



FAIRLAWN

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December 2017

Dear Friends and Supporters,

What a difference you've made in the lives of the Syrian refugees that our church has sponsored! We could never have successfully sponsored three cases in the past two years without your generous help and donations.

And now we eagerly await the arrival of our next Syrian family!

Souher and her husband Raid have four children, ages 3 to 16. They have been living in dangerous circumstances in Lebanon since fleeing from Syria. Souher and Raid are well-educated engineers and speak reasonably good English.

Fairlawn began the process of sponsoring this family in April 2016. At long last, they have passed their medicals, interviews and security checks and have a travel date. **We are thrilled that the family will arrive here in mid-December.**

A team of tireless volunteers is ready to help the family with all aspects of integration into a new society – including finding housing, health care, schools, shopping, banking, employment and more!

As sponsors, the church is also responsible for 12 months' financial support for the family. Fortunately, we have sufficient donations in our designated Refugee Fund to meet the very basic needs of this family of six. We know from past experience, however, that emergencies arise and we will have extra expenses, such as dental work, certain medical needs and prescription drugs, and some "extras" like swimming lessons or summer camp. In addition, we need funds to pay for the family's travel loan, expected to be about \$8,000.

To meet the new family's needs and have enough for contingencies, donations to the Refugee Fund will be gratefully received! For more information or to donate, see <http://www.fairlawchurch.ca/refugees/>.

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Sponsorship has been an amazing and rewarding journey for Fairlawn. All members of the teams, plus many more people who have volunteered and gotten to know the newcomers, feel enriched by the experience and honoured to be part of it. We have been so blessed with all kinds of support and of course, none of this could have happened without financial donors like you.

You are part of a project that is saving lives! The congregation of Fairlawn Avenue United is very grateful for generous donations, large and small. Thank you!

Kathleen Magladry, Chair
Refugee Sponsorship Teams,
Fairlawn Avenue United Church

P.S. We are so proud of our former newcomers. All have now completed their sponsorship year; the adults are employed and integrating well into Canadian society and the children are progressing very well in school.