



St. Elizabeth Parish Refugee Sponsorship Project Working Group Meeting Notes

Meeting #4 - March 2, 2016

The meeting was held in the church and commenced at 7:02pm.

Attendance:

- Anne McNeill
- Bilal Alnajjar
- Cecilia Bowie
- David Darwin
- Emily Lafreniere
- Fr. Daryold Winkler
- Jan Golanowski
- Joyce Lundrigan
- Linda Darwin
- Lourdes Villena
- Marlene Pignat
- Mary Dicks
- Susan Boyce

Regrets:

- Melinda Bowie
- Susan Taylor

Fr. Daryold opened the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting notes:

The notes of the November 25, 2015 meeting were approved for distribution.

Team reports:

Shelter: Marlene referred to the distributed report. The Team has completed its work.

Finance: David reviewed the distributed report and provided some additional details. Based on the discussion, it seems the family continues to require support in completing financial transactions. The Project remains in good standing financially with donations continuing to arrive and projected expenses not expected to be more than \$30,000.

Communications: Cecilia referred to the distributed report. A fourth newsletter is planned within a few weeks.

Household goods: Marlene referred to the distributed report. The Team was successful in providing a well equipped, comfortable home for the family. The assistance of the All Saints High School staff and students was noteworthy. After some discussion, it was agreed no further efforts or outlays were required in this area.

Clothing: Jan referred to the distributed report. The left over clothing now needs to be passed on.

Education and Language Training: David highlighted a few points from the distributed report. There was discussion of the challenges and difficulties being experienced by the

two teenagers.

Employment: David briefly reviewed the distributed report and noted current efforts to find employment opportunities.

Health: Susan B. reviewed the submitted report and provided some insights on the adaption of the family to their new life.

Arrival and reception: No report.

Orientation: David referred to the distributed report and thanked various individuals who are assisting with transportation and shopping. There remains considerable effort in assisting the family in their adaptation with Canadian life and introduction to the greater Ottawa area. Fr. Daryold raised the issue of a social event to encourage interaction between the parish community and the family members. The timing did not seem to be right at this point and the matter will be addressed at a subsequent meeting.

Community resources: Joyce expounded on the points in the distributed report and provided an update. There was discussion about recreation opportunities and possible fees. The issue of fees will be addressed on a case by case basis when specifics are known.

Transportation: No report.

David displayed a summary sheet outlining the next steps in the family's settlement covering employment, activities and orientation.

Disposition of surplus donations:

At the time of the meeting, more than \$16,000 had been donated over and above what is needed to support the family for the year. David reviewed six options for these surplus funds. After considerable discussion, there was doubt that sufficient person power was available to undertake another settlement effort at this time. The decision was made to take no immediate action and to let the surplus grow.

Next meeting:

There was no date set for the next meeting.

Meeting evaluation:

There was general agreement that the updates and discussions were valuable.

The meeting concluded at approximately 9:20pm.