

“You too must befriend the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deut.10:19)

Temple Sinai’s members are committed to upholding the value in this sacred text - helping newcomers in need and befriending the stranger. Much has been accomplished through the Temple’s Immigrant Rights, Refugee Resettlement and Sanctuary programs. Examples of engagement include:

- Sponsoring an Afghan family for 15 months and providing continued assistance to other refugees;
- Ensuring that Temple Sinai can provide sanctuary for individuals or families facing deportation, and working with other faith-based communities via the synagogue’s membership in the [Sanctuary DMV Congregational Network](#);
- Assisting Cedar Lane Unitarian Church in Bethesda in extending protection to an immigrant in danger of deportation;
- Visiting with immigrant families in McAllen, Texas and detainees at the Steward Detention Center in Lumpkin, GA; and
- Providing assistance to a Congolese asylum seeker, to permit his release from detention pending the evaluation of his request for asylum.

Our accomplishments are many, but there are so many tasks, known and unforeseen, that lie ahead. To ensure that Temple Sinai continues to be a leader in addressing the plight of immigrants and refugees, and to highlight the shared purpose of helping the stranger among us, we are merging our three programs under the new name, *Refugee, Asylum & Immigrant Support*. To this end, we have combined the existing lists of current volunteers.

But, it is also time to refresh and enhance those lists with additional volunteers to ensure that Temple Sinai can meet unexpected demands for

action. The need for attorneys to accompany detainees to court appearances on short notice is a prime example. Investment of time for volunteers ranges from “one-offs” to longer term commitments; any contribution of time and effort is valued.

On **February 24, at 3 pm**, we will offer a presentation by Merritt Groeschel, founder of Solutions in Hometown Connections, which provides in-home tutoring in basic English and child friendly English language learning at local libraries in PG County and, soon, at the non-profit’s newly acquired facility. Merritt was the chair at Chevy Chase Presbyterian of the very first co-sponsorship with LSS and has been the godmother to the many faith organizations in the DMV who have followed its lead, including Temple Sinai. Merritt is thoroughly versed in refugee matters and is an inspiring speaker.

If you have been thinking of getting involved, now is the time! Contact us for more information or to “sign-up”, designating areas of interest, if appropriate.

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