



YMCA VALUES IN ACTION JANUARY 2020



Esther Bejarano

Esther (far right) with her clients Laura Miedema, Katia Andreade, and Natalia Ferreira

Esther Bejarano has worked as Settlement Staff with our YREACH Program for five years, in Truro. Her position supports newcomers in many different ways, to welcome, settle, and integrate families and individuals ensuring they have the ability to fully participate in their lives in Canada.

Esther appreciates that she can network, collaborate, and partner with organizations and come up with new programming and projects that create more welcoming communities and a sense of belonging for all, not just newcomers!

Creating welcoming communities is hard work, and it takes time to build bridges between organizations, service providers, employers, and the community at large. But Esther feels like it's beginning to pay off.

Seeing her clients buy homes, and even get their Canadian Citizenship amazes Esther, as she herself had the opportunity to do so a few years ago, and voted for the first time this year!

Esther proudly carries her passport with her when she visits her friends and family in the U.S. and as she reflects on her work with YREACH says,

"My father worked for 25 years at the Mexican Consulate in Arizona which is what made my family move there many years ago, and as I talk about this I feel like I am part of the legacy that he has left behind and hope that he is proud of the work I have done so far."