

REFUGEE MINISTRY

How You Can Help

- Pray for these families as they work so hard to make new lives in America. Pray for reunification with their beloved family members. Pray for refugees and asylum seekers everywhere. Pray for the people of Afghanistan. Pray for the work of our refugee ministry.
- Help with transportation: Drivers are needed to help families get to appointments, school activities, and jobs in Columbia, Ellicott City, and Catonsville areas.
- Make a financial contribution to help defray the cost of rent, utilities, gas and basics not covered by SNAP benefits. Currently help is needed for our fourth family in particular until work can be obtained. No amount is too small or too large. To donate on the SJEC Website select the Outreach Ministry and note “Refugee Ministry” in the MEMO. <https://onrealm.org/StJohnsEpiscopa52919/-/form/give/now>
- Help with job development. We are engaging the power of our networks to try to help find an entry-level job for the father of our fourth family who has basic English skills, and a job for the father of our second family who has strong English skills and experience in administrative and legal work. If you have connections that might be of assistance, please let us know.
- Help with finding rental housing that will accommodate a family of 9.

Join our Refugee Ministry. To find out more about how your time and talents can help these families, contact Susan Fedors Ensemble@stjohnsec.org

Updates on our Refugee Families:

Our first family is making great progress toward becoming self-sufficient by the end of 2024. They've appreciated the support we've provided these 2 ½ years. The sons are employed, and one is studying for a certification program at HCC. The mother has been attending ESL classes, and just started a career training program at HCC. The family is still waiting to be reunited with their father and brother, who were separated during the evacuation. Please pray for the safety and of these two men as they await final processing in another country.

Our second family: The Ministry is also assisting a father and two teenagers needing some financial help until work authorizations are approved. The mother and 5 other children are in Japan awaiting approval to come to the U.S., with help from IRC. The father recently spoke at the CJC Refugee Shabat, in which he shared their story of danger and separation and the persecution of women in Afghanistan. He got news that his work asylum application was approved and he is currently looking for a job.

A third family of 4 with young children, sponsored by Wesley Freedom United Methodist, is receiving help from the Refugee Ministry with navigating community and educational resources. The father is employed.

Our 4th family, newly arrived, is related to the third family. They are a family of 3 with an infant. They will require assistance with rent, utilities, and other expenses until work can be found.