



## Saanich Peninsula Refugee Initiative Group

### UPDATE

December 3, 2015

SPRIG's Steering Wheel? Money Matters? How to donate asap?

#### SPRIG's Short History:

As of today we have sixty-seven (67) email addresses on the SPRIG list. Via email a growing number of local people are coming forward to bring Syrian refugees to our community.

On November 7, 2015, about 50 people came to an information session initiated by St. John's United Church. Sabine Lehr of the Victoria Inter-Cultural Association (ICA) outlined the refugee sponsorship process. We learned that we needed to form a core group of ideally ten people to move forward with an application through the ICA, a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) with the federal government. There are a number of ways to sponsor a refugee family but private sponsorship through an SAH is the most efficient way to proceed.

#### The Steering Wheel

On November 28, 2015, about 40 people gathered to move this initiative forward. We split into interest groups – fundraising, finances, housing, clothing, communications, tech support, ad hoc. One or two people from each new Working Group stepped forward to sit on the Steering Committee.

Meet SPRIG's Steering Committee, people with a wide range of skills and connections: Trudie Carrier, Lisa Greenly, Ann Grossnickle, Martha McCracken, Arthur Menu, Frances Pellegrin, Martha Pollatsek, Mabel Jean Rawlins, Nola Silzer and Joyce Vandall.

The Steering Committee met and made the following decisions:

- The initiative will be called the Saanich Peninsula Refugee Initiative Group (SPRIG).
- On December 11<sup>th</sup> they will meet with Sabine Lehr at the Inter Cultural Association to get information on next steps toward setting up our case file and account with ICA.
- The Steering Committee will meet again on December 16, 2015.
- We will email information about a new SPRIG website as soon as it is set up.

#### Money Matters

The ICA tells us that sponsorship of a family of four requires between \$45,000 and \$50,000. ICA can match us with a family and establish an ICA account before we have raised 30% of the full amount. However, by the time the sponsorship undertaking is submitted to the government, we must have raised a minimum of 30% of the estimated full cost, which is approximately \$15,000.

Our immediate goal: \$15,000 as soon as possible. Long term goal: at least \$50,000.

.....want to donate? Go to page 2

## How to donate to SPRIG

Until we have a case-specific account at the ICA (which could take a month or more) there is only one way to make a charitable donation to this initiative and receive a tax receipt. That way is via **St. John's United Church - Refugee Sponsorship Fund**. All the funds received by St. John's will be transferred to the ICA account when it is established. As of today's date, there is already \$3,555 in the account.

To donate to SPRIG:

1. Make your cheque payable to **St. John's United Church - Refugee Sponsorship Fund**. Note: St. John's cannot accept debit or credit card payments.
2. Ensure that your name and current mailing address, as well as an email address if you have one, are clearly indicated on the cheque so that the tax receipt can be sent to you.
3. Mail or drop off the cheque to:  
St. John's United Church  
10990 West Saanich Road  
North Saanich, BC V8L 5R9

## Questions or Comments?

Email the Steering Committee at [sprig@gmx.com](mailto:sprig@gmx.com) .