



From the CUUC Refugee Resettlement Team: Update on our Afghan-American Refugee Family

The Afghani family, two parents and three children, arrived in November and has been settling into their new life here in White Plains. During the holiday break from school, volunteers from ICNA (Interfaith Council for New Americans) took the family to visit the Big Apple Circus in NYC as well as a show at the Emelin Theatre in Mamaroneck. The father and ten-year-old son also enjoyed a Harlem Globetrotters show at Westchester County Center. The son has joined the chess club at his school and plans to play on the school's soccer team. He and his 5-year-old sister are attending an 8-week Saturday enrichment program for "new arrivals" at Post Road School. The mother has started ESL (English as a Second Language) classes, and was pleased to prepare the welcome meal for a new Afghan SIV (Special Immigrant Visa) family of six that arrived last week, hosted by a Larchmont team of volunteers called Neighbors for Refugees.

The father has completed his resume and is ready to begin an intensive job search with the help of our ICNA employment committee. He is fluent in English, has completed 2 years of undergraduate study at American University in Afghanistan, and is skilled in Microsoft Office Suite. He has extensive management, administration, and logistics work experience in projects with the US military, United Nations, and Afghan government. In his role as operations manager at a consulting company that supported the needs of the US military, he managed the daily operations and supervised multiple projects that employed a staff of over 1,000. He prepared program budgets and quality control plans, and coordinated production, warehousing, and delivery of supplies for the Afghan armed forces.

Because of the father's work for the US government, the family is here on a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV), which means that they are permanent US residents and that he is fully authorized for permanent work in the US. If anyone knows of an available position that would be a good match for this energetic young man, please contact Barbara Lowney (bjgaube@gmail.com) or Paula Meighan (paula.meighan74@gmail.com) of the CUUC Refugee Resettlement team so we can pass the information to the ICNA employment committee.