

Grace-St. Philip's Family Sponsorship Information Session, January 2016

Published by Herriot Visual Communications
www.herriotvisualcommunications.ca

Grace-St. Philip's Family Sponsorship Meeting Highlights

Markham — On Tuesday Jan 26, a Grace-St. Philip's Family Sponsorship information session took place in the upper hall of Grace Church. Dozens of volunteers and other interested parishioners were able to get all sorts of information regarding the partnership efforts currently underway between Grace Church and St. Philips. Attendees were able to get a glimpse into what we might expect in the coming days, weeks and months to follow.

The first half of the session featured an insightful presentation by one of the evening's guest speakers, Imam Imran Khan, who helped bring about a better understanding of some cultural and religious sensitivities which the committee will want to bear in mind when the Syrian family arrives. There's a strong likelihood that the family will be of the Muslim faith and so the talk from Imam Imran Khan really helped bring about some clarity for the committee members as their preparatory work continues.

Afterwards an informative question and answer period took place which really helped address some concerns that might not have otherwise been addressed earlier on in the evening.



Steering Committee Chair, Gerry Meade introduces guest speaker Imam Imran Khan



Ian McBride, Executive Director of AURA

During the second half of the information session, guest speaker Ian McBride, Executive Director of AURA (the Anglican United Refugee Alliance) spoke to attendees and shared with them a wealth of knowledge regarding the sort of things that committee members should know in regard to refugee sponsorship and successful resettlement of a family.

AURA will be helping Grace-St. Philip's Family Sponsorship during the entire process of its refugee sponsorship through consultation and other means of support.

Nevertheless, Grace-St. Philip's Family Sponsorship still needs many more volunteers, furniture, household items and monetary donations to reach it's goal of \$56,000.

"We do have an urgent need for people to help George McKelvey with the housing team," said Gerry Meade, the Family Sponsorship Steering Committee Chair. "He needs people to check on various websites like Kijiji and Craig's List as well as in the local papers for rental accommodation. He would also want people to go with him to check out suitable accommodation."

Any and all people wishing to volunteer their time or donate money should contact the steering committee by e-mail at grstpsponsorship@gmail.com for more information.



Gerry Meade, Ian McBride and the Steering Committee for Grace-St. Philip's Family Sponsorship



As Team Leader for Shelter, George McKelvey urgently requires volunteers to help in the short term with finding accommodation, furniture and household items. See our website's Sponsorship page for more details on how you can join the team and get involved at www.graceanglican.ca



During the break, Rev. Stephen Kern chats with the committee's Health & Wellness Team Leader David Shearer.



Before the information session, Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner, Imam Imran Khan and Moe Mohammad chat with each other.