

Volunteer of the Month: Kafar Hassan

Kafar Hassan is not new to Asylum Hill, nor for that matter to volunteering, but the story of how they connect is interesting.

In case the name sounds familiar, Hassan was one of the original seven immigrants to tell their story at the *New Voices in Asylum Hill* event held at CPBN on World Refugee Day 2014 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHU3NzsDs_A . You might remember that he

came originally from Ethiopia where he was studying philosophy as a Franciscan novice. Due to political difficulties he moved several time within Africa, eventually ending up in South Africa with a degree in sociology, a wife and a young son. More difficulties prompted him to migrate to the US and Hartford where we met him. He is now in the process of completing a course in Advanced Precision Manufacturing at Manchester Community College and expects to be working for Pratt & Whitney by mid 2017 due in part to the help of his Asylum Hill mentor Dean Amadon. All of this is focused on his goal of bringing his son Robel, to Hartford from South Africa, which he expects to do this year.

Through all of these changes, the one constant has been his desire to help his fellow man.

So when his roommate who drives a delivery truck for a local bakery mentioned that occasionally they had more bread and other baked goods than they could sell, Hassan thought of Asylum Hill and Grace Lutheran Church. Last week they made their first drop off of several dozens of loaves of fresh bread, and they have agreed to do the same each week going forward.

Hassan will pick-up the baked goods and deliver them to Grace and there they will most likely be incorporated into the Friday Night Gathering dinner and into the hands of those most in need.

