



REFUGEE COMMITTEE UPDATE #12

October 13, 2019

A CANADIAN WELCOME

ZAID and BLIND are ARRIVING!

We have good news to share with you our St. Andrews-Wesley Church Family. Thanks to your continuing generous support and the considerable efforts of your refugee committee, our next refugees will be arriving in Vancouver on October 16, 2019. They are a same-sex couple by the names of Zaid Yahya and Blind Taher and are both 31 yrs. old. Having most recently been living in Istanbul, Turkey they have a good working knowledge of English. We are excited to welcome Zaid and Blind to Canada to begin our year of sponsorship and support.

For the past year the committee has been working on Zaid and Blind's file and the other candidate we are currently sponsoring (Ray arrived in July 2019). It has been a busy summer as we welcomed Ray, set up his apartment and oriented him to our city. In addition, we have continued our fundraising, arranged health care support, completed endless paperwork and expanded our committee.

As always, with the arrival of new immigrants and the start of a new sponsorship, we are filled with a mixture of emotions including excitement, joy, anxiety and nervousness. We can only imagine how Zaid and Blind are feeling as they consider their future here in Canada. Based on our previous successful sponsorships we are confident that everything will work out for the best.

As we look forward to welcoming Zaid and Blind to Vancouver, we know that the complex work of integration will truly begin. We anticipate it

will be a time of happiness for them. In just a few days we will meet them at the airport and with the help of Abed and Ray we will extend a warm and heartfelt welcome and celebrate their arrival with a shared meal.

We have secured a compact 1 bedroom apartment in an ideal west end location. With the addition of a few select furnishings and household items it will be a safe home for Zaid and Blind's first year in Canada.

There are many things which the committee members and our co-sponsors at Rainbow Refugee will be busy attending to as we support Zaid and Blind over the coming year as they integrate into their new Vancouver community. That being said, we do require your ongoing help and support.

We look forward to sharing additional news with you with respect to welcoming and meeting Zaid and Blind once they are settled and their orientation and paperwork have been completed. Please say hello if you happen to see them with one of the committee members.



Here's how you can help now:

a) CASH DONATIONS, b) VOLUNTEER your TIME and c) DONATE select HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and ITEMS.

If you feel that you can help out with these requests please contact the church office at 604-683-4574 or approach Donna Scorer 604-947-0967 or any other member of the Refugee Committee.

THANK YOU and GOD BLESS!