Syria’s civil war is the worst humanitarian disaster of our time. After 4 years of civil war almost 12 million Syrians are now homeless. There are 8 million internally displaced people inside Syria and 4 million refugees in neighboring countries.

As you know, NB has committed to receiving 1500 Syrian newcomers (500 in each of the largest cities). To date, Saint John has welcomed approximately 375 newcomers, including the 133 school aged children we have registered in ASD-S.

We initially established a Language Learning Centre at Prince Charles School to accommodate the majority of students who would be attending the schools in Saint John. As numbers grew, it became necessary to open a second Centre at Hazen White-St. Francis School where a large number of students will be attending. The intent of these Centre’s is to give the students an opportunity to engage in intense English Language support and focus on daily routines of school before transitioning to their home schools. To date, we have transitioned 18 students to their home schools and we are currently working with the high school students to transition them. During the first week of April, we will transition another group of (K-8) students who will be ready for regular classes.

Schools are excited to receive these newcomers and have rolled out the red carpet to make the students feel safe and welcome in their new environment. We are grateful for the many initiatives that schools have taken on to support these newcomers….from raising money to doing clothing & school supply drives, your actions exemplify the ASD-S philosophy of **CELEBRATE** what’s **RIGHT** with the world!