

## Afghan Family Update

Thank you to all who donated the items from the Sign Up Genius! We have just a couple of things left on it and now the children and parents have soft and warm fleeces to wear. Your generosity continues to amaze us and we are grateful, as is the Family. Please click here to see the remaining items on the Sign Up Genius and here to donate funds to our Afghan Family.

The weather threw a bit of a curveball to this week. Thankfully, the Father's work was called off on Thursday so our volunteer drivers weren't out in dangerous conditions. However, when that happens, he isn't paid for the day as he hasn't been working at the facility long enough to qualify for it. The children stayed home from school and then, on Friday, they received word from the school that the bus wouldn't be available to pick up the children but school was in session. There is supposed to be a backup plan with taxis but the taxi never showed up. Thankfully, Barb Meyer (one of our English tutors) said that she would drive down early and take the children to school. It also happened again on Monday and Sue Davis took the children to school. Thus, our hunt for a reliable used car goes on. We are leaving no stone unturned and have a few promising leads. We're grateful to Matt Scott, who is a terrific mechanic, for helping us to "vet" the potential vehicles. Additionally, Many thanks to Steve Seele for taking the Father to the grocery store on Saturday.

On Sunday, Sue Davis and Noreen picked up the family and brought them to Sue's house for games and pizza. The children loved meeting Gypsy, Sue's Labrador retriever. Initially, they were hesitant to engage with the dog but, by the end of the visit, they were enthusiastically feeding her treats and posing with her. The youngest boy cried when he had to go home...now that's a successful visit! Deb Grossman and Betsy Wacker joined us so that they could meet the family and the family can get to know them. It's our goal for all members of the Support Team to meet the family in this next month and a half so that all will be comfortable after the babies are born and we begin a rotation of "mother-help". Help with laundry, housecleaning, and childcare five days each week is the plan.

English tutoring twice each week is going well. Diane and Barb report that they, along with Jean and Linda Magre, are scheduled to meet at the Family's home with a couple of the iHELP managers (iHELP is the organization that works with tutors in the St. Louis area). They will be doing a language assessment and will have a Pashto translator available. Both parents are working hard on learning our language and our tutors say that the Mother is good at getting our accent correct, especially when she repeats the words immediately. Father is able to read a bit but Mother has to learn everything by ear as she is unable to read, even in her own language. That makes it especially challenging for her. Our tutors also report that they are forging a relationship with the two youngest children, who will undoubtedly pick up our language quite easily, as children are prone to do.

Sue, Glenn and Noreen also met with the Family's landlord on Monday. We feel confident that the family is in a good place and the landlord is being responsive to their needs. The location is very handy for the time being and we are happy that they have the Zyla's close by. Adam Zyla brought his oldest child to their house last Saturday and stayed for tea and a visit. The Father was very happy to have a neighbor visit as it definitely begins to feel more like home.

The rest of this week is a busy one and we look forward to sharing with you all that happens. Thank you for going on this journey with us...to know that we have so many caring and loving people surrounding the family and us means more than we can say.

In Partnership,

Sue Davis, Sue Scott and Noreen Mayfield