

Agenda for September 22, 2016  
7:30pm to 9:00pm  
Meeting of the Working Group for Sponsoring a Refugee Family  
8<sup>th</sup> Meeting

1. Housing for our refugee family: Where we stand (Ann King)

The rental agents of two possible apartments want a corporate lease or a co-signer. There appears to be little difference. The purpose is to guarantee rental payments for the length of the lease (12 months). We need to demonstrate to the Coordinating Team and the Board of Directors that we have sufficient funds and/or the promise of sufficient funds, possibly in the form of IOU or promissory note should the refugee family be unable to pay or move from the apartment.

In order to protect the church from liability for damages, we need to purchase rental insurance.

In order to demonstrate ability to pay, we need to secure a letter of offer for a job to the prospective refugee head of household.

2. The issue was raised by a team member in the form of an E-mail as to whether or not the project was setting up the refugee family for failure as the cost of housing in Reston was so high that the family could not sustain the rent past the first year. Rod Paolini explained that he and the Housing & Furnishing Team are well aware of the financial issue. We believe it is worth the risk for the following reasons: 1) to not accept this family will result in their being assigned to low rent house in an area that may not afford the amenities of Reston; 2) without a sponsoring family, she will be left with little or not support (Lutheran Social Services discontinues support after three (3) months; 3) we favor the goal of integration rather than assigning refugees to a poor ethnic community that may become isolated (ghettoized) and subject to discrimination; 4) living in Reston and having the support of UUCF-UUCS gives the family time to adjust and establish themselves; they may indeed need to move from Reston to find affordable housing; this should not be viewed as a failure.

**The following are support services for which volunteers were needed and the results of so requesting.**

3. Child care: a) getting the children into School Age Child Care (SACC) for one or both children; b) arranging child care when the mother attends ESOL classes; c) arranging child care by the grandmother for holidays, etc., perhaps arranging for transportation.

Volunteer: Malaika Walton; Mary Lareau

4. English classes: working with LSS case manager Mehdi Nikoo for mother to attend English classes under the program Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). May also arrange for attendance at conversational classes at Reston Library, Reston Community Center, UUCF ESOL, etc.

Volunteer: Bea Shields [persons not in attendance but who have stated volunteering in education include: Marlene Barney, Nicole Fainsan, Judy Gruner, Paul Roche, Traci Roger]

5. Communications: Purchasing mobile/cell phone and service.

Volunteer: Zubair Suri

6. Instruction in the use of appliances: dishwasher, microwave, laundry, garbage disposal, recycling, cleaning tools, etc.

Volunteer: Housing Team headed by Ann King

7. Food and grocery shopping: Identify stores and means of traveling to and from.

Volunteer: Food & Clothing Team headed by Catherine Woehrle; Mary Lareau;

8. Obtain glasses: mother needs glasses; should be obtained through Medicaid for which she is enrolled.

Volunteer: Ann Marquis; Ann King

Note: Eric Forsbergh, UUCF member, has volunteered to provide dental care.

9. *Don't Wear Pajamas to Work: A Guide to Living in America*: persons are encouraged to write what they think the refugee family should know in order to live in America.

Volunteer to receive and collate guides: Rod Paolini; Donna Murphy will look for existing guides

10. Showing of the film: *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War* - November 12 at 7:00 in the Chapel. A facilitator's guide is on the UUA website.

Volunteer team leader: Donna Murphy

11. Compile a list of translators

Volunteer:

A determination will be made by Tuesday, September 27 as to whether or not a meeting is needed for Thursday, September 29.