

Refugee Resettlement Ministry: Afghan Family Update

July 10, 2025

From Jeff Meade, RRM co-chair

Independence Day came a day early for an Afghan family of seven.

Last Thursday, members of a multi-faith community committee launched by St. Martin's Refugee Resettlement Ministry helped them move into their new house in Northeast Philadelphia, close to their relatives and within easy walking distance of the elementary school their children will attend in the fall.

On Thursday, a rented U-Haul truck, driven by a member of our committee, pulled up outside a neat brick rowhouse in the Northeast, carrying enough furniture – primarily beds – to get the family through their first week. They had been collected by another committee member, donated primarily from the St. Martin's community, and stuffed into a cargo van earlier in the week and delivered to a storage unit for safekeeping until the day of the move.

Within minutes, the father of the family and his three adult sons were unloading all the furniture donated by members of this parish ... mostly beds, but also a few chairs and a couple of tables.

As you might have guessed, there were smiles all around – including ours.

We also delivered two trunk loads of new home furnishings, primarily purchased from our Amazon wish list by members of St. Martin's, more than enough to allow them to prepare meals. (And boxes of essential items continue to arrive every day. Thank you so much, St. Martin's.)

By the way, some parishioners have asked – why so many *new* items? First of all, this family is starting from scratch. They came here, driven out of their home country by the Taliban, with virtually nothing except the clothes on their backs. Still others asked – why new *kitchen* items? Simply put, that is a Muslim halal requirement. Pots and pans, dishes, flatware and such must not have been used to prepare non-halal food if intended for halal use.

The rent and utilities for their house are being supported by donations from members of the parish, too. That financial support is critical.

In short, this has been a solid parish community effort – with a lot of sweat equity provided by volunteers from our friends at St. Paul's, St. Raymond of Penafort and Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting

– and we thank you. But our support of this family is far from over. This project will continue to require donations over the coming weeks to meet our \$18,000 goal.

If you can help out with a donation, it would mean a lot to this family. Please click [here](#) to give online. Select “Refugee Fund” from the drop down menu and write “Afghan Sponsorship Project” in the memo line. You can also mail a check to the church with “Afghan Sponsorship Project” in the memo line. Our mailing address is 8000 St. Martin’s Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19118. There is also an Amazon home furnishings wish list [here](#).

We also still require a bit of additional furniture. We are looking for three to four dressers and a couch, specifically.

And there is one more thing we would ask of you. Please hold this family in your prayers.

Thank you.

