

## AFGHAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT TEAM

### NOVEMBER, 2023, REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

#### **PROGRESS ALONG THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD**

The men were notified of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) appointments for an October 27th attorney and interpreter practice session and a November 1st interview. These two events move them closer to asylum. Keep in mind that a *longer than fifteen-month backlog* remains until Congress acts. **Many thanks to those who participated in the letter-writing campaign.** The men are guardedly optimistic (and, very excited).

Both men participated in another six-week Civics Class on "Education and Work" which started in September. Their next Civic Class--starting this month--will be "Banking and Finance", ending in January.

#### **SMLC TEAM**

In an effort to give the men a well-rounded experience, the Team exposes them to as many American adventures as time and opportunities allow. In September, the men revisited Chicago to see Buckingham Fountain in Grant Park. They were able to see the fountain during daylight hours, then at night with the cycles of the fountain changing colors. They took advantage of the "photo ops" from many angles with a rainbow of colors.

Last March, both men visited Door County for a weekend, experiencing three state parks and a county park while meeting new friends. They both spent a weekend in Wisconsin Dells in October where they went to two state parks and rode the famous "Ducks". They will return to the Dells this month for more memorable adventures.

The Team has made a concerted effort to keep the men healthy and fit in accordance with state and federal protocols. While medical and dental care in Afghanistan were lacking, the men are now each on par with their American cohorts.



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## PRAYER

Please pray for the Afghan men, our resettlement Team, and our congregation, as well as, asylum-seekers, immigrants, refugees, and unaccompanied children in our country and around the World.

**God of All Nations,**

**We hold before you the peoples of Afghanistan.**

**+Be peace to those engaged in armed conflict and those who live within its shadow.**

**+Hold us all in your unfailing love.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of all but love in order to bring life in all its fullness.**

**Amen!**

*<sup>6</sup> I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;  
incline your ear to me; hear my words.*

*<sup>7</sup> Wondrously show your steadfast love,  
O savior of those who seek refuge  
from their adversaries at your right hand.*

*<sup>8</sup> Guard me as the apple of the eye;  
hide me in the shadow of your wings,*

*<sup>9</sup> from the wicked who despoil me,  
my deadly enemies who surround me.*

*<sup>10</sup> They close their hearts to pity;  
with their mouths they speak arrogantly.*

*<sup>11</sup> They flush me out,<sup>[a]</sup> now they surround me;  
they set their eyes to cast me to the ground.*

*<sup>12</sup> They are like a lion eager to tear,  
like a young lion lurking in ambush.*

*<sup>13</sup> Rise up, O Lord, confront them, overthrow them!  
By your sword deliver my life from the wicked,*

*<sup>14</sup> from mortals—by your hand, O Lord—  
from mortals whose portion in life is in this world.*