

# Refugee Sponsorship Project

St. Elizabeth of the  
Visitation Roman  
Catholic Church

## Parish Update

### BREAKING NEWS !!

On November 26<sup>th</sup> we received word that our family was approved to come to Canada following their interviews. By now, they will also have had their medical review.

Please join us in welcoming them into our parish family – especially if they arrive in time for Christmas.



December 5, 2015



Mops and Pails  
and Elbow  
Grease!

It takes all kinds of  
talent and energy  
to put a project like  
this together – and  
it's not all glamour!

Check out the team  
who cleaned and  
set up the  
apartment for our  
refugee family.  
They were joined by  
students and other  
volunteers from All  
Saints Catholic High  
School.



Imagine...after four  
years in a refugee camp, to open the door on your 'move-in-ready'  
home. Fabulous effort, everybody!

### More updates

Following are some key highlights since the last report:

After researching options and careful consideration, a lease has been signed for a two-bedroom apartment on Leaside Avenue. It will be wonderful to have our family live so close to the Church.

In addition to arrangements for the apartment itself, the Housing Team and other parishioners have donated furniture, kitchen goods, dishes, appliances, bedding, artwork and even a decorated Christmas tree to make the family feel at home. Sincere thanks to SLEEP COUNTRY CANADA for providing two double mattresses, a bottom box, a metal frame and mattress covers at a significant discount.

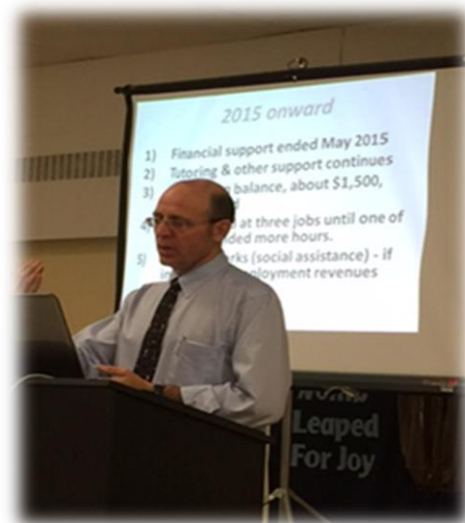
The Working Group has been very fortunate to learn from the experiences of others. In recent weeks, one parish member spoke to the group about food customs and other expectations that our sponsored family may have. A Syrian student from All Saints Catholic High School shared her first-hand account of what life was like in Syria when the war began, how members of her family were forced to leave, and some of the serious after-effects of their circumstances.

Denis Therrien, Chair of the Refugee Sponsorship Committee at St. Augustine Parish, gave a detailed account of important things to remember and to avoid when sponsoring a family.



St. Augustine Parish has already brought a Syrian family to Ottawa and successfully introduced them to the community, located health care, schools, language training and other resources.

Denis commended St. Elizabeth Parish for being so far along in its planning and state-of-readiness.



## Financial Report ...

As of November 29, 2015, there have been **90 donations from 60 families to the Project, totalling \$38,200.**

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, \$262.01 interest was paid on funds already deposited in the Parish's Refugee Sponsorship Project Trust Account with the Diocese. This payment was reinvested in the account.

During November, St. Elizabeth Parish deposited another \$5,380 to the Trust Account.

A budget for the Project is being carefully managed, and a draft household budget for the refugee family has also been developed. This information is available at any time on request.

## A Final Note ...

**We are still asking for more parishioners to get involved, especially to help with health, education and language training. Many of you have heard experts explain that transporting refugees to Canada is NOT the greatest challenge. Actively helping families to establish here, find housing, schools, job opportunities and many other needs will be the critical factor for success in the long term.**

**Please consider helping out. Just call the Parish Office at (613) 725-2242 or email [st.elizabethparish@rogers.com](mailto:st.elizabethparish@rogers.com). You'll be glad you did.**