Our Syrian family – Jamal, Hanadi, Ahmad, Yehya and Ghayth, have now been in Canada for about 5 and a half months and it has been a whirlwind for them.

As the children were home from school for the summer, Jamal continued his ESL studies at the Welcome Centre while Hanadi was looking after the kids. Susan Montgomery has graciously been visiting the home weekly to give Hanadi personal ESL attention and one of our translators, Ahmad Kashfi, has been tutoring the children in math.

Ahmad and Yehya finished up their summer soccer league with Ahmad’s team winning the silver medal in their division. Reverend Nicola’s son Noah was also on the team so many thanks to Nicola and Tim for carrying the lion’s share of the soccer shuttling for Ahmad. Val Chatland, with assistance from Anne and Myron Nicholson, also spent two nights a week on soccer shuttle duty. It was a great opportunity for the children to play a sport they clearly love, while at the same time increasing their language skills. Kudos to all for this tremendous effort.

Ahmad and Yehya also participated in the Grace Church summer theatre camp with the final performance occurring on Ahmad’s 12th birthday - a great excuse for cake all around after the tremendously successful re-enactment of the story of David and Goliath, scripted by Reverend Ken.

Our team of volunteer drivers continued throughout the summer in assisting with the continued medical and dental appointments for the family. We have unfortunately discovered that vaccinating everyone at the same time means everyone was also down for the count for the three following days. It’s a journey!

The family travelled by train to Windsor to participate in some EID festivities with Jamal’s cousin who has been in Canada for about 11 months. Now everyone is back to school this September, just like every other Canadian family.

Jamal has just started to work part-time at Pilkey Glass & Mirror. He had experience working in this area in Syria so this fits in well for him. A big thank you to Pilkey for giving him this opportunity. Hanadi is exploring training in a salon where she has some experience. Exciting times for them both.

Please stay tuned for details of a fall-winter fundraising campaign. Any and all donations gratefully received. We are also planning an event this fall for the Raslans to meet both the parishes in a social gathering.

We are looking for people who would like to take the Raslan family to different events or attractions in the Markham, Unionville, Toronto area (e.g. Markham Fair, Toronto zoo, Applefest etc.). We are also looking for opportunities to invite them into our homes to experience Canadian hospitality. Please let us know if you can help with any of this.

Sincerely

Gerry Meade

On behalf of the Grace St. Philip's Family Sponsorship Committee