

## STUDENT TAKEOVER

Larger than Life Art, the annual show by graduating students from Stouffville District Secondary School, opened at the Latcham Gallery in downtown Stouffville last week. It's on through Saturday. The next exhibition, At the Corner by Irene Bindi and Aston Coles and guest curated by Collin Zipp, opens Jan. 23 with a reception and curator/artist talk and tour from 1 to 3 p.m. It closes March 5.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

## Syrian family bound for town

Stouffville Cares is ready to welcome a family of six from Syria as early as next month.

The group of local residents has been raising money and hosting events in response to the international refugee crisis since last fall.

The Syrian family, which was identified last week, is in a refugee camp awaiting final clearance before flying to Canada.

The target for the Stouffville group, which formed early in 2015 out of St. James Presbyterian Church, was \$30,000 — the estimated cost of local sponsorship of a family — and many Stouffville residents, merchants and churches have generously stepped forward with donations.

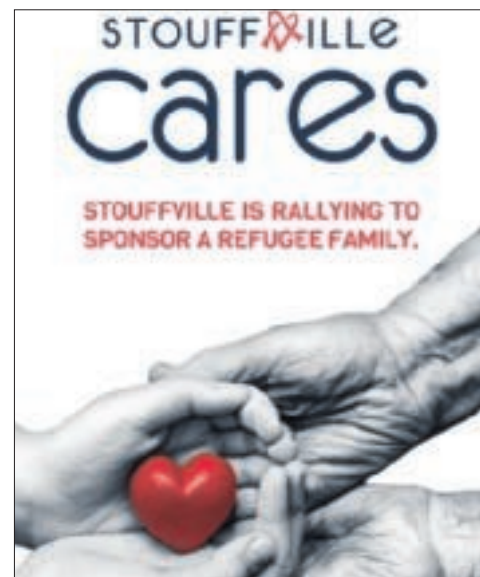
Stouffville Cares has collected \$58,000 and is planning to continue raising funds with hopes of supporting a second family.

It's not only cash that's coming in. Residents and business owners have bought mattresses for the home the family will live in, offered to pay the rent and hire one of the newcomers.

Donated storage space is filled with furniture and other household items.

Stouffville Cares hosts monthly information meetings and all who are interested can attend.

Tax receipts are available for financial dona-



tions and gifts in kind.

For more information, visit [stouffvillecares.ca](http://stouffvillecares.ca) or the Stouffville Cares' page on Facebook, and/or contact Rev. Joan Masterton at 905-640-3151 or [stouffvillecares@gmail.com](mailto:stouffvillecares@gmail.com)

## Soup day part of refugee sponsorship group's recipe

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
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Warm up with a hot bowl of soup and help bring a refugee family to Stouffville.

Stouffville Cares' Soup Day takes place Feb. 6, noon to 3 p.m. at the Stouffville Legion, 150 Mostar St.

Symposium, Earl of Whitchurch, The Coach House, Cornerhouse, Reesor's Market and Bakery as well as Boston Pizza are providing the soups.

There will also be entertainment, raffle prizes and a kids' craft table.

The money raised will likely go towards the sponsorship of a second refugee family, according to Jason Wilson, a Stouffville Cares events committee member.

Stouffville Cares has already raised more than \$50,000 and according to the Canadian government, the cost to sponsor a family is around \$30,000.

Stouffville Cares is a community-led

initiative with the aim of sponsoring a refugee family from the Middle East and bring them to Whitchurch-Stouffville.

"Stouffville Cares is (a) group made up of people from all walks of life, who represent different faith systems and sometimes no faith system, who all share the same goal of showing that this community truly does care about those who have been forced to leave their homes through a variety of reasons," said Wilson.

"While, perhaps predictably, there have been a few cynics out there, we are cheered that their small noise has been drowned out by the thunderous outpouring of support from the good, big-hearted and vast majority of people in our compassionate Stouffville."

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under. They are available at the door or through St. James Presbyterian Church. For more information, call 905-640-3151 or email [stouffvillecares@gmail.com](mailto:stouffvillecares@gmail.com)

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