

Refugee Resettlement Committee Report for January 30, 2022, Annual Meeting

The Refugee Resettlement Committee, working closely with its partner, Catholic Charities, has helped resettle approximately 40 refugees since last year's Annual Meeting. The re-opening of the United States to refugees and COVID vaccines allowed the committee to resume active work. From April to June the committee assisted two Iranians and a family of four from Syria. This fall it assisted a family of five and a mother and her child from the Congo, an Afghan family of three and a Syrian family of nine. Many generous furniture donations were made including an entire collection from one home. The committee gratefully thanks those who personally donated furniture, identified others as donors or helped, as Larry Holmes and Ra Simmons did, with the pick up and delivery of such items. Darlene Albert again offered her garage as a temporary storage area, an act of kindness essential to this ministry's work. During Advent and continuing into this month the committee distributed almost all such stored furniture, principally to two Afghan families of nine who had been temporarily housed on military bases. The committee looks forward to replenishing its furniture inventory. It is also most grateful for monetary contributions received from parishioners and others outside Grace supporting its work. Catholic Charities has encountered serious difficulties finding apartments for refugees because of higher rentals, more restrictive rules and procedures and larger required deposits now prevalent in Las Vegas' rental market. This reduction in available apartments has necessitated resorting to temporary housing such as Siegel Suites, rendering storage capacity for furniture and other household items even more important. Notwithstanding these challenges we anticipate increased opportunities to help resettle refugees during 2022. While cognizant of COVID realities we would love to return some time this year to the level of personal contact with our refugee families as experienced previously.

We welcome (1) volunteers interested in helping with this work; (2) in kind contributions of sofas, kitchen tables, chairs, end tables, dishes, utensils, lamps, etc., in good condition and (3) monetary contributions which go directly to assisting specific refugee families. If you desire to join in advancing this ministry's mission or to make in kind or monetary contributions in support thereof please contact PAUL (702-813-0239; pgturner13@hotmail.com) or MARGIE TURNER (marjorieturner@hotmail.com).

PEACE AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT,
Paul and Margie Turner, Co-Lead Coordinators
GRACE IN THE DESERT REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT COMMITTEE