

## **Kanata/Stittsville Refugee Sponsorship Group (KSRSG) 2017 Annual Report**

The Kanata/Stittsville Refugee Sponsorship Group (KSRSG) was formed in 1996. Our primary purpose is to sponsor refugees from around the globe and provide them with a safe haven and the opportunity for a new life here in Canada. Our eight member churches include Kanata, Stittsville and Glen Cairn United, St. John's South March, St. Thomas, and St. Paul's Anglican and St. Andrew's and Trinity Presbyterian Churches. For those whom we sponsor, we provide financial, social, emotional and logistical support for their first year in Canada. Our funding comes from the annual pledges from member churches and from occasional fundraising activities. 2017 was a very busy year for us. Here are some of the areas upon which we have focused our efforts.

### **1. Syrian Refugees:**

In June 2017 we completed our sponsorship commitment for a single male from Syria who had been living in Jordan. His family members here in Ottawa provided the majority of financial support and we assisted as needed. He now has his own accommodation and has found full-time employment. We are very pleased at how well he has adjusted to life in Canada.

In March 2017 we welcomed a single female from Syria who had been living in Lebanon. She has family members here in Ottawa who have offered assistance, while our group has provided the majority of financial support. She has been studying English and French, has a part-time job and has an apartment in a building where other family members live. We hope she is able to find full-time employment by the time her year of sponsorship ends in March 2018.

We have heard that our sponsorship application has been approved for a family of four from Syria now living in Lebanon. They have family members here in Ottawa who will be providing support and we look forward to their arrival sometime in 2018.

### **2. Families from Afghanistan:**

In June we completed our sponsorship commitment for two related families with a total of 12 members who were from Afghanistan and had been living in Tajikistan. They received considerable support from their family members here in Ottawa as well as assistance from our group. They now have their own accommodation and most are working or attending school and all are doing well.

We completed the sponsorship applications for two additional Afghan families related to those mentioned above, and have recently heard that their sponsorship applications have been approved. They will be receiving assistance from family members here in Ottawa, and we anticipate their arrival within the year.

At the request of our Sponsorship Agreement Holder, the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, we completed a refugee sponsorship application for a mother and daughter from Afghanistan living in Pakistan. Their lives had been threatened due to what is often termed an "honour killing" situation. We recently received word that they should be arriving in Canada early in 2018. They have family here in Ottawa who will provide the majority of support to them. We thank those who have provided furniture to assist this family.

### **3. Family from Iran:**

We have been working on the sponsorship application of a family of three from Iran presently living in Turkey. This application has taken longer to complete than most, but we hope to submit it by late January 2018. We do not anticipate their arrival in Canada until early to mid 2019. This family has friends in the Iranian community here in Ottawa who will provide them with support in addition to the assistance we will give them.

### **4. Rwandan Siblings:**

This past year we completed our financial support to four siblings living in Rwanda who were orphaned during the Rwandan genocide in 1994. We have supported them for about 20 years and are pleased that they have completed their education.

### **5. Ride for Refuge:**

We participated in this annual bicycle fundraising event held in Kanata in October, from which we received about \$2,300. We thank John Toft and Peter Bishop of Glen Cairn United for all of their assistance.

### **6. Other Sponsorship Requests:**

In the past year we have received about a dozen requests for assistance in sponsoring refugees who are seeking to come to Canada. Due to the limited number of sponsorship spaces allocated by the Canadian government for 2018,

we will only be able to sponsor one or two of these families, and plan to start working on those possible applications in the coming months.

### **7. Financial Statement:**

A complete financial statement for 2017 is available upon request. In summary, we have net assets of about \$30,000. This provides us with enough financial resources to be able to fulfill our present commitments and to support additional families we are planning to sponsor. We are grateful for the contributions we received from our member congregations in 2017. Your ongoing support is very important for us to be able to carry out our important work.

We wish to thank everyone who continues to prayerfully support the work of the KSRSG including those who have attended KSRSG meetings on behalf of our member churches.

Yours in Common Purpose,

Rev. Grant Dillenbeck,  
Chair of the Kanata Stittsville Refugee Sponsorship Group.