – Mosaic's newest Settlement Worker

**A** newcomer, thankful for having hope after she thought she would never have hope again.

A newcomer, starting to put a plan in place for a new future, in a new country. Jumping from a one place to another to prove herself; and a mom for a 6 year old girl.

This was me when I first met Shamail as a Kurdish – Arabic - English Interpreter. I still remember when she said “I am from Mosaic organization “; it was music to my ears, I felt curious, the name really attracted me especially because I love multicultural

places.

“Would you give me a call when you finish? “ Shamail said, and at that time I felt my heart was jumping. I finished my job that day as an interpreter and called Shamail immediately. It was so exciting when she invited me to visit Mosaic and meet Jean, Director of Family Programs. It was very nice meeting and Jean and she gave me a tour of the office. I went back home and told my Husband “This is the organization where I would love to work, they all are like one family “, and soon the hope came true when I had the opportunity to work as a volunteer with Mosaic and then as a Settlement Worker.

It's very helpful and supportive when the organization trusts a newcomer and gives him or her opportunity to work; which will encourage all newcomers to try their best to work so thank you Mosaic.

## Queehyung Nam-

### LINC PROGRAM ASSISTANT

**C**oming back to work after having been a full time mother/ wife for 13 years was scary enough. But in a new country where I have only lived for a little over a year? It took me great courage to get started. And I'm glad I decided to be brave enough to do it because now I work with the most wonderful people in the most amazing organization where we help newcomers just like myself, adapt to this new world.

Growing up and also as an adult, I was lucky enough to call many places home. Korea, the US, Indonesia, Russia, and now Canada. At the time of each move I'm sure there was always the struggle of trying to understand, to fit in, and to get used to the new culture, the language, and everything else that was so different from one another. Yes, of course the struggle was more of a frustration in the beginning, but it didn't last long. The joy of learning and experiencing the new things is what I remember longer and is what makes my life richer in many ways. And I am happy and grateful that I am in a job where I can be a part of other people's new challenges.

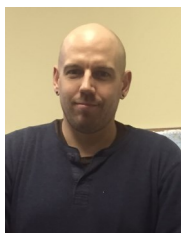
I've always been a fan of summer rather than winter, but I have come to love Winnipeg enough not to mind the long cold season. Awaiting my third winter, I'm still exploring my new city. I'm sure this year, it will be more exciting than the last two, because I will be spending a lot of time working with students and teachers in our ESL programs here at Mosaic.



## Meet our New Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) Teachers at Mosaic

## Red Threads of Peace Playback Theatre

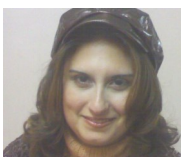
**Shawn** was born in Nanaimo, BC and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Shawn is a graduate from the University of Winnipeg, earning both his TESL Certificate and a BA in Rhetoric and Communication. Shawn enjoys working with new Canadians, and helping them adjust to the warm community and cold climate of Winnipeg. Shawn enjoys conversation circles with his students and learning about different cultures.



**Anthony** has an English Degree from Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, a Theatre Acting Diploma from Ryerson Theatre School in Toronto, and a TESL Certificate from TESL Ontario. As an actor, he studied phonetics and speech and has a good understanding of how to help students make sense of what their articulators are doing when trying to form difficult English words. He has been connected to the ESL community for 18 years. He brings a creative and artistic approach to additional language learning, and as a writer, and member of the Manitoba Storytelling Guild, he has a vested interest in helping students to develop their self-confidence through social interaction and dialogue. Anthony enjoys singing and playing the guitar, and is always interested in learning how to cook new and exotic dishes. He is thrilled to be a part of Mosaic.



**Mariam** hails from Egypt and speaks Arabic, English and a little French. She has a bachelors degree of arts in English and has a TESL certificate. She has taught English as a second language for high school students for 10 years.



She currently works at Mosaic as a LINC Instructor and works as an ESL instructor with LINC Home Study, English Online .



On November 4 our LINC students at Carlton were very fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in a **Playback Theatre** event. The group's leader Dana Rungay chose Mosaic as their venue to perform and share their artistic talents with our literacy level students. Initially they were a bit concerned that they may not be able to convey their message, given that many of our students have little or no English at all and understanding each other could be a challenge.

But as they say, the show must go on. The 5 member troupe split up and worked with each class individually before coming together for a final set of performances. Preparing for the finale, they worked on theatre games and getting to know one another, building trust and confidence. In each room, you could hear laughter and joyous moments, it shows that language is not a barrier when it comes to fun and playful activities. The group really did a great job connecting with our students by encouraging and acting out the feelings and emotions as shared by the participants.

The experience left everyone wanting more! We hope to continue working with Playback.

Many Thanks to Playback Theatre!

-Melinda Pascual



Family Drop-in snack time



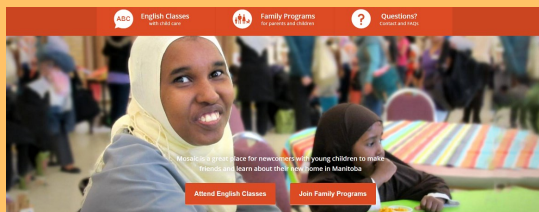
LINC students enjoying pumpkin goop!  
Fort Richmond students in Anthony's class

Our lovely new childcare space at Knox United Church came with a unique problem. The century old building has a century old heating system, complete with beautiful, but somewhat dangerous old steam radiators. When you have a special problem like this, you need a special person; and Gerhard Wiebe was exactly who we needed. After much measuring, and researching, Gerhard crafted the 5 covers that we needed to make our play room safe. Far from just building boxes, our new radiator covers are an elegant addition to the room, they look like they have always been there! **Thank you so much Gerhard**, we really appreciate your craftsmanship and your caring personality that made it such a pleasure to work with you. We're looking forward to learning your gingerbread construction skills next!

-Val Cavers



**Welcome to our New Look!** On Friday November 25, Mosaic will launch our beautifully redesigned website. Please visit our new site and try out new features including Google translate, you can translate our site into dozens of languages! You can search our site using a Search function, and register for Family Programs directly from the website.



**[www.mosaicnet.ca](http://www.mosaicnet.ca)**

**We are excited for the launch of our new design, please check it out**

## Mosaic Interactive Corner

Exploring in the New Family Drop –in!



### SSSticky!

**B**abies love to observe and explore. This week in the Fort Garry Baby Room we tried the sticky sheet on the wall and secured it with tape. Babies LOVED to touch it, put balls and different things on it just to see if it sticks to the wall or not. It was interesting to see their expressions while touching the sticky sheet.

— Maria and Kit Lin FG Baby Room Staff



## SOcktober 2016

Last month, our students and their kids had a special surprise, they came to school and were given socks for free! And we would like to give special thanks to **Krista Wasney** from River East Transcona School Division, Bird's Hill School, for the warm socks she has provided for all of our students and kids. **Thank you! Krista.**