

Sponsorship of our Syrian family - Yaser, Amina, and Salma - 3 Month Update

Yaser and Amina moved to their apartment on Tues. July 4th with the help of many hands . Thanks to Mike Mayne, who acquired the apartment at 31 Flamingo Drive, immediately beside the church and to the workers Lisa Howell, Mike & Marianne Kraemer , Mike & Judy Mayne, Phil & Deb Gleeson, Greg & Heika Elliott, Tom Fahey, Derek Goetz, Tak Shibayama, Nancy Lucier, and Joan Coutu who made the move so smooth for our new family. A heartfelt thank you to Pat and Audrey Gleeson for generously accommodating the family in their home for the first 2 months - surely a challenging task!

Yaser is going to ESL at the St. Louis Centre in Kitchener every morning until Aug.11th. Thanks to Ray Denomme for organizing some 40 + rides to and from Kitchener. Thanks to our drivers Danielle Pilon, Adrian Miltenburg , Carol Jonjerius, Greg Elliott, and Mike Mayne. Some Tuesdays and Fridays, Pat is riding the bus home with Yaser to help him learn the bus routes and schedule. Yaser is registered for ESL in Elmira in September and pending childcare arrangement, Amina will begin ESL then as well.

Audrey Gleeson has organized one hour English lessons 5 days a week for Amina and Yaser at home. Thanks to Marty Merlihan, Carol Jonjerius, Danielle Pilon, Mary Baldasro, Collen Brown and Diane Smith who take turns doing these lessons.

Thanks to Jim Goll, for driving Yaser to the Mosque every Friday afternoon.

Health insurance numbers were obtained early on and dental and medical appointments continue for Yaser and Amina and Salma. Thanks to Sheila Forler Bauman, Barb Harnock, and Marianne Kraemer for assuring the health of our family. Thanks to our drivers Danielle Pilon, Carol Jongerius, Marianne Kraemer , Sheila, and Barb.

Yaser is volunteering at the MCC thrift shop in Elmira for 3 afternoons a week until the end of August with the hope of learning some more English working alongside other volunteers.

Our Finance team developed a fair and sustainable budget for our family and is teaching them about monthly budgeting and banking. Mike Kraemer is leading the Finance Team consisting of Tom Fahey, Adrian Miltenburg, and Diane Smith. Mike also completed the paperwork for the family to get their Permanent Resident Cards, SIN cards and Child Benefits.

Also, thanks so much to Marianne Kraemer and Lisa Howell. Marianne is always there to help with all the decisions and is tireless in making things happen. Lisa has developed a close relationship with the family, spending many weekday evenings and weekends supporting them.

The family has been in Canada for 12 weeks as of July 26, 2017. They have learned so much in that short time, but there is much still to be done. With support from so many amazing volunteers, it has been an enriching time for all of us.