

Afghan Family Update

Perhaps you've heard the news from Afghanistan whereby the Taliban is now declaring that women should stay home and, if they must go out, should be covered head to toe, including their face. Education, of course, was limited for females back in September. We are thankful, each day, that our family will have the opportunities and freedom that the United States offers. We know that they feel the same.

The entire family, along with Sue and Allan Scott, attended the Eid Festival that was held last Saturday. There was music, dancing, poetry, henna painting, balloon art, and food. Our family had a wonderful time. Everyone saw people that they knew, especially kids from school. How wonderful to be with other Afghans who speak your language and understand your experience! As thankful as we know the family is for our help and support, there is comfort for them in being able to effortlessly communicate and revisit some traditions in their own culture. We're glad that the International Institute is organizing events like this to keep their community interacting. There is another Welcome Neighbor picnic that is coming up, too, so that's another chance to visit and get to know other Afghan families in St. Louis. It's also nice for us as we get to meet our cohorts who are working with other families through Welcome Neighbor. We've learned so much from more experienced people and are hopeful that we can now advise other new Partners to save them some time and headaches.

Our little girl and both parents had a nice visit at the preschool we mentioned last week. We have submitted a request for financial assistance to help cover the tuition so will know relatively soon if she will be attending this particular school. And, speaking of assistance, we have several feelers out for financial help with utilities and rent. We were already successful in lowering the family's WiFi bill to \$0. Please keep these efforts in your prayers.

Lastly, keep mother in your thoughts and prayers as she will be having quite a lot of dental work done over the next five weeks.

In Partnership,

Sue Davis, Noreen Mayfield and Sue Scott