

## Dheyaa's Story

We think of refugees being “refugees” forever, in fact they become our neighbors, co-workers, classmates, and friends. One such “refugee” was Dheyaa. Dheyaa and his family were refugees escaping war in Iraq that had the unfortunate luck of running to a once stable Syria for help.

Once they realized the instability starting in Syria, and that the life they would live in Syria would only be temporary, they started the lengthy process to resettle in the United States. After years of waiting they arrived in 2011 as refugees. They were welcomed and cared for



through the Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program, then strengthened and empowered by our Match Grant employment program. Dheyaa was not one to sit around, walking to and from work each day in those early days. Looking back 7 years later, his family has grown welcoming their first son in this country. After working several years with a well respected local employer Dheyaa has started his own sheet rocking business, and owns his own home. He still holds two jobs, and proudly says he hopes to have his house paid off in 5 more years. His daughters have grown into beautiful and smart young ladies, attending high school and already looking forward to college. Dheyaa, his wife, and children no longer see themselves as refugees but as business owners, students, and members of our community. They have found their “home” and are living the American dream through hard work and perseverance.

*Provided by Catholic Charities of Southern MN Refugee Resettlement*