



Saanich Peninsula Refugee Initiative Group

UPDATE #24

April 29, 2020

SPRIG's last newsletter was sent out in February more than a year ago. Until this month there has been no news to report about the application for SPRIG to sponsor Safaa and her four children to come to Canada.

APPLICATION DENIED:

Now we have received the decision. Safaa's application did not meet all the conditions laid down by the Canadian government. The application was denied.

What deeply disappointing news for Safaa and her children. They have been waiting for four years, dreaming about their new life in Canada. It is also deeply disappointing for Safaa's brother and his family living in Victoria. They have just become Canadian citizens and have been longing for the day when more of their family would live close to them and the cousins could play together.

NEXT STEPS:

This decision is also deeply disappointing for all of us who have so faithfully and patiently supported this application to sponsor a refugee family.

Your donation to SPRIG is still held in trust by St. John's United Church. That money is restricted and can only be used for the formal sponsorship of refugees after they arrive in Canada.

SPRIG Steering Committee is exploring possible next steps for SPRIG and for the sponsorship money. We will communicate the options to you soon.

Your thoughts and suggestions are important:

- What do you see as the next steps for SPRIG?
- How would you prefer to allocate the SPRIG refugee sponsorship money?

Email your comments to share@sprig.me.

PRAY FOR SAFAA AND HER CHILDREN:

Safaa is an amazingly strong woman and a wonderful mother. In an email she said,

"I have not lost in these four years. I won the greatest friends in the world. Among the tribulations, the mighty greats come out. I hope from God that my children are among them."

As she and her children enter into their time of prayer and fasting associated with Ramadan, they are sheltering from Covid 19 in their small apartment in Lebanon. Their faith in Allah is strong and helps them face each day and will support them as they look for hope and direction for their future.

www.sprig.me

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