

## Friday Flash Nov 16, 2022

### Afghan Family Update

As we approach Thanksgiving, we continue to be grateful for the presence of our partnership with our Afghan family, They demonstrate to us how important family and relationships are over the material things in this world. It was just a year ago on November 10 that the family arrived in St. Louis without worldly possessions except some clothing. They were fortunate in that housing was found for them relatively quickly and they have made a home there that is cozy and comforting to them. Much of that is thanks to you, our congregation, for supporting them and us as we continue in this journey together.

Many thanks for the donations of baby clothes. We delivered them this week and Mother, especially, was so happy to receive them. The twins are growing so fast and little Sara is already up and rocking on her knees!

Since we last updated you, the entire family had a great time with Boo at the Zoo. The Davis and Scott families went with them to enjoy the festivities and to watch the children experience their first taste of Halloween. The kids loved the costumes and all of the scary delights that the Zoo had to offer.

Sue D. And Noreen took the six older children to the Science Center last Friday. It was a fun outing with so many hands-on activities and the kids loved watching the traffic go over Highway 40. Later that day, Sue picked up the makings for a Thanksgiving Dinner from Schnucks, provided by Operation Foodsearch, for the family. It had a turkey, stuffing, cranberries, etc. Sue said the family has eaten turkey and she thinks it must be part of a celebration as Mother said they ate it when two of the younger children were born.

Five of the older children and Mother have begun attending an English class on Thursday evenings at a church in the City. There are a lot of other Afghan families there and the family is greatly enjoying it. A huge thank you to all of the Support team who are helping by either babysitting the three youngest children at home or driving to and from the church.

Our Welcome Neighbor sponsors are going to be holding a holiday party for the Afghan families and their partner volunteers on Saturday, Dec. 10 and have asked us if we will provide the food. We have agreed to do so and are looking for donations of cookies, cupcakes, etc. They do not need to be homemade. Please see the Sign Up Genius to indicate if you can help. Donations can be dropped off at Sue Scott's house at 449 Reavis Place in Webster Groves on the Thursday or Friday prior.

A few other items for the family are needed and can be found on the Sign Up Genius.

\*The first is a bicycle for the oldest boy. We are looking for the donation of a new or gently used 24" boys bicycle.

\*We are also in need of diapers for the twins, Size 4. Also, wipes are needed.

\* As winter approaches, we are in need of hats and scarves for the boys. These would be for the five older boys ages 5 to 11. We were able to provide them with gloves already.

\*And lastly, gas gift cards from BP are always needed and appreciated.

In closing, Noreen Mayfield was overjoyed to meet up again with the family this week. It had been several months since she had seen them and she was amazed at the progress the entire family has made with their English, but especially Mother and the oldest daughter. It was clear that everyone was so much more comfortable in at least trying to speak our language. We are

thankful for the dedication of our four English tutors: Diane McClelland, Barb Meyer, and Jean and Linda Magre. They are making a profound difference in the life of this family.

In Partnership, Sue Davis, Sue Scott and Noreen Mayfield