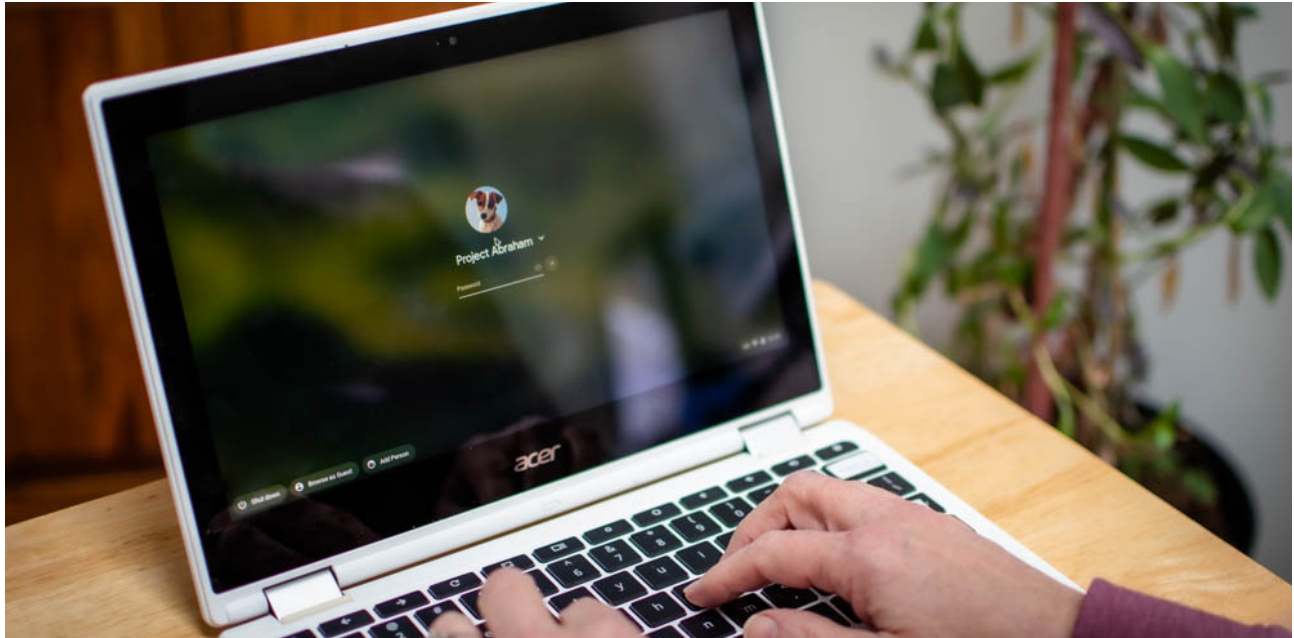


# Project ABRAHAM



**RESETTLEMENT & SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF PERSECUTION**



## YES Program

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**Our vision is to become the leading resettlement organization supporting victims of persecution, empowering them to create a future for themselves and their children as fully integrated Canadian citizens.**

This is an incredibly challenging and rewarding time for Project Abraham, our Yezidi Educational Support (YES) teachers, and our Yezidi students. Despite all the difficulties, we have kept our ESL program going throughout the pandemic by working together as a community to stay safe.

During the summer, we used outdoor canopies with strict social distancing rules and continued to teach English lessons. Now, with stricter lockdown rules, thanks to grants and donations, we have been able to supply all our students and teachers with over fifty Chromebooks under our Laptop Acquisition Program (LAP). This has enabled us to continue our YES program online.

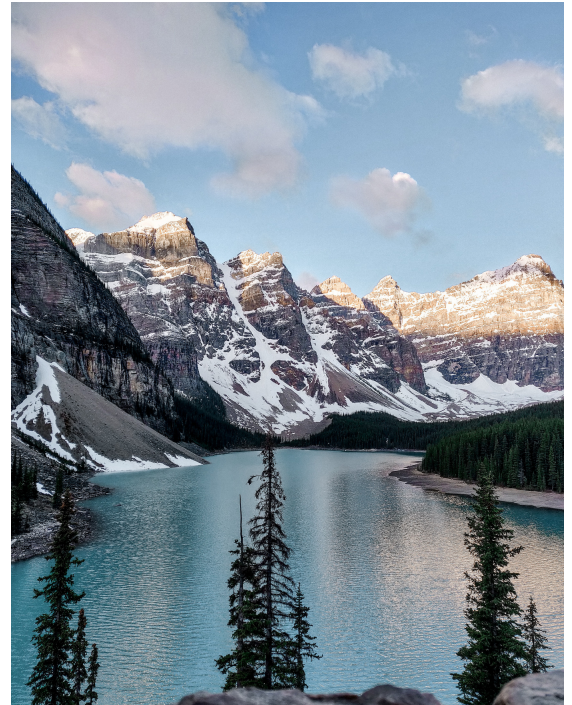
Many thanks to all our donors and volunteers, the staff of Project Abraham, and to the teachers and students who work so hard to make YES a great success during this difficult time!

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**Donations are gratefully accepted at [www.projectabraham.ca/donate](http://www.projectabraham.ca/donate)**

## Our First Virtual Community Connection Event

Now that our YES participants have all received Chromebooks along with a Kurmanji training video to ease their learning curve, we were able to have our first community Zoom gathering on January 31st. Approximately 40 Yezidis were in attendance along with YES teachers and interpreters. We shared video tours of Canada, Ontario and Toronto and then reconvened in smaller break-out rooms to discuss experiences. Later, pizza was delivered to each home. Feedback has been very positive and we are now in the planning stages of our next Community Connection event. Partner organizations such as Family Services York Region (FSYR) are delighted that the community now has the ability to participate in Zoom meetings as they have also great programs they would like to offer.



## Get to know the team at Project Abraham

### Nina Askarova



We continue to be amazed by our team of passionate teachers at Project Abraham. This month, we are celebrating Nina Askarova, a brilliant teacher who has been with us since June of 2020. Nina's years of experience as an educator have translated perfectly into her role teaching the Yezidi community. She focuses on making her students feel confident, comfortable, and secure in their material. In doing so, her role has extended far beyond the confines of an English teacher – Nina has flourished into a counsellor, and a trusted friend to her students.

We are also highlighting Shaha, an exceptionally determined student of Nina's. Shaha is a 25-year-old young woman who demonstrates her unwavering commitment to education each class. Shaha has shouldered burdens well beyond her years – she tragically lost her brother to the hands of ISIS, and has been raising his 7-year-old son as her own since. She continues to use the tool of education to create a life of fulfillment for herself and her nephew, while instilling within him strong family values. Shaha is a role model for us all, and a true reminder that hard work, courage, and love triumph in one's life.