



St. Andrew's
G U E L P H

Sunday, November 1, 2015

Some **REFUGEE** facts for you....

- Through the Session, St. Andrews has decided we would like to sponsor a family of refugees from Syria or another Middle Eastern country.
- This will be a group project by the entire church.
- We will be choosing our family of 4 or 5 from a list of approved refugees.
- Any refugee who has arrived in Europe already cannot come to Canada as a refugee. They will be looked after in Europe. We have no idea when someone might arrive after we get our sponsorship approved.
- The basic cost of sponsoring that size of family is \$27 000 - \$29 700, but there are also some hidden costs which we will help the family with.
- When a family arrives in Canada, that family already owes money because they have borrowed government money to pay to travel here.
- We are hoping to know that we have about \$35 000--\$40 000 to use for the year. **We wish to have pledges of at least \$20 000 before we go ahead with this.** There will be more about that next Sunday.
- The new government has promised to speed up the refugee situation so that more can leave their temporary areas and come to Canada.
- As a group we will need to work together to do the following things: find interim and then permanent accommodations; find permanent furnishings; help getting to know Guelph; help with banking, income, and other settlement issues; transportation; clothing; language training; employment opportunities; child care; health issues; education; finding appropriate religious connection if wanted; cultural issues; crisis trauma situations; recreation.....all necessary for the family to live in Guelph. We will need people to work on these various committees when they are set up.
- Many costs happen once....e.g getting a phone and hydro set up etc. etc.
- We hope to achieve all of this using as much help from the congregation as possible.
- Friends who are not connected with St. Andrews are welcome to be included in our group. We have already made contact with other churches. Let your friends know, please.
- As you may know, there are several groups in Guelph working on sponsoring refugees and already there is a good connection set up so we can all help each other.