



Refugee Resettlement Ministry of Central Presbyterian Church

Central has been working this winter with the [U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants](#) (USCRI) office in Des Moines to sponsor an incoming refugee family. We were originally assigned a family from Somalia that was to arrive on February 2. However, the Executive Order issued on January 27 prohibited this family from entering the country.

Then we were assigned another refugee family from Eritrea. So, our team had collected all the furniture, furnishings, household items, and groceries needed for their home. A story about Central's efforts made the local KCCI-TV8 news on January 29: <http://tinyurl.com/zasydsl>

A week later, the executive order was overturned and our original family was re-scheduled to arrive. Because our team had collected duplicates of most of the furniture and grocery items, we were able to step up to the plate and help the Somalia family. Helping settle two refugee families in 2 weeks was truly a congregational-effort: we had a leadership team of 20 individuals, 30 people donated items and a handful contributed funds, our children got involved making welcome cards for the families in Sunday School, and our youth designated this year's *Souper Bowl of Caring* offering to the USCRI.



Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this effort with their support and prayers. And look for more information on how Central can continue to support refugees and immigrants in our area.

*Written by Kim Coulter, communications director,
Central Presbyterian Church, Des Moines*