

Minutes of the Working Group for Sponsoring a Refugee Family
12th Meeting November 10, 2016

Progress Reports

Address of Family
12060 Greywing Sq. Apt T2
Reston, VA 20191-1850

1. ESOL classes and tutoring (Bea Shields)
 - a. Marzia is making good progress
 - b. Marzia will attend some of the free ESOL classes at Dogwood; 9:00am on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; no registration is required.
 - c. The ESL group met with Marzia and arranged a teaching schedule for one-on-tutoring:

Marcia Tugendhat	Monday,	2:00
Donna Murphy.	Tuesday,	7:00
Nicole Fainsan.	Wednesday.	1:00
Bea Shields.	Thursday.	1:30
Gladys Henrikson.	Friday.	2:00

2. Social interactions, i.e., making friends (Rhonda Paterson)
 - a. Halloween
 - b. Potluck at ADAMS
 - c. Neighbors
 - 1) Is friends with Afghani upstairs neighbor
 - 2) Was visited by Mehsuta (?) and Ahmet, Afghans who are 'students' in ESOL classes conducted by UUCF.
 - d. Piano recital taken by Emily Petersen and family: After the concer and dinner, the family was taken to a halal market for shopping. It was noticed that Marzia had a toothache. This prompted arrangements for dental care (see below).
 - e. Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig of UUCF will visit with Marzia at 2:30pm on Sunday, 10/13.

3. Internet service (Karen Monroe)
 - a. Internet Status:
 - Marzia has completed the application for Comcast Internet Essentials, including uploading the necessary documentation, but still does not have internet connected yet. This is \$9.95/mo plus tax and fees and they qualify because the children are eligible for the Free School Lunch Program.

Internet steps remaining

- Wait for response from Comcast to Marzia either via her e-mail or mail to apartment. This should come within 7 - 10 days from Comcast stating that they are eligible for the program. Comcast will need to install a modem/router. Marzia will need to be notified of the time and purpose.

- Rhonda's hotspot is still not working. We did not have time to look at it on our Wednesday visit.

4. After school activities (Malaika Walton)
 - a. Munib (“Munib had 2 pair new sneakers in hallway”); Munib is participating in the after-school program at Langston Hughes; The program meets Monday Tuesday and Thursday after school for Munib. Basketball is played specifically on Thursday. The bus may not get him home until 5:15 pm. Jean Robinson
 - b. Sahra

5. Status of enrollment (Ann King)
 - a. TANF: must apply as the form was sent to Marzia but never completed and sent; Ann King is scheduled to complete the form online on November 11, 2016.
 - b. SNAP (“has grocery debit card” – Cathy Woehrle); verified by Rod Paolini.
 - c. Medicaid: all family members have their Medicaid cards
 - d. Enrolled with Kaiser Permanente ; appointments made for Tuesday, November 15 for each member of the family; physicals and immunizations are to be performed. Costs are covered by Medicaid.
 - e. A dental appointment was made for all members of the family to be examined by Dr. Eric Forsberg, D.D.S., a member of UUCF who has offered to treat the family *gratis*.

6. Fund-raising table operation schedule for the month of November 2016 (Nancy Meidenbauer)
 - Nov 6 - 9:15 - Ann King
 - Nov 6 - 11:15 - Cathy Woehrle
 - Nov 13 - 9:15 - Nancy Meidenbauer
 - Nov 13 -11:15 - Bea Shield and Dee Idnani
 - Nov 20 - 9:15 - Ann King
 - Nov 20 - 11:15 - Mary Lareau and Dee Idnani

7. Anonymous donor (Ann King)

The anonymous donor responded to Ann’s inquiry and expressed continued interest and willingness to help. A meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 15 at 10:30am.

8. Family finances (Dick Shields)

Dick called Marzia but because of the language difference, was not able to make himself understood. They each tried to use Google Translate by speech rather than texting and that did not work. Rod will try to establish a meeting next with Dick and Marzia.

9. Personal Outlook of family members (Roshan Chaddha)

I have spoken with Marzia today about meeting with Rev. Laura at 2:30 PM in Sunday. I have left a message for Laura on her cell and awaiting reply.

I speak with Marzia at least once a week to enquire how she is doing and ask if she and the children need anything. (e.g. today she indicated that Munib needs a good pencil eraser and she needs a rice cooker - I need clarity on this request by talking with one of our Afghan employee at Ashby Ponds). For weekly visits I do not have any set time with her, but when I see that lots of interactions have taken place with her then I call and assess the need for a visit. In peace, Roshan

10. Employment status and strategy (Rod Paolini)

Rod reviewed the financial situation of the project, indicating the consequences of Marzia not yet contributing to the project in the form of partial rent payments (project budget version 2).

Even with the full funding level established for the fundraising efforts at UUCF this month – a total of \$12,000 – there would not be enough money for rent for the year's lease. In order to terminate early, the family and Lerner Springs of Reston would have to be notified of termination by February 1, 2017. The family could continue to reside for two additional months but would have to vacate prior to April 2017.

Another (version 3) was briefly reviewed. It indicated that if Marzia began employment in February 2017 and earned at least \$9.50 per hour, there would be enough money to pay the rent.

With the possibility of funding of a large portion of the rent from an anonymous donor, the scenarios described above would be moot.

While spurred by the need for project funding, Rod recruited Carla de Chassy to serve as employment counselor to Marzia. She is a member of UUCF and spent 3 years as a career counselor for asylum seekers/refugees with Northern Virginia Family Service and has worked with Afghans. In my discussion with Carla, she and I both agree that the approach is not to hurriedly find employment. Carla described the purpose of the initial meeting:

The initial meeting and subsequent meetings will focus on employability: introduce myself and how I can help with placing her on a path to finding gainful employment a description of the US workplace, cultural differences and job opportunities for people with limited language skills and no US work experience gaining an understanding of the type of work she has performed, work history and skills set.

11. Miscellaneous

- a. Scheduling: Zubair Suri establish a Google calendar in order to record appoints made with and for family members. Click this link to add the calendar:
<https://www.google.com/calendar/render?cid=ii9ecb85op66s5v2q0q9spm7m4@group.calendar.google.com>

For those who cannot access the calendar, please E-mail your appointment to Rod Paolini who will update the calendar and notify you of any conflict.

- b. Google Translate: There are two programs:
 - 1) An app on a smartphone
 - 2) A webpage <https://translate.google.com/>: This can be used when face-to-face with Marzia and a personal computer with Internet access.
- c. Documents: We need to establish a record keeping system and repository for the family's important documents. Rod will lead.
- d. Mail: We need a person to review the mail received by Marzia to insure that any pertinent information is disseminated and/or action taken. As ESOL teachers visit Marzia daily, it was suggested that one of them be asked to perform this task. Rod will lead.