

## Anglican Diocese of Rupert's Land

### Refugee Sponsorship - Annual Report – 2020

The year, 2020 was a transition year, as Gail Schnabl, long-time Refugee Coordinator for the Diocese, retired and Marlene Smith took the position. The intent was to have two people share the responsibilities of the refugee coordinator, however, that was not achieved, so the official change happened on 01 April, 2020, with Marlene as the new Refugee Coordinator.

No action has been taken to develop a Diocesan Refugee Committee. This suggestion was made by Gail - to have a handful of people knowledgeable in refugee work and who would be a support to the new coordinator. Speaking engagements could be done to promote refugee sponsorship in the parishes.

Thankfully, Gail remains active in this ministry as the representative and signatory for Crossed Hands (St. Paul's, Ft Garry and St. Matthews Maryland). She also remains a mentor and support, providing guidance when needed.

In order to meet the requirements of Immigration Refugee Citizenship Canada (IRCC), and to decrease the financial risk to the Diocese, we require finances be secured prior to the submission of sponsorship applications. This is a difficult stipulation to enforce to people/groups who approach us for help.

Hospitality House, which became a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) in 2018, still has some active sponsorships which were generated under the Diocese of Rupert's Land Agreement with the Federal Government. Most of these are active due to One Year Windows (family members of refugees who did not accompany the primary applicant to Canada). This activity should decrease further over time.

The PWRDF Refugee Network comprises the 15 Anglican Dioceses across the country that are Sponsorship Agreement Holders. It is chaired by Suzanne Rumsey and we meet to share experiences, problem-solve, and support each other.

It seemed sensible to reduce the number of sponsorships during the transition year so fewer spaces were requested of IRCC. The increased expectation by IRCC to provide closer monitoring and record-keeping demands more time for the coordinator. Twenty-five spaces were requested. However, more applications were submitted than planned and 10 more spaces were needed and received from the pool (IRCC) bringing the total applications submitted to 16 for 35 refugees.

The impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic resulted in the closure of the borders in March. However, SAHs were instructed to continue submitting applications to Ottawa electronically.

Thank you to Gail Schnabl for her commitment in the work of Refugee Sponsorship and Re-settlement.

The following page shows the Activity Report for 2020.

<b>ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF RUPERT'S LAND - REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP - ACTIVITY REPORT - 2020</b>							
<b>Church</b>	<b>Application Submitted</b>	<b>Arrival</b>	<b>Refusal</b>	<b>Withdrawal</b>	<b>In Process</b>	<b>Awaiting Arrival</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Crossed Hands	5 Apps for 10 People	2 Singles		2 -Family of Six, Single			
St. Albans, Kenora, Ont.		1 Couple					
St. Aidan's	1 App – Family of 4						
St. Margarets	4 Apps for 11 People						
St. John's Cathedral							4 Apps for 5 People
Church of The Good Shepherd	1 App - Couple						
St Georges Crescent	1 App - Single						
St. Mary la Prairie	1 App – Family of 5				1 App - Family of 5		
St. Mark's	2 Apps - Singles						
St. Mary Magdalene			1 Couple 1 Family of Six				
Hospitality House		2 Singles					
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>15 Apps for 35 People</b>	<b>5 for 6 People</b>	<b>2 Apps for 8 People</b>				

Marlene Smith – Refugee Co-ordinator  
 Anglican Diocese of Rupert's Land