November 2, 2021

Dear Congregation,

I have received the following requests for specific ways to help Rhode Island assist the approximately 250 Afghan refugees that have begun to arrive in Rhode Island for relocation.

If anyone has clothing/small household goods they want to donate but don't want to drive to Providence, they can drop it off at my house. Please call 401-486-4335.

And, if anyone has furniture or larger household goods, if they take pictures and email it to Community Action (see email below),
they may be able to coordinate a pickup from South County.

Thank you,

Barbara Holtzman

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---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **CAPPRI Emergency Services** <emergencyservices@cappri.org>
Date: Mon, Nov 1, 2021, 9:15 AM
Subject: RE: Furniture for Afghan refugees
To: Barbara Holtzman <barbaralholtzman@gmail.com>

Good Morning Barbara,
My name is Ascendence I'm helping with the Donations for Afghan Refugees. Could you please email me pictures of the items (furniture) you would like to donate so I can get them approved? Once approved, We can try to coordinate pick up. I would just need an address to provide the driver and best time to pick the items up.

Ascendence Watson
Resident Basic Need Eligibility Specialist
Community Action Partnership of Providence
P: 401.273.2000 x 353 | F: 401.273.2007
807 Broad St Suite 352, Providence RI 02907
Leading with dignity, Serving with purpose.

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---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Deborah Kopech** <debkopech@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Nov 2, 2021 at 4:30 PM
Subject: Fwd: Ways to Help @ Dorcas International
To: Deb Kopech <debkopech@gmail.com>

Hello Everyone,

As I am sure you are aware, refugee families from Afghanistan have begun to arrive in RI. Several people have been asking about providing various kinds of donations and

much is needed. Please see the email received by Carol Czaja below from Emily Bernstein of Dorcas International with some information about donations and how to get them where they need to go. As with so many folks, housing is a really big issue. And the solutions are not great. I urge you all to make it clear to your municipal government how important affordable and available housing is. South Kingstown is currently working on a plan and Narragansett just reconstituted it's Affordable Housing Committee. I attended their most recent meeting and I think we will see some ideas from the group soon. The problem is that we need housing now. So another avenue is the American Recovery Act money and it may be that we need to ensure our elected officials understand that this is an important priority for us as constiuents. (FYI, this elected official is on board...)

Thank you all and I guess it's really not summer anymore! I put the flip flops away and have been wearing socks again.

Take care,
Deb

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From: Emily Bernstein <ebernstein@diiri.org>
Date: November 1, 2021 at 3:51:21 PM EDT
To: czajacarol@gmail.com
Subject: Ways to Help @ Dorcas International

Carol and members of the South County Huddle –

Thank you for your interest in helping provide a warm welcome to our new neighbors from Afghanistan. We are truly grateful to hear from so many caring individuals, groups and organizations seeking to lend a hand. There are many ways to help with the resettlement process, all of which are described here.

How You Can Help

- Financial contributions allow us the flexibility to best provide the myriad of services and resettlement assistance needed—housing, clothing, food, translation services, English classes, immigration legal services, trades and job training, household goods and more. All fleeing Afghanistan as well as other nations arrive with almost nothing but the clothes on their back. Your monetary contribution allows us the immediate ability to resettle folks as they proceed through the immigration process.

- Many of the people we serve often have very limited or no access to everyday necessities and resources, including household goods, furniture, dishes, bedding, and more. Your donation of goods can really make a difference in the lives of others. Contact emergencyservices@cappri.org to donate goods at this time. They are located at 125 Ernest St. and are open for donations between 12-2:30 pm from Tuesday – Friday.

Donations of clothing can be brought to our Clothing Collaborative, located at Dorcas' 645 Elmwood Ave., Providence location, from 9 am – 1 pm Monday – Thursday.

- During this time of great upheaval for the Afghan people, we will be welcoming more than 250 people, this in addition to the other 150 refugees from across the globe who we will be resettling. We need safe and affordable housing as we help our new neighbors settle in and obtain employment. Please reach out to 401-784-8611 if you know of any housing opportunities.

- Volunteering your time with Dorcas International is not only fulfilling, but it makes an enormous difference in the lives of refugees. Volunteers are an important and integral part of our efforts, and we would be grateful for any help you may be able to provide.

Information about incoming evacuees and refugees remains fluid due to the sheer enormity of the Afghan crisis, something which the U.S. has not experienced since the mass exodus of Southeast Asians from South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos in the 1970s, or the exodus from Cuba in the 1950s. Nonetheless, Dorcas International remains ready to welcome *all* newcomers in need seeking to resettle and build a life in Rhode Island. Your help is and will be needed well into the future.
Thank you for helping us help all as we welcome our new neighbors with open arms.

Thank you again, and let me know if you have any further questions. As I mentioned – if you have a collection of items that need to be brought up, we can try and coordinate something to pick them all up.

Emily Bernstein

Development and Database Associate
Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island
645 Elmwood Avenue
Providence, RI 02907
Office: 401-784-8707
Cell: 401-480-1568