



## **ST JOHN'S REFUGEE ASSISTANCE GROUP**

### **Volunteers Urgently Needed!**

After a long wait, St John's is expecting up to 25 refugees in 2018, with 16 more in 2019 or 2020. We expect families that include grandparents, parents and children, and also several men arriving alone. One family may be here as soon as April 2018. With arrivals, we will need donations of furniture, clothing, and household items. And, of course, we always need money. Most importantly, however, please consider offering your talents for one of the following roles:

- Methodical volunteers to help with administrative tasks when the refugees first arrive, such as applying for OHIP, SIN, opening bank accounts etc.
- Casual volunteers we can call upon occasionally to babysit when the parent needs to go to the doctor, or someone who can help move furniture, or drive someone to an appointment.
- Relational volunteers who will form more personal connections with the refugees. This is the volunteering that requires the greatest commitment. You may, and probably will be, involved in any of the tasks mentioned above, but you will get to know the refugees on a personal level. You will be the person that will suggest a day camp for the kids and help make it happen, the one who advocates when there is a problem at school, the one who is invited to a delicious ethnic meal to celebrate a birthday or just to say thank you.
- Anyone with language skills in Arabic, Tigrinya or Dari would be especially helpful.

Volunteers involved in most tasks will require a current police check. If you can help, please email Jill Courtemanche or Claudette Kohut ([Jcourt2424@gmail.com](mailto:Jcourt2424@gmail.com) or [claudettekohut@gmail.com](mailto:claudettekohut@gmail.com)).