
Grace-St. Philip's Family Sponsorship Committee

April 20, 2016

Dear Friends,

The Grace St. Philip's Family Sponsorship Committee would like to update you on the current status of our program to sponsor a Syrian refugee family to Canada.

As reported earlier, we have had our application accepted by our Sponsorship Agreement Holder, AURA, and are waiting for them to inform us about a family. We had hoped to be able to report the arrival, or at least the selection, of a family by this time. Unfortunately it looks like we will have to wait a while longer. We have requested a family that can be comfortably accommodated in a home with three bedrooms, and with at least one child of elementary school age.

In the process under which we are seeking a family, the government distributes lists every 2 weeks to the Sponsorship Agreement Holders. During February and March, AURA received only 1 case every 2 weeks for the 50 sponsorship groups like us with whom they are working. Given the timing of the government programs, if we are not offered a family by the end of May, it may be fall before we hear about a family.

Your generosity has given us the necessary funds to embark on the process and once we have a family identified we are confident that enough additional funds will be raised. To date we have received almost \$45,000 through the generous donations of both parishes and other interested individuals in the Markham/Unionville area. Thank you for the donations to the "household items" event and to those who have entered their furniture donations onto our website.

In the meantime our two parishes will be jointly participating in St. Philip's annual Walkathon on Sunday May 29. The proceeds from this event will be dedicated to the refugee sponsorship and we hope that as many as possible can participate and contribute. More information on this event will be distributed shortly.

Thank you for your support, generosity and patience! If you have any questions please contact us at grstpsponsorship@gmail.com

Gerry Meade

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