

November 5, 2015

Refugee Sponsorship Project



St. Elizabeth of the Visitation Roman Catholic Church

Parish Update



Welcome to your Newsletter!

This is the first of a series of regular updates to keep you informed about the parish's Refugee Sponsorship Project.

As you will recall, Father Daryold and David Darwin represented us earlier in the year to find out what's involved in sponsoring a refugee family to come to Ottawa. After a survey of the parish community, including the request for financial commitment, the generosity of our parishioners was clear! You responded with outstanding support for the project and a significant portion of the budget required to proceed.

Did you know?

The Syrian children in the photo above are just three of millions who have been displaced, along with their families. Some of these have managed to find shelter in Lebanon. One such family – a Mom and Dad and two teenage children – have been assigned to our Parish for sponsorship. Although we are all anxious for them to arrive safely, there are many hurdles for them and for us to complete before this happens.

Just as we were getting Parish Update ready, we learned that our refugee family may arrive as early as December!

Please pray for their safe journey.



Leadership and Progress

A very enthusiastic **Refugee Sponsorship Project Working Group** was launched in September and has been making solid progress identifying and planning for the lengthy list of requirements.

Before our family is finally settled, there is a range of needs that must be met. The Working Group members have split up into Project Teams to take the lead on each of the categories. Things like ...

Arrival in Ottawa and Reception / Orientation to a New Country / Shelter / Clothing / Education and Language Training / Employment Search / Family Finances / Health Requirements / Transportation / Access to Community Resources / Introduction to a new Parish



Participants in the inaugural meeting of the Working Group in September

Many hands make light work.

The list above does not include coordination, managing the sponsorship funds and other logistical arrangements for our project. This means that even with the talent we have, the group is already spread pretty thin.

Therefore, this is a request to parishioners to join in and volunteer some time to this important project. We specifically need parents of school-age children or teens who can help the family get registered in school and access language training, as well as other educational needs. We are also looking for someone with a head for budgeting and finances. Maybe others of you could help the family become familiar with Ottawa.

If you just want to help where the need is greatest, that's fine too! With the deadline now fast approaching, there are lots of tasks to go around.

Please call St. Elizabeth Parish Office at **(613) 725-2242** or email st.elizabethparish@rogers.com to find out more.

Facts & Figures

We have learned that the actual family assigned to us may change right up until the last minute before it leaves Lebanon. There is also a considerable need for privacy and security for family members until they are safely here. Until it is appropriate to do so, we will not publish names or photos.

The Working Group is committed to full transparency concerning the activities and costs for this project. A brief Financial Report follows:

As of October 18, 2015, there have been 71 donations to the project totaling \$34,450. These funds are on deposit to the Project's trust account with the Diocese.

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"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

(Matthew 25:40)