

Welcome Collective

Our COVID-19 Efforts





Thanks to you.

From the first days of the pandemic, it was clear to all of us at Welcome Collective that we were going to have to act fast to provide emergency services to refugee claimants.

While the pandemic hit many Montrealers hard, it had a disproportionate effect on vulnerable populations who depend on social services and food banks.

We turned most of our attention to food security, communications, and education to provide much needed support to the newcomers who needed it most.

Our quick response was made possible because of donations like yours. Because of your support, Welcome Collective was able to provide refugee claimants with the resources they needed to survive the first months of lockdown.

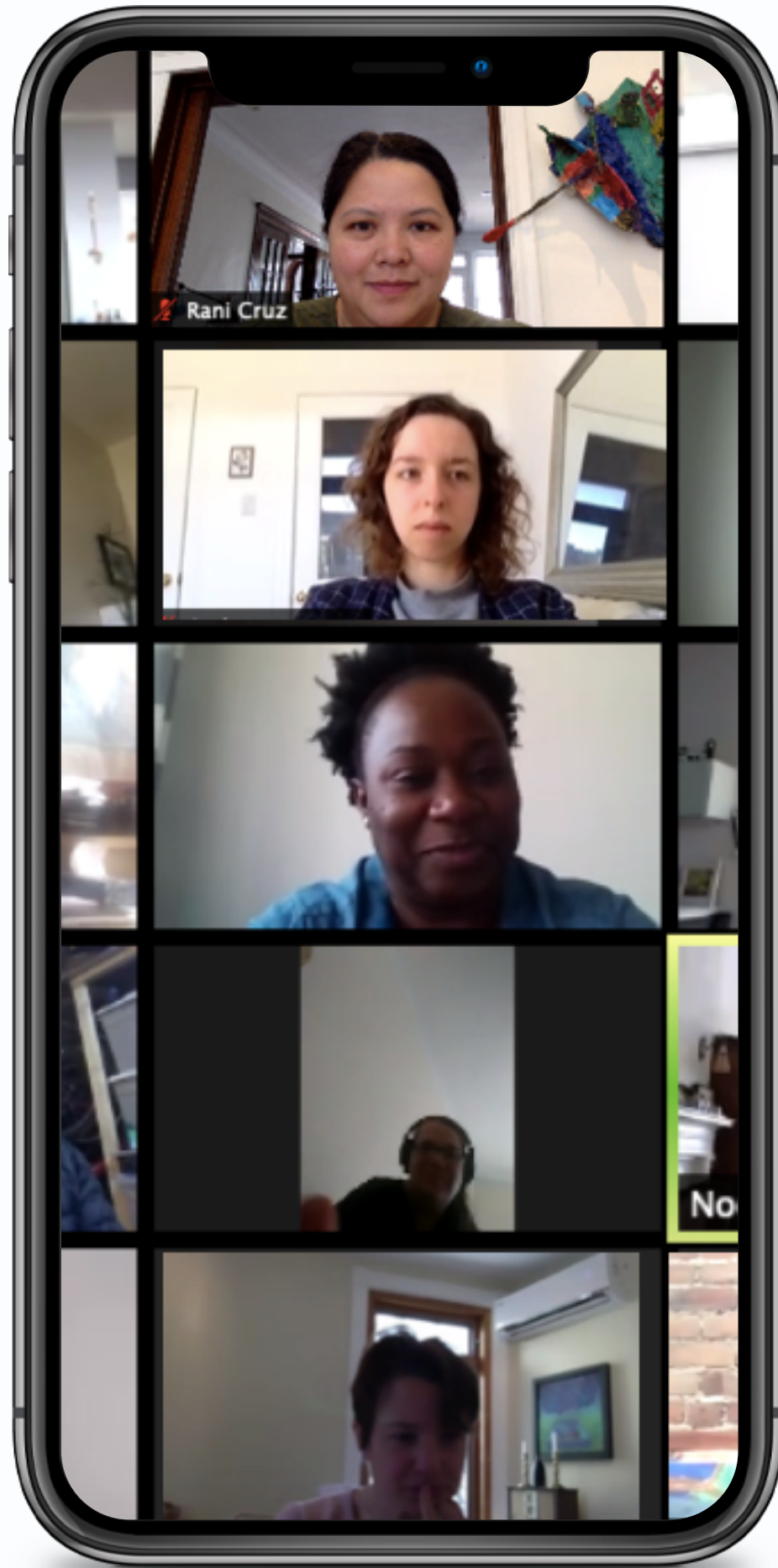


Important check ins

How our volunteers went above and beyond

At the outset of the pandemic, Welcome Collective quickly pulled together a group of more than 20 volunteers to call refugee claimant families to make sure they could access food, get medical attention, and were up to date with information regarding COVID-19.

From mid-March through June, these volunteers called close to 600 families to let them know that Welcome Collective was there to support them in any way we could during this difficult time.





Staying informed

We created a COVID-19 INFO page on our website. The web page includes lists of open food banks - one of the few up to date lists in the city. It was used by many agencies to refer clients to food banks, emergency contacts, COVID general & safety information in 7 languages as well as links to information sources about available government assistance and educational resources.

Check it out [here](#)

**3,155+
web page
visits**





Emergency food relief

We realized very quickly that most food banks had closed and access to food had been cut off for many of the families that we help. In addition, many newly arrived refugee claimants who were sick, elderly, or who had health issues had no one to rely on to bring them groceries or other necessities.

In response, Welcome Collective made sure that each family was signed up to the closest accessible and open food bank. For families that were unable to leave their apartments, Welcome Collective set up a food delivery program in partnership with 6 food banks to bring groceries to them. When volunteers came across situations of immediate urgency, Welcome Collective delivered emergency food baskets within 24 hours.

+ 2,000
People helped



242
Families
registered at
food banks

17
Families who
received baby
formula

525
Food
baskets
delivered

179
Families who
received weekly
food baskets



56
Families who
received
diapers



Keeping communities safe

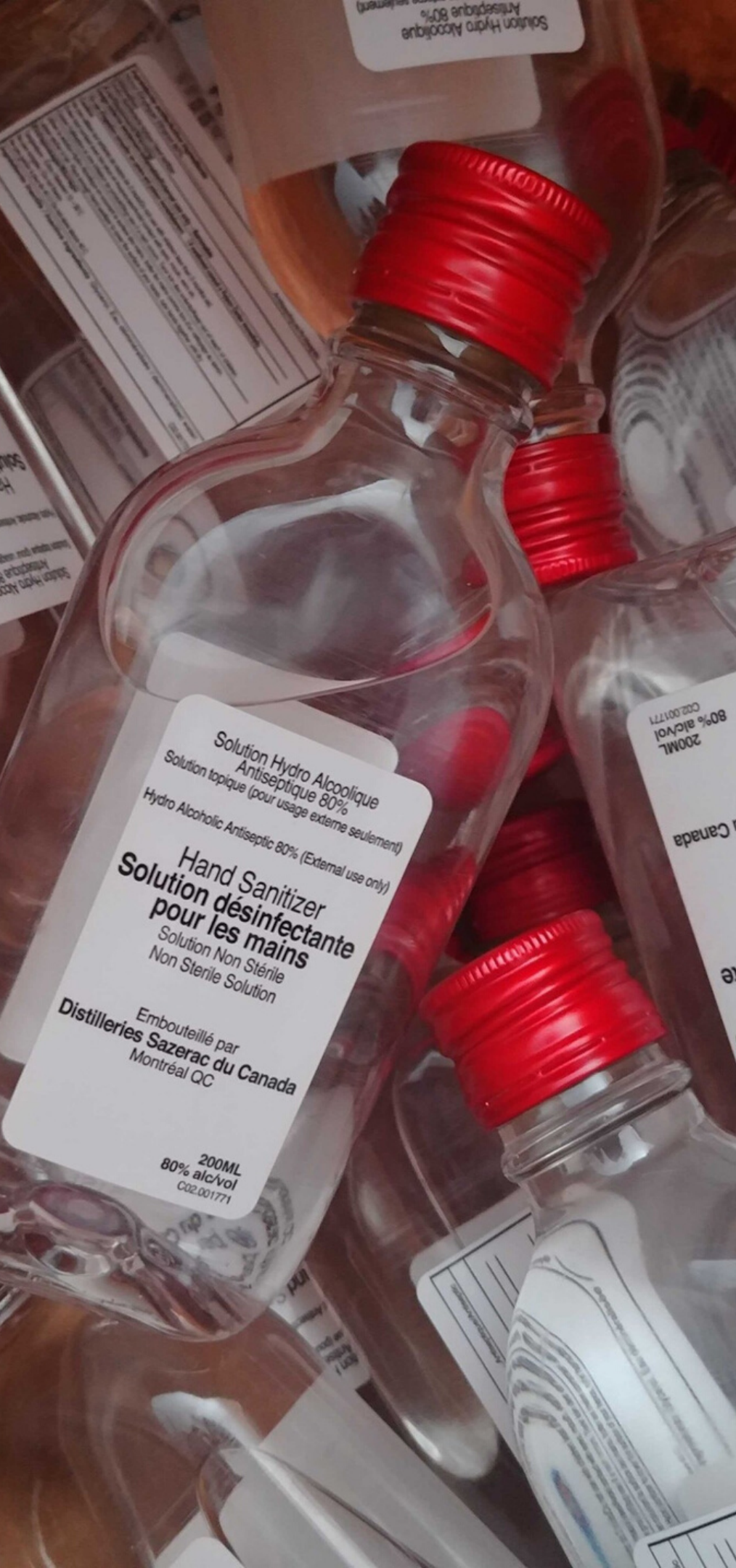
Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we distributed thousands of masks to frontline organizations like food banks, shelters, education centres and others. Whether by donating from their pocket or taking the time to craft handmade masks, our donors have helped refugee claimant families stay safe during the pandemic.

In total, we've distributed:

50L
of sanitizer

2,450
disposable masks

605
reusable masks





Computers for children

When Montreal schools closed down, many teachers and students turned to online learning tools to continue their education. However, this solution left many families without access to education because they had limited or no access to computers. With libraries and community centres closed, many refugee claimant families were unable to use the online educational resources supplied by the government and schools.

Welcome Collective found a solution by supplying a computer to families with school aged children. Working in conjunction with OPEQ, we provided computers to **85 familles** in and around Montreal. As the pandemic promises to interrupt school in the upcoming year, we are continuing to fundraise to buy and distribute computers to the families that need them most.

