

Update: IKEA donating furniture and supplies for refugee families

Posted September 16, 2016 on the St. Andrew's website:

http://www.standrewsguelph.com/sta_refugee.html

We are very happy to have such good news for our refugee family and our church families.

Last October, Paul and I read that IKEA was offering \$5,000 for many Syrian refugee families across Canada if IKEA chose the sponsoring group's application. You had to live within 100 K of an IKEA. I applied back then giving the information they asked for and then waited. I knew if we didn't hear within 2 weeks, our application had not been chosen. I had almost forgotten about it until on July 28 when I got an email from "Nicole" from IKEA, offering our sponsoring group \$5,000 worth of IKEA goods. Because we didn't have our family and because I had no idea when we would get our family, I worried that she would pass us by. Fortunately, when we spoke on the phone, Nicole said she was finding this was the case with most people she had been talking with and that if we could come over to shop and if we could get a warehouse to store things in, we would still be able to take advantage of the offer, which ended at the end of August. We thank Bob Ireland for the use of a warehouse.

On August 24, Paul and I and also our daughter (lawyer, because we thought we would have to sign and agree to certain things with IKEA!!) met with Nicole at 9:30 and shopped until 1:30. We were exhausted, but by the end we had 4 overflowing large IKEA shopping carts and a smaller one filled on the scooter I was driving. We brought home a full car load of little things now in our garage and all the big items are now stored in the warehouse. I am in the process of preparing a list of what we got because the volunteer groups will need to know what we already have.

Before we left for IKEA, I had asked several people what we should choose for our unknown family and for whom we have no accommodation!! They sent in several suggestions ... Jean Berner spent a long time that day on her computer pretending to shop at IKEA and sent me what she had "bought". Her 6 computer sheets were a very big help and we thank her.

There are many funny stories connected with this day that we can tell you as we talk about things in the future.

PATIENCE.

Joanne Harrison

On Thursday, July 28, 2016 1:19 PM, Nicole Blake wrote:

Hi Paul,

Thank you for applying for support from IKEA's Refugee Support Program. After reviewing all of our applications, we would like to work with you on fulfilling your request for support to settle the family that the Presbyterian Church in Canada has sponsored.

Please contact me if you are interested and we can get to work!

Sincerely,

Nicole

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