



Immigrant Mother from Vancouver to Share Her Story at Michelle Obama Event

VANCOUVER, MARCH 21ST, 2019

Nesreen Nassleh is a compassionate immigrant mother who works with other newcomer and refugee parents to break down barriers of isolation and ease their resettlement in a new country. In her role as a Home Visitor for the HIPPY* program, Nesreen lifts up other women from her community and, herself, not accustomed to being the center of attention. But on March 21st, Nesreen will be opening the show for the former First Lady of the United States of America at Vancouver's Rogers Arena.

Nesreen will be 1 of 5 women opening "Becoming: An Intimate Conversation with Michelle Obama" on Thursday night. They will share their diverse yet universal stories. At the event, Nesreen will be telling the audience how she is "becoming a mom who is teaching her children to accept, respect, and celebrate people from all religious and cultural backgrounds in our multicultural country."

Nesreen moved to Canada 13 years ago. She is originally from Palestine but lived in Syria, where she worked as a biomedical engineer before moving to Canada. She became a HIPPY Home Visitor in September 2018; prior to that she was working in Arabic school on a part time basis and supporting her family at home. She is an incredible mother and role model and hopes to return to the field of biomedical engineering in Canada one day.

***The Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program** is an evidence-based program that works with families in the home to support parents – primarily mothers – in their critical role as their child's first and most important teacher. The HIPPY program strengthens families and communities by empowering mothers to prepare their children for success in school. In 2018, the 25 HIPPY sites in six provinces worked with 1,300 families of preschool children. For more information visit us at <http://www.mothersmattercentre.ca/>.

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