

June 8, 2016

Social Justice Budget Request Form

Name: Rod Paolini

Email Address: rodpaolini@comcast.net

Phone Number: 703-435-3743

Name of Social Justice Group: UUCF Refugee Resettlement Project

Amount Requested: \$6,225.00

General reason for the request (hosting an event, etc.) Co-sponsoring a refugee family with Lutheran Social Services/National Capital Region in partnership with Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Sterling (UUCS)

Please give a more detailed explanation of how the money will be spent. Include a breakdown of item costs, if possible. See budget in attached proposal document

How will granting this budget request help to support the SJC's commitment to education, advocacy, and service? Please provide further details about which of these pillars apply to your current request. See attached proposal document

The amount of assistance to the refugee family provided by the co-sponsors UUCF and UUCS is \$9,225.00. The contributions of each congregation is as follows:

UUCF: \$6,225.00

UUCS: \$3,000.00

Conduct of this project is contingent on approval of the funding requests of both congregations.

We request the following: 1) approval of the project; 2) granting of the funds requested;

3) approval to seek donations from among the congregation and outside sources.

Rod Paolini, General Coordinator

Ann King, Team Leader for Housing & Furnishings

Catherine Woehrle, Team Leader for Food & Clothing

Mary Lareau, Team Leader for Transportation

Sue Kenney-Pfalzer, Team Leader for Welcome & Guidance

Linnea Nelson
Director of Religious Exploration

June 8, 2016

Proposal
for
UUCF Co-Sponsoring a Refugee Family

I will offer the stranger hospitality, for this brings blessings upon the community, upon my family, upon the stranger and upon me.

Welcoming the Stranger: Affirmations for Faith Leaders, Lutheran World Federation

Brief Statement of Description and Purpose

It is proposed that UUCF serve as a co-sponsor with the affiliate, Lutheran Social Services/National Capital Area (LSS), to sponsor a refugee family. Sponsorship entails providing initial support in the form of housing, food, and clothing plus guiding the family in U.S. culture and customs in order to become self-sufficient and functional members of U.S. society. The duration of the project is one year.

Rationale for the Project

There are more forcibly displaced people around the world today than any other time in history, including nearly 20 million refugees.¹ In most cases, refugees have endured significant hardships in their native countries, including persecution, war trauma, death of family members, rape, homelessness and starvation. Not only have they lost the physical and financial resources of living, they often suffer from psychological trauma.

After applying for refugee status, they have undergone a vetting process that has taken 18 to 24 months. They then arrive in a foreign country of a different culture and different ways of living that they must learn, often with a barrier of not knowing the native language.

Lutheran Social Services/National Capital Area (LSS/NCA) “contracts” with co-sponsor(s) to supplement their financial support and services, primarily to serve as a personal guide through a culture and community that is new and often strange to the refugee. Most importantly, co-sponsors are trustworthy and caring friends to the families.

We believe it is important for Unitarian Universalists to stand up for the principle of inherent worth and dignity of every person in welcoming refugees to this country and our community.

¹ A refugee, according to the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, is a person who is outside their country of citizenship because they have well-founded grounds for fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, and is unable to obtain sanctuary from their home country or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country.

United Nations - United States Refugee Resettlement Program

The structure of the refugee resettlement program consists of layers of organizations:

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP): Operated by the U.S. State Department with cooperative agreements with the Department of Human Services and the Citizenship and Immigration Service.
- National Resettlement Agencies: Nine national resettlement agencies are under contract to the State Department to conduct a national program.
- Each of the nine national resettlement agencies has affiliates across the country that provide the services to incoming refugees. There are approximately 350 affiliates in total, but only two serve Northern Virginia: **Lutheran Social Services** and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington/Migration and Refugee Services.

The affiliate agency is the sponsor of the refugee family and is responsible for the basic aspects of refugee settlement: Disbursement of funds to the family; locating suitable housing; and ensuring family members apply for services and programs for which they are eligible such as school for children, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps), etc.

The affiliate assigns the refugee family to a case manager. The refugee family receives a "per capita" stipend from the State Department (\$1,125 for a family of 3 or less; \$925 for a family of four or more), which is meant to last for 3 months! This money is used to secure housing (pay rent and utilities), purchase furnishings and housing supplies, and enough food to last until they begin receiving food stamps and other supplemental funding through existing Federal, state and local programs.

As one can imagine, this money does not go very far, and it is rarely enough for a family or single person to get through three months - especially with the high cost of living in Northern Virginia.²

² There are other programs available to refugees after their first three months, which are funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR - part of HHS).

- Co-Sponsor(s)

A co-sponsor is an organization that works with the affiliate. The co-sponsor can supplement the funding and can provide additional assistance and guidance to acclimate the family to their new environment.

Co-Sponsorship

UUCF and UU Congregation of Sterling (UUCS) agree to joint co-sponsorship. The functional teams will be integrated and both will contribute to the funding of the project (see Budget Proposal).

While LSS has translators for its use, UU members may also need translators when interacting with the refugee family. UUCF and UUCS have established relationships with two mosques—Ezher and ADAMS—which have members who speak a variety of languages. Both have agreed to provide translators as needed.

Functional Requirements and Organizational Structure

The co-sponsors have selected the following functional areas in which to provide support. The following identifies the functional areas and the assigned team leaders.

General Coordinators: Rod Paolini (UUCF) and Roshan Chaddha (UUCS)

Housing & Furnishings: Ann King

- Work with LSS in locating suitable and affordable housing.
- Once the family has arrived, help them sign the lease.
- Collect and deliver any furniture that has been donated by organization/congregation members and outside donors to the family's permanent residence.
- Make arrangements with utility companies for service. Coordinate with the LSS finance team to make deposits/donations to LSS/NCA to provide family assistance.
- Inform/teach family about home security and basic home maintenance.

Food & Clothing: Catherine Woehrle

- Purchase and deliver first month's supply of food and perishables.
- Schedule a trip to the local grocery store.
- Schedule outings to department and thrift stores.
- Provide any weather-related clothing needs.

Welcome & Guidance: Sue Kenney-Pfalzer

- Greet family at airport. Work with Transportation Team to arrange for the transportation to family's initial housing.
- Provide orientation to home and community.
- Have a telephone installed or cell phones arranged.
- Schedule social gatherings and outings.
- In conjunction with LSS, assist family in applying for benefits of Federal, state and local programs, including registering children for school.
- Coordinate and/or provide English classes if necessary.

Transportation: Mary Lareau

- Coordinate with other teams to arrange for initial transportation to and from job interviews, stores, and social events.
- For any children under the age of 8, make sure that they all have a car seat or booster seat available.
- Instruct family in the use of public transportation.
- Assist the family in obtaining state identification cards, if necessary.

Gathering some coats and blankets, or even sponsoring one refugee family seems so small in relation to catastrophes so large; but then:

Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.

Mother Teresa

Refugees Welcome: Sharing Our Stories

While aiding a refugee family is an act of social justice and love, its scope is limited. We seek to have a greater impact in terms of social and political attitudes of our community.

In recent months in the United States and Europe, we have experienced growing anti-refugee rhetoric that seeks to call us from our commitment to compassion and love for vulnerable children and families. Anti-refugee organizations, in partnership with anti-Muslim groups, have responded to recent atrocities committed by extremists by building an environment of Islamophobia and discrimination against all Muslim people, including refugees.

In 2015, a coalition of humanitarian, religious, and non-profit organizations was formed to bring together diverse allies to show that communities, businesses, congregations, and political leaders across the United States are ready to welcome all refugees, regardless of their country of origin, religion, or ethnic group. The coalition is composed of 52 organizations including the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

The goal of the Refugees Welcome³ movement is to provide opportunities for refugees to share their experiences with faith and community groups to:

- Build friendships among diverse cultures and faiths
- Strengthen welcome of our refugee neighbors
- Promote refugee integration and leadership, and
- Celebrate refugees' contributions to their communities

To achieve this goal, UUCF and UUCS will work with other congregations in Northern Virginia that have, or that are, sponsoring refugee families to a celebratory event in which we witness our support for accepting and integrating refugee families into our society. We will invite refugee families to tell their stories. We will invite co-sponsors to tell what they learned in working with their refugee family. We will ask how this experience has changed their congregations.

We will identify these congregations from both Lutheran Social Services/National Capital Area and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington/Migration and Refugee Services. It is estimated that there are about 25 congregations that are, or that will be co-sponsoring, a refugee family.

We will call upon clergy and lay ministers to support this event. We will use print and social media to publicize the event.

Timeline of Project Authorization and Co-sponsorship Operations

- June Submission to UUCF Social Justice Council
- July Approval by SJC
- September Signing of agreement with Lutheran Social Services
- October Completion of background investigations
- November Notification of assignment of refugee family
- November Arrival of refugee family
- September Celebration with other congregations

³ <http://www.refugeesarewelcome.org/welcoming-resources/>

Expanded Task List

Once the project has been approved and funds granted by UUCF and UUCS Social Justice Committees, both will enter into an agreement with Lutheran Social Services. While this is not a legally binding agreement, it will be signed by the UUCF Director of Administration on behalf of the UUCF Coordinating Team. It is expected that we will receive about a two week notice before the arrival of the refugee family in which we will be informed as to it nationality, language and composition (age and gender).

There will be three phases to the Refugee Resettlement Project: a) Preparation for Arrival of the family, b) the Initial Settlement and Orientation of the family and then c) Greater Outreach to the UUCF and UUCS church communities as well as linking with other refugee resettlement groups in the greater Northern Virginia area and possibly Maryland.

Preparation for Arrival of the Family

Working with Lutheran Social Services, the Housing & Furnishings Team will locate a suitable apartment for the family, both in terms of size and cost. Funds will have been transferred from UUCF/UUCS to LSS for payment of the rent. The lease must/will be signed by the refugee family.

Lutheran Social Services has a required home supply list that all co-sponsors must provide (e.g., kitchen table, sofa, silverware). The Housing & Furnishings Team will procure items through purchased⁴ and donations. A Sign Up Genius webpage will be used to advertise and register items that may be donated. UUCF's Religious Exploration (RE) program will collect donations of household items from RE participants.

As items are collected, the team will store items in temporary space that may need to be rented until the apartment move in date.

Initial Settlement and Orientation of the Family

The Welcoming & Guidance Team will greet the family at the airport while the Transportation Team will take them to their apartment. It will provide a culturally appropriate meal ready to eat upon arrival.

Before the arrival of the family, the Food & Clothing Team will have procured basic foodstuffs. Once the family is in the apartment, the Food & Clothing Team will shop with the family to procure additional food items that meet their requirements and taste.

⁴ Mattresses must be new.

The team will also take the family shopping for clothes, either at thrift stores or department stores. Some items, such as shoes and underwear, will be purchased new. Donations of winter coats may be solicited.

The Welcome & Guidance Team will help the family to become oriented to their home and community. The team has members who have taught English as a Second Language but it is likely that we will urge the family to enroll in ESOL classes, including those conducted by UUCF. If translation services are needed, we will ask Ezher and/or ADAMS mosque to provide a translator.

The Transportation Committee will ensure that the family is oriented to public transportation options and has needed rides to interviews, stores, and social events. This committee will also work with UUCF's Caring Committee as needed to provide transportation as needed.

Outreach to Wider Community

Once the family has become reasonably acclimated to its new home (1-3 months after arrival), a congregational welcome to UUCF and UUCS will be arranged. This will allow congregants to get to know family members and learn about their stories. Within the year (6-9 months after arrival), UUCF and UUCS will host a wider Outreach Celebration for local refugee resettlement programs to get together and allow their refugee families to share their stories.

Meeting the Goals of UUCF⁵

Stated Goals

The UUCF Social Justice Council has adopted the following goals:

- A. Strategic goal: "Develop a project or projects that demonstrate and practice UU values in new ways beyond our campus."
- B. Strategic goal: "Intentionally grow our cultural competency in ways that challenge our comfort, expand our awareness and promote social and spiritual healing."

⁵ UUCF Strategic Goals 2015-2018 at <https://uucf.org/new-to-uucf/about-us/strategic-planning/2015-18-goals/>

The UUCF Board of Directors has adopted the following goals:

As we strive to live our mission of transforming ourselves, our community and the world through acts of love and justice...

In collaboration with the Coordinating Team (CT), develop strategies to identify, build support for and implement one or more dramatic initiatives that demonstrate and practice UU values in new ways beyond the UUCF campus and increase our impact as agents of positive change.

In collaboration with the CT, develop and implement strategies that incentivize a substantially larger number of UUCF congregants to grow, connect and serve in deeper and more meaningful ways .

In collaboration with the CT, explore ways to intentionally grow UUCF's cultural competency in ways that challenge our comfort, expand our awareness and promote social justice and spiritual healing.

How Co-Sponsoring a Refugee Family Meets UUCF Goals

Welcoming and assisting a family that has fled its home country in order to escape persecution, violence, homeless and starvation certainly must be considered an act of love and justice. The personal interaction of working with family members in the many facets of their lives will certainly be transforming for both the refugee family and for UU members. We will invite the family to share their story with the UU congregations.⁶

Because the family will certainly come from a foreign country with a different culture, UUs will learn these cultural differences in various ways: Religion, gender protocol, dress, food etc. UUs may also confront unrealistic expectations as many foreigners consider the United States to be a land “where the streets are paved with gold.” And while these refugees may be impoverished because of their refugee situation, they may have been quite educated and accomplished socially and financially in their home country. They may well expect to pick up where they left off. However, it is quite likely they will experience frustration in negotiating the bureaucracies to obtain benefits, in seeking jobs for which they believe they are qualified and in learning ways that will seem strange. As both the refugee family and UUs work with each other, experiencing both successes and setbacks, it will be necessary to remember that the learning and healing process — spiritual and otherwise — is slow and arduous. We will both be tested!

⁶ We will request a Sunday service that focuses on refugees and asylum seekers centered around the refugee family that we support.

Obviously the interactions between the family and UUs will be beyond the UU campuses; but interaction beyond the UU campuses has already occurred in the planning process. UUCF and UUCS have worked together to prepare the budget, identified resources to locate potential housing, found places that will donate furniture, and compared stores for the lowest prices. UUCF and UUCS have contacted two congregations of the Muslim community to identify their resources for assisting refugees. It is intended that our project be publicized through local print media and on social media.

As described above, the celebratory event of sharing the stories of refugee families of other congregations in Northern Virginia that have, or that are, sponsoring refugee families is the means by which we witness our support for accepting and integrating refugee families into our society.

While every refugee's story is different and their anguish personal, they all share a common thread of uncommon courage – the courage not only to survive, but to persevere and rebuild their shattered lives. ~ Antonio Guterres, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees

Budget Estimates for Family and Co-Sponsors

Family of 6	A	B	C	D	E
1	1	2	3	4	5
2	07-Jun-16				
3				Family's	Co-Sponsor
4			Three	Expenses	Level 1
5	Line items preceded by an "***		Months	Three Months	Support
6	are to be born by the	First Month	Cumulative	Level 1	[Needed
7	co-sponsors for first 3 months	All Expenses	Expenses	Support	funding]
8	Monthly Item Expenses				
9	*Rent/Mortgage	\$1,525	\$4,575		\$4,575
10	Child Care, if applicable				
11	IOM Loan/transportation to US	\$0	\$0	\$0	
12	Savings (if possible)				
13	Other				
14	Internet Access				
15	*Utilities (gas, electric, water)	\$175	\$525		\$525
16	Transportation	\$420	\$1,260	\$1,260	
17	*First month's supply of food	\$900	\$2,400	\$1,500	\$900
18					
19	Medical	\$0	\$0	\$0	
20	Telephone	\$0	\$0	\$0	
21	*Clothing	\$700			\$900
22	*Education (ESOL)		\$100		\$100
23	*Household items	\$0	\$0		\$0
24	*Furniture	\$2,025	\$2,025		\$2,025
25	Personal Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	
26	Insurance				
27	Support to other relatives				
28	Other/Miscellaneous				\$200
29					
30	Total:	\$5,745	\$10,885	\$2,760	
31					
32	Income from LSS and Co-Sponsor				
33	One time payment from LSS	\$5,550	\$5,550	\$5,550	
34	One time payment from Co-Sponsor				\$9,225
35					
36	Income minus expenses	-\$195	-\$5,335	\$2,790	
37					
38	refugees get 1125 per person (one time) for a family of 3; for 4 or more persons, the amo				
39					
40					
41					
42					
43					
44					

June 8, 2016

Budget Description

Purpose of Budget

The primary purpose of the budget/spreadsheet is to determine the level of funding needed to co-sponsor the refugee family. It also provides a means of identifying the expenses that must be born by the family and thereby indicate the impact of our assistance.

First Column: Line Item Template

Designed to assist co-sponsors in calculating the expenses for which they would assume responsibility, a sample budget with specified line items (first column) was provided by Lutheran Social Services (LSS) to serve as a template from which the co-sponsor could begin to analyze and calculate its contribution.

Second Column: Monthly Estimates

As most expenses are given/estimated on a monthly basis, the second column, "First Month All Expenses" are estimates of the first month's expenses and income; the latter is assumed to be a one-time, lump sum payment from LSS based upon a "per capita" rate of \$1,125 for a family of three or less, and \$925 for a family of four or more.

We as co-sponsors have chosen to support a family of no more than six persons.

Basis of Estimates

The line items preceded by an "*" are to be born by the co-sponsors for the first three months. Line items without an "*" are to be born by the family from their one-time payment and employment income; the estimates of these items are given by LSS. Initial estimates for the line items to be born by the co-sponsors were given by LSS but have been revised based upon research conducted by the co-sponsor teams in the areas for which each is responsible.

Rent/mortgage: The initial estimate by LSS was \$850 - \$1700 based upon a family of four. We found that three-bedroom apartments could be found in Reston, starting at \$1100. We used the upper end of \$1700 less the estimate for utilities, which is entered as a separate line item.

Utilities (gas, electric, water): The estimate by LSS was \$150. We gave it a slight increase to adjust for a family of six.

First month's supply of food: While the family will apply for food stamps, it is assumed that approval and receipt of that benefit will take a month; hence, LSS asks co-sponsors to supply food for one month. We will stock the pantry with essentials, but will shop with the family in order to assure that we purchase foods that they like and are culturally appropriate.

Clothing: The co-sponsor is asked to purchase new underwear and shoes, and seasonally appropriate outer wear. We also budgeted for additional clothing to be purchased from thrift shops and discount clothing stores.

Education (ESOL): This estimate is for materials to learn English.

Household Items: UUCF's Religious Education program will solicit donations from RE families to supply household items such as paper products, hygiene and cleaning supplies.

Furniture: New mattresses are required by state law (queen & 4 twins). Also to be purchase are: dressers (2); kitchen table & 6 chairs; and miscellaneous items (new pillows, kitchen towels, etc.). We also budgeted for storage facility rental as many people have items which they wish to dispose immediately; we have offers for free storage which may negate this expense.

Other/Miscellaneous: Expenses that may be incurred in assisting the family in learning the historical and cultural attractions of the Washington D.C. area.

Shifts in expenditures from one line item to another of over 50% will require approval of the funding source.

Third Column: Three (3) Month Calculations

The major expenses for which the co-sponsors (UUCF and UUCS) are responsible occur within the first three months. Note that with the per capita payment and without co-sponsor funding, it is estimated that the family income less expenses is a negative.

Fourth Column: Family's Expenses

Note that with co-sponsor assistance, the family's income less expenses is roughly zero.

Fifth Column: Co-sponsors Expenses/Needed Funding

This column indicates the line items for which co-sponsors would provide funding in the first/only three months. The total is the amount of funding for this project.

Off-Budget Items

As we learn the needs and desires of the refugee family, the co-sponsors will develop a list of items that are desirable but not normally deemed necessary. For example, a computer and internet service would greatly assist the family in learning American culture, gathering information about American and Northern Virginia, learning English, communicating with loved

ones overseas, etc. We would then solicit those items and/or donations for their procurement.

Donations and Disbursements

All monetary donations for the project will be received by administrative offices of the co-sponsors (UUCF & UUCS). The general coordinator will track expenditures by line item.

All expenditures by the project will be invoiced to the administrative office.

Funds from the co-sponsors UUCF & UUCS for rent are transferred to LSS and then disbursed to the rental agent.