

Morning Star Refugee Support Group

Report for 2021

Holy Trinity's *Morning Star Refugee Support Group* [MSRSG] started in the fall of 2020. MSRSG is a Constituent Group with the Diocese of Rupert's Land's Refugee Committee, for which Marlene Smith offers leadership. The Diocese is the Sponsorship Agreement Holder with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. These relationships allow MSRSG to work with community co-sponsors to enable refugees to come to Winnipeg. The work of MSRSG is three-fold:

- i) to sponsor refugees with a community co-sponsor by preparing the necessary application information, welcoming refugees to Winnipeg and accompanying them in their first year here in Canada;
- ii) to help, with the community co-sponsor, raise the necessary funds for the sponsored refugees – both for initial start-up expenses and for one year's monthly expenses. The minimum budget of which is determined by the government and a significant proportion of which must be held in trust when the initial application is made.
- iii) To educate and engage community members in understanding and supporting refugees seeking a safe hospitable home.

Holy Trinity's MSRSG includes: Joan Lloyd, Janice Headley, Zilla Jones, Be Buckingham, Rhianna Erickson, Shler Ali, Yasar Al Mtawa*, Gerry Pearson*, Moustafa and Manal Alhashoum*, and Reverends Andrew Rampton and Cathy Campbell. [* member joined in the summer and fall of 2021]

In February 2021, with the help and oversight of Marlene Smith of the Diocese, an application to sponsor Aras Ali and Matab Hamada was submitted to the government with Sher Ali and Karwan Kahil as community co-sponsors. Aras and Matab are Kurdish Syrians currently living in Iraq. This was MSRSG's first sponsorship application. In the fall of 2021 MSRSG began the process of preparing applications for another Syrian family currently residing in Turkey. Moustafa and Manal Alhashoum are the community co-sponsors for their brother Nazih, sister-in-law Batool and their 3 children: Ali, Fatima and Ahmed; as well as their mother Nouria Alkallisli. These documents are prepared and awaiting 2022 government allocation of sponsorship opportunities to the Diocese before their submission.

In order to enable these sponsorships, Holy Trinity's MSRSG has committed to raise \$21,000. By December 31, 2021, MSRSG has raised \$10,906 [\$9,066 in 2021; and \$1,840 in 2020] of that commitment through 4 fundraising initiatives:

1. Extend the Love 1.0 – a Valentine's Day take out supper and virtual variety show;
2. Extend the Love 2.0 – a Downtown Lawn Party with food and music;
3. A Christmas Bake Sale; and
4. A Christmas donation appeal letter in both 2020 and 2021.

In addition MSRSG also hosted a very interesting educational event: “Syrians Speak: the Artistic Voice of the Revolution” hosted by Sandra Bender. All of this was accomplished with the help of an amazing array of volunteers and community support as we negotiated the ups and downs of the Covid 19 pandemic.

This ministry has been a wonderful opportunity to build relationships and learn about the refugee situation and its context through Syrian Winnipeggers and their allies. Holy Trinity has been blessed in this ministry.

Submitted by: Cathy Campbell

Morning Star Refugee Support Group - Deposits

Month	Total	Total:	\$11,100.98
22-Jan	\$295.00	From Alhashoum family:	\$15,000.00
21-Dec	\$699.68		
21-Nov	\$419.00		
21-Oct	\$114.00		
21-Sep	\$1,911.73		
21-Aug	\$-		
21-Jul	\$37.50		
21-Jun	\$25.00		
21-May	\$285.00		
21-Apr	\$185.00		
21-Mar	\$60.70		
21-Feb	\$4,159.25		
21-Jan	\$1,069.12		
20-Dec	\$1,840.00		