

# ***Call to Action!***

## **St. C's Refugee Project**

***"I was a stranger and you welcomed me ..."***

***Matthew 25:35***

Have you ever lost your home and all your belongings overnight? Have you ever been forced to flee your homeland? What would you take from your home if you had moments to decide, and you knew you would have to carry it constantly with you?

This is the experience of all refugees. Forced from not only their homes but from their homeland, refugees spend an average of 15 years in a refugee camp outside their country of origin in attempts to flee ethnic, religious, or political persecution. In a humanitarian effort, the US government grants them a special, legal, "refugee" status, allowing them permanent residency in the US. Yet the family will have virtually nothing when they arrive in Minnesota. They will be trusting in the love and support of our community to help make the Twin Cities their new home.

St Cecilia's is partnering with the Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC) to help settle a refugee family. Please join us in our mission! Whether you offer prayer, household furnishings, or monetary donations, your participation is appreciated.

Our family will be arriving in the US at the end of January. The first phase of our project is to furnish an apartment that the MCC will arrange for the family. The list of household items needed is on the back of this sheet. Please give gently used items, but no used mattresses, pillows or sofa beds. Larger items can be brought to a storage location we currently have available. In addition to the household items listed, cash donations are also needed. We will need to purchase expendable items like food, cleaning supplies and bus passes, in addition to individual-specific things like clothing. We also need funds for unforeseen expenses. These funds will not be given to the family directly, but will be used to provide for their physical needs.

Phase two of the project begins in the first part of January, when we learn exactly whom we are welcoming – both the ethnicity and the composition of the family. The core St C's Refugee Committee group will then receive cultural training based on the family's culture of origin. We will also populate the new apartment accordingly. In this phase, we will need help with vehicles and furniture movers. We may also need help with car seats. While the family will not have a vehicle, St C's volunteers will be initially transporting the family, and will need age-appropriate car seats to do so.

Phase three is when the refugees actually arrive. This is when our face-to-face work begins. We help introduce them to American culture and how to navigate things like the bus system, their neighborhoods and grocery stores. We hope to help them become self-sufficient in their new land. We also hope to introduce the family to our St C's family at that time.

Please pray for the family as they begin their frightening, yet hopeful journey to their new home. Please also pray for the project team that we will allow the Spirit to work through us!

Questions? Contact Evelyn Pallas ([epallas@usfamily.net](mailto:epallas@usfamily.net); 651.484.6328) or Stephanie Hanson ([swanson@att.net](mailto:swanson@att.net); 651.644.2339). God bless you for your participation in this project. Many thanks.

# Household Items Needed

**Small Items can be Brought to St C's  
Please Contact Us about Large Item Donations**

*Evelyn Pallas (epallas@usfamily.net; 651.484.6328)  
Stephanie Hanson (swhanson@att.net; 651.644.2339)*

**Sign Up for Specific Items will also  
be available Next Weekend in the Link**

## **Kitchen**

8 Dish settings (6 settings have already been donated)  
8 silverware settings  
8 glasses  
Pots-stove top (1- 3quart already donated)  
Frying pans  
Baking pans  
Baking sheets  
Mixing/serving bowls  
Storage containers  
Can opener  
Pitcher  
Cutting Board  
Silverware Tray  
Dishrack

## **Furniture**

Kitchen chairs (1 per person)  
Living room furniture (couch+)  
Bed frame--double (2)  
Bed frame--twin (2)  
Chest/clothes storage  
Floor lamp  
Table lamp  
LR table  
Bedside table  
TV /DVD player  
Radio/CD player  
Area rug  
Kitchen table

## **Linens**

Towels (at least 1 per person)  
Sheets sets- 2 double and 2 twin  
Blankets/quilts--Double and twin  
Pillows--6 --must be new  
Pillow cases  
Alarm clock  
Mattress pads