

## **Friday Flash Afghan Family Update July 12**

So much has been happening for the Family! The children are home for the Summer and the Core Partners, plus other Church members, have been putting in many volunteer hours in all kinds of ways.

Since purchasing their home, many hours have been given to sprucing the house up. The most important change was finishing off some of the spaces in the basement to give the family more livable space and to provide a tutoring area for the kids.

Several folks from our church have been working in the basement by finishing (and enlarging) a room that the landlord had started. Builders included: Rob Meyer, John Soteres, John Castagno, Patrick Sinclair, Jean Magre, and Frank Bloemke. Painters for the basement were Glenn Davis, Tim and Nancy Currinder, Jean Magre and Sue Scott. This work gives the family two additional and usable rooms, as well as a full bath in the basement...a huge addition to their living space.

Upstairs, the two main first floor rooms were repainted just in time for the family to celebrate Eid. Painters included Tim and Nancy Currinder, Glenn Davis, John Castagno and Richard Lane. The kitchen had a facelift with the addition of some cabinets, plus new countertops and a new refrigerator. A doorway was closed off in the kitchen that allowed for more counter space and cabinets. All of this is a huge help to Mom as she cooks for ten.

Outside, Father has been planting in the garden and adding fruit trees, which they had in Afghanistan. He's also been working on repairing the deck and added some railings on the steps outside to make it safer for the little ones.

We think it's important to note that the parents have paid for the new refrigerator, countertops, building materials for the basement, paint, and plants. The Ringkamps donated the kitchen cabinets and there were some funds left from the home purchase that paid for the labor in the kitchen remodel.

Several members from our church have been tutoring the older students over the summer so that they'll be more than ready for school to start in August. Our volunteers have included Tim and Nancy Currinder, Amy Castagno, Caleb Monzyk and Deni Fuller. Barb Meyer and Jean Magre also continue to tutor Mom and Dad in English.

There aren't words to express the thanks we have for the many volunteers who have helped to create a loving and helpful community for the family. Each person brings their special talent and time to help the family in immeasurable ways. To quote John 3:18: "Dear children, let us love not with words or speech but with actions and in truth." The volunteers have put in a total of over 100 hours this month alone...that is dedication and living out our faith.

In closing, Summer school ends next week. Welcome Neighbor will hold swimming lessons the following week and then we are already looking at school starting in mid-August. Time flies! Take a look at some photos of the home to see some of the progress being made.

In Partnership,  
Sue Scott, Sue Davis and Noreen Mayfield