

Standing in the Doorway *Between the Past and the Future*

by Lesley Grant and Colette Murphy

Through these photographs we seek to show the transitional time between the past and the future in the lives of refugees—a time when newcomers to Canada are in the process of recreating themselves in a new culture. At different times in our lives we are all “seeking a now that can breed futures” (*from Audre Lorde’s poem, A Litany For Survival*).



“I never stop thinking about my family back home.”

“We want to learn a new language because we are in Canada, but we want to keep our language and memories, keep all things.”



"In the beginning, it is very difficult, very heavy."



"I have to tell myself life goes on and we must live."



Lesley Grant and Colette Murphy both work for COSTI Refugee Reception Centre. They are using their workplace to examine the tensions involved in recreating yourself in a new culture.

These photographs were originally part of an exhibit called "Lifelines: Recovering Family and Community History," organized by The Moment Project of the Jesuit Centre for Social Faith and Justice in Toronto, May 1993, coordinated by Anne Pyke.