

Afghan Family Update

It's hard to believe but school has begun for the children of the family and they have left Nahed Chapman School and have transitioned to new schools. The oldest daughter and son are now attending AESM, which is a new ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) school. The younger three boys are attending Mann Elementary. This will, hopefully, help them to progress with their mastery of English as they will be with more children who are English speakers. Unfortunately, the school bus system is worse than ever and often the bus doesn't show up, meaning father must get up (after working a late shift) to take the children to school. Then, they are often having to run the busses home in double shifts, resulting in a late arrival home for the children.

On a positive note, the older children like their new school and are excited to be back in the mode of learning. The younger ones are still on the fence about their new school, perhaps because there are far more English speaking students now and it's going to take time to make new friends.

Father's work has also been cut back as the company decided that, rather than lay off workers, they would keep everyone on with less hours. Coupled with the fact that their rent is going to need to be raised as the landlord's insurance has gone up, and father had to miss a week of work (unpaid) due to COVID, it's been a stressful time for our family.

Right now the family needs Size 5 diapers for the twins. They go through so many each day and we cannot find enough free diapers to cover the need. Donations can be left at church in Fellowship Hall and marked with "Afghan Family". We will be happy to deliver them to the family.

Additionally, we can certainly use prayers for the family and, if you are able, financial support to help the family cover expenses while father works reduced hours. They are a long way from being self-sustaining, given the size of the family and the ages of the children.

But we feel this is one of the reasons God placed this family in our lives. Because we, as a large congregation of caring people, are best able to help this family during hard times as we cover them with prayer and provide some financial support to help ends meet. Financial contributions can be made by check to the church, noting "Immigrant and Refugee Fund" in the memo or by giving online and selecting "Special Gift" from the dropdown and write "Immigrant and Refugee Fund" in the memo.

Please plan to come to the presentation at church by Sue Davis and Sue Scott during Sunday School Adult Education Hour on September 10. We will share how we got our start, some of the obstacles we've encountered and overcome, as well as our hopes and dreams for the future.

In closing, we'd like to give thanks for the volunteer hours provided by Nancy and Tim Currinder, Tom McNeely, and Edward Thompson. They have helped to get the family to English class on Thursday nights, a time that mother and the children greatly enjoy.

In Partnership,
Sue Davis, Noreen Mayfield and Sue Scott