



Interfaith Council of Franklin County
Sending Hope and Relief to Women and Children in Syria
October 2017 - May 2018
January 3, 2018 Update

Great news as we begin a new year and the fourth month of our eight month campaign!

We sent two truckloads of food and supplies to NuDay Syria. Marc and Ellen Kaufman delivered the first truckload. The most recent container was shipped to Syria on December 30. Susan Perez (thank you!) and I played Santa in the cold and dark to get our shipment ready for a last minute pickup. Included in our two deliveries were: 380 lbs of rice, 156 lbs of beans and chickpeas, 10.5 lbs of oatmeal, 6 lbs of peanut butter, 52 lbs of canned corn, 90 protein bars, 39 lbs of lentil soup, 20 lbs of pasta, 15 backpacks, 3 boxes of bedding, 5 boxes of clothes including winter jackets and hats, 8 sleeping bags, 296 diapers, and 95 school notebooks with crayons, markers and pencils.

We have collected \$6,080 in cash and checks to date.

We sent a check for \$5,800 to NDS to pay for the most recent shipping container now on its way to Syria. The remaining funds paid for food included in that container.

Tony Hanna at **Shelburne Falls Bowling Alley** has been collecting supplies from bowling league members.

Those supplies and other donations will be **sorted and packed by middle school students from the YMCA Leaders Club on Saturday, January 27** from 10-12 at Bernardston Self-Storage. Reverend Jeff Galraith, Linda Smith and Charlie Olchowski of St. Paul's are promising hot chocolate and an outdoor contained fire to keep us warm. Additional scheduled packing dates are Feb 10, Mar 3, Apr 28 and May 12.

The collection from the **West County Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service totaled \$734** and was donated in full to our Syrian relief effort.

Temple Israel has donated \$1,625 and promises more to come.

Many more of you have projects planned for the next few months.

Participating groups:

Temple Israel
Second Congregational Church in Greenfield
St Paul's Lutheran Church
The Episcopal Church of St James and St Andrew
Camp Betsey Cox in VT
Charlemont Federated Church
Trinity Church in Shelburne
First Congregational Church of Ashfiel
All Souls Unitarian Universalists
Trinitarian Congregational Church in Northfield

YMCA Leaders Club
The First Congregational Church of Shelburne
St John's Episcopal Church in Ashfield
Heath Union Evangelical Church
Edwards Church of Northampton, UCC
Shelburne Falls Bowling Alley
Sara Weinberger and friends in Northampton

Please join us if you haven't already.

Make checks payable to the Interfaith Council of Franklin County with Syrian Relief in the memo line.

Mail to: ICFC, P O Box 1171, Greenfield, MA 01302-1171.

Food – rice, pasta, dried or canned beans and lentils, dried meat, protein bars – and warm coats and blankets are most in need. We have a sewing machine and would also like to get textiles and thread to accompany. Personal hygiene products are always needed.

Once you have completed your collection, we ask you to transport goods and supplies to our central storage unit. Contact our warehouse manager, **Susan Perez, at 413.522.1258 or 413.773.3194** to arrange a drop-off time.

Local storage is at:

Bernardston Self-Storage

11 Deacon Parker Road

Bernardston, MA 01337

Exit 28A off I-91N, right off ramp, 2.25 miles from exit

Please contact Charlene Golonka at dittomango@gmail.com or at 413-231-2953 with questions or to request written materials. We've got posters, index cards with lists of goods needed, and brochures and annual reports from NDS.

Namaste, thank you, peace, hope, love and light.