

## **Afghan Family Update**

It was a long week for our family this prior week as the kids were home for Spring Break and the weather just really didn't want to cooperate. So, with the generosity of free tickets from Welcome Neighbor to the Magic House, we took the family (minus father, who had to work) to see one of the premier Children's museums. The place was quite busy but we managed to tag-team all six children and didn't lose a single one! We found places for mother to rest while we helped the children have fun. The kids really get along well and they enjoyed the cash registers in the "pizza parlor" and "grocery store". We wore them out on the big slide and even Sue Scott took a turn coming down! We finished up with dinner at McDonald's, which was paid for by a donor.

The St. Louis Futbol Club has opened up soccer play to all recent Afghan refugees so we took the family there on Saturday. The five oldest children really worked out some energy and mother and father got to see their children playing with others and having a lot of fun. What a great facility to have in our city and it is very generous of them to provide the fields for use for these families.

Many thanks to Janice and Steve Seele for taking father grocery shopping on Sunday.

Jean Magre and father broke ground on the new backyard garden and JR and Mia Walters have purchased some vegetable plants for them to get started. It's a great patch of yard with good sun so we're hoping for a bountiful harvest.

We want to thank our Afghan Family Support Team who have been helping take father and another Afghan gentleman to and from work each day. They wouldn't be able to work otherwise, so it's a blessing that folks are willing to step up and drive the hour and 15 minutes round trip. We believe that we have a car secured for the family and it will be so appreciated by both the family and the support surrounding them as the school bus did not come in the morning three days this week. The children have been able to get to school as one of the Core Partners came and took them each day. When the car is secured and father has passed his driver's test, he will be able to quickly get them to school. The independence that this will give the family is life-changing and we are so happy for them.

Lastly, the Core Partners have been hard at work trying to find alternatives for the mother's dental care (Medicaid will cover a root canal but not a crown), tracking down two missing Social Security cards, getting taxes filed, and working with the International Institute to cover, at least, one more month's rent. We are hoping that several more months will be covered. It has been a lesson in "the squeaky wheel gets the grease" but we've learned that persistence has its rewards. Please keep all the family's team in prayer as we move forward with all that needs to be done to make their lives secure, healthy and productive.

In Partnership,

Sue Davis, Noreen Mayfield and Sue Scott