

INTER CHURCH REFUGEE PARTNERSHIP (IRCP)

To the congregations of Chalmers and Sydenham Street
from the Inter Church Refugee Partnership (ICRP).

Please read the following two requests to see if you can provide any assistance. Thank you.

Welcome Our Newest Refugee

We are expecting our next refugee, "M", to arrive on Feb. 21 and we are working hard to get everything ready in the apartment that we've leased.

Kitchen:

- ✓ Microwave
- ✓ Spice rack
- ✓ Storage jars
- ✓ Tea pot

Living room:

- ✓ Tables / coffee and side
- ✓ Drapes floor length for a wide picture window

Dining room:

- ✓ Table cloth
- ✓ Rug
- ✓ four chairs (we have a dark brown wooden table)

Bed room:

- ✓ queen sheets, blankets, pillows
- ✓ Curtains for two smaller windows
- ✓ Lamps
- ✓ Chest of drawers

People are requested to contact Marguerite Van Die vandiem@queensu.ca with their donations and if possible bring them to 60 Alwington Avenue where they can be left on the porch if no one is home.

ICRP REPORT HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORT

Chalmers United Church and Sydenham Street United Church are among the partners in the Inter Church Refugee Partnership (ICRP). Through St. Mark's Lutheran Church, ICRP has access to the services of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, which has a special sponsorship status with the Canadian government.

ICRP has been fully self-funded since its beginning in 2015. With other community donors, Chalmers and SSUC congregations have generously supported five Syrian families with children who have come to Kingston.

One of these was fully supported by the Islamic Centre, which also provided volunteer support for another of the families. We were overwhelmed by your heartfelt response to our requests for furniture, clothing, kitchen supplies, appliances, money and the gift of friendship. The ICRP thanks all donors.

For many months, in partnership with HARS/Reelout, ICRP also made numerous attempts to sponsor a gay Nigerian man who had fled his country. Sadly, he was not permitted to come to Canada. We are now in the process of sponsoring a young couple and 3 single men, one of whom will arrive near the end of February. Two of the men are humanitarian activists.

Requests to sponsor new refugees continue to arrive in our mail: think of the stateless millions in refugee camps all over the world! ICRP is now well-equipped with knowledge and experience. We could conceivably undertake sponsorships but only if we can acquire more volunteers (our most pressing need) and do new fundraising. We welcome your views on further sponsorships.

The Canadian government has been significantly slowing down the entry of refugees. Please take opportunities to advocate for the increased intake of refugees into Canada. We would be pleased to provide more information to anyone willing to take on the task of advocacy.

If you would like to get involved, have friends or family who would like to get involved or just learn more information, please feel free to contact your Inter Church Refugee Partnership Representatives:

Chalmers:	Mary Davis Little <davislittlem@gmail.com>
Monika Holzschuh	<monika.holzschuh@queensu.ca> 613 541-3939
Sydenham St:	Michael Purcell <mpurcell27@gmail.com>
	Peter Goheen <goheenp@queens.ca> 613-548-7033

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