

Afghan Family Partnership Update

January 28, 2022

As we write this, we are in the middle of Week 3 of helping our Family become acclimated to St. Louis, along with navigating the challenges of figuring out government programs. As always, we couldn't do this without the support of WGPC and the kind donations of both goods and time. More details on the latter to come.

- Since our last update, we had some very good news that helped to set our minds at ease a bit. We were told that the mother was to deliver her twins in February. However, when Sue Davis took her to her ultrasound, it was determined that her due date is closer to early May! We can't tell you how much that gift of time eased our minds. We were actually getting ready to pack bags for ourselves to be ready to dash to their house to stay with the children! Now we feel like we have a bit of time to focus on getting other things in order.
- The father received his first paycheck and we will be helping him set up a bank account early next week.
- We had a meeting on Tuesday with our English tutors (Jean Magre, Diane McCullough and Barb Meyer) where they met our Family and will soon begin working with the adults and young children still at home to learn English. (The children in school already seem to be picking up a word here and there and we enjoyed playing Go Fish with them last Sunday night.)
- We found out that the father has a brother with a wife and three children who are in Tulsa! That family very much wants to come to St. Louis, understandably so as the rest of their four brothers and mother are still in Afghanistan. The father's brother also served with the Afghan Forces and helped the U.S. Military in Afghanistan.
- We received a generous donation from the Lueder family of two sets of new bunkbeds and two new mattresses. Leslie McCormick and Wayne Gottschall generously provided the means to take the beds down to the Family with their truck and Jason VanBlarcum and Matt Hathaway (Mia and JR Walters' sons-in-law) got them into the truck and then up into the second floor of the Family's home. No easy feat as each box weighed 140 lbs. The two young men then stayed and helped Rick Mayfield and Allan Scott assemble the beds. The kids were so excited and you can see their smiles in the photos.
- Two of the children have late January birthdays so we will be picking up the entire family on Saturday and taking them to the Scott's for an "American-style" birthday party, complete with cake, candles, singing and presents.

Please check the Sign Up Genius for items needed. Through donations of rugs, sheets and blankets, towels and other household items, the Family's home is beginning to feel warm and cozy. When we look back on these last few weeks, we are heartened by the progress made and energized to continue lifting this Family up.

In Partnership,

Noreen Mayfield, Sue Scott and Sue Davis

