

Welcoming a refugee family

The Christian Mission Ministry at First Congregational is embarking on a new journey and we need your help! We have been working with RefugeeOne to orchestrate an ecumenical Refugee Ministry with St. Luke's Presbyterian in Downers Grove and the Mecca Center (a Mosque in Willowbrook) to sponsor a young refugee family of four from Syria. The family is scheduled to arrive on Tuesday, December 20, 2016. We need your help in the following areas:

- **Moving** – helping move furniture and other household items to the family's new apartment which may be in the Rogers Park area near RefugeeOne's headquarters. The move is planned to take place on Saturday, December 17, 2016. Please contact Lindsey Rensch (lindseyrensche@gmail.com or 312-505-4514) if you can help out in this area or if you have furniture items you are donating that you need help with picking up.
- **Welcoming** - welcoming the refugees at the airport and transporting them to their new apartment. The family is scheduled to arrive at O'Hare Airport on Tuesday evening, December 20, 2016 around 7:50pm. If you would like to welcome them with warm hearts when they arrive at the airport, please contact Nancy Kupka at nancykupka@comcast.net.
- **Housing** – as you can imagine, a refugee family needs a lot. We are collecting furniture and basic household items – both new and gently used. You can access a listing of all of the items that need to be donated (both new and gently used) via our own Refugee Ministry website that we have set up which is located at www.castellum-dg.org (Castellum is Latin for "village" as in "it takes a village to raise a child..."). You will establish an account easily by clicking the **Register** tab and set up an account for yourself. Then you can indicate which items (using the **Items** tab) you wish to donate or purchase. Some items need to be purchased new. For these new items, you have access to a registry that we have set up through Target. If you are a Target shopper and want to purchase new items, simply go to Target.com and click on **registries & lists** and scroll down to **advanced search** and type in **refugeeone** under the "Organization Name" field. The registry will appear – view and select the items you wish to purchase. Any items purchased new will be delivered to the coordinators for the family.

All of these links mentioned above are easily accessible through our own website at uccdg.org. Simply click on the **Mission** tab, then the **Global** tab where you can scroll down to the Refugee Ministry link.

As we are in the season of Giving, as our God so wonderfully gave us the gift of his only Son, Jesus, consider giving to a refugee family in need (remember, Mary and Joseph were refugees too!) who have nothing but the clothes they are wearing when they arrive in our land of opportunity.

We will be collecting smaller items listed on the castellum-dg.org website after Worship on Sunday, December 11, 2016 and Sunday, December 18, 2016 in Fellowship Hall. To save you time during this busy season, we will offer access to the castellum-dg.org website during this time to allow you to do your shopping or to review our list of needed items. All items need to be in the family's apartment prior to their arrival on December 20, 2016.

Finally, if you are not able to help in any of the ways outlined above, we ask for your prayers. Please offer your prayers for hope, strength, and patience as our new refugee family settles in a new land.

Questions? Contact Jim Hallman, Chair at 630-305-9806 or jjh93@comcast.net