

DCPC Refugee Ministry Update – January 2023

The following is a year-end update for our Refugee Ministry at DCPC. Recently, we met with both the Gharzai and Murad families for a year-end checkpoint, and we have some late breaking news on the Gharzai family. Both families are extremely appreciative of the support provided by DCPC members as they transition into their new lives in this area. A special thanks goes out to all those involved who have taken time to share their teaching skills, participate and plan fellowship opportunities, and provide critical logistical support. Specific feedback from the families follows:

Murad's:

They absolutely love living in Davidson. Mustafa is doing well in 4th grade at Davidson K – 8, and the entire family continues to work with our ESL team on language skills. They are working to bring the rest of their family to the United States from Abu Dhabi. Zaman, his wife Habiba, their daughter Binashfa, and his brother Karim, are working full-time at Ross in Fort Mill. They will be making a decision in the next couple of months regarding a more permanent housing arrangement. This could involve staying where they are, or moving closer to work.

Gharzai's:

The Gharzai family has taken full full advantage of the ESL skills provided by our team, lead by Harriet Regen. The younger children, Noorin, Fetrat, Olfat and Mehrin, are doing very well in school. Mashal, Noorin and Fetrat are all working on changing their official records to reflect their actual birthdates, which will allow them to work.

Aashiqullah (the father) remains in France, and is still trying to obtain a U.S. visa. He has recently suffered some health problems which have left him unable to walk. This has been extremely stressful for Shama (his wife) and the entire family. As a result, the family recently relocated to Montreal, Canada, where the immigration laws should allow Aashiqullah to reunite with the family (after a 10-year absence) within the next 6 months. This would not have been possible if they were to remain in the United States. This move should also allow them to realize their goal of citizenship (Canadian) much sooner. Mashal sent this note on behalf of the family, along with a picture of them in Canada:

Based on our dad's situation, we left to Canada. We really appreciate you and your beautiful group support. We will always remember what you have all done for our family. I can't find any words to explain my family feelings and love for you all. Thanks for making a beautiful memory in our hearts. We will always remember you all in our prayers.

Again, if you wish to get involved with this important ministry, drop Marty Metzker an e-mail to discuss (martinmetzker@live.com). It can involve anything from providing transportation to doctor's appointments, to involving them in social events, or anything to develop their language skills.



Gharzai Family Arriving in Montreal



Yearly Meeting with the Murad Family



Pizza Dinner with the Gharzai Family prior to their departure