



## Saanich Peninsula Refugee Initiative Group

### UPDATE #2

December 21, 2015

Mission - Steering Wheel - Money Matters - Learn More - How to Donate

**SPRIG's MISSION:** to privately sponsor a refugee family to settle on the Saanich Peninsula.

### **SPRIG's Steering Wheel**

SPRIG Steering Committee met with Sabine Lehr of the Inter Cultural Association (ICA) on December 11<sup>th</sup>. We were encouraged and informed about many things, and also advised to *be patient*.

Before meeting with Sabine Lehr again on January 11<sup>th</sup> each Steering Committee member will complete several forms. After all that paperwork is processed to ensure capacity and good intentions, the Steering Committee will enter into a formal agreement with the Canadian government and ICA to become jointly liable with ICA to provide defined financial and settlement support for one year to a refugee family.

SPRIG's volunteer Steering Committee: Trudie Carrier, Linda Gray, Lisa Greenly, Ann Grossnickle, Martha McCracken, Arthur Menu, Martha Pollatsek, Mabel Jean Rawlins, Nola Silzer and Joyce Vandall.

### **Money Matters**

Joy and hope is raised from the outpouring of support from dozens of generous donors. As of December 20, 2015, SPRIG has received \$45,665. All the monies raised will be used to support the settlement of refugees in our community. Thank you! Thank you!

The *current target is \$60,000*. This may change again, depending on the size and composition of the family that is assigned to us.

Thank you to St. John's United Church for handling the donations until SPRIG is formally linked with ICA. Be assured that financial policies and procedures are in place to ensure good accounting practices.

Watch for information about special fundraising events in the New Year.

**SPRIG's Interactive Website:** [www.sprig.me](http://www.sprig.me)

Thanks to Gary Theobold and Art Menu, our skilled Information Technology Team, SPRIG's interactive website and Facebook page are under construction. Please be patient while volunteers prepare more content.

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## Learn More

### Some helpful resources:

- [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca) - Immigration Canada rules on refugee sponsorship
- [www.rstp.ca](http://www.rstp.ca) - Government of Canada refugee sponsorship training
- [www.icavictoria.org](http://www.icavictoria.org) - Inter-Cultural Association of Victoria
- <http://schoolswelcome.wix.com/1000schoolschallenge> - Schools welcome refugees
- reports and stories on CBC websites: The National, As It Happens and The Current

### FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions):

<i>How long before SPRIG's family arrives?</i>	Processing private sponsorship applications takes time. Perhaps six months? A year? Or more?
<i>Who will have "hands on" contact with the refugee family?</i>	Volunteers must be registered with ICA and complete a Criminal Records Check before working closely with a refugee family. At this time the Steering Group will register.

*Be patient, there is time to learn and do this well.*

## How to Make a 2015 Charitable Donation to SPRIG

Until SPRIG has a case-specific account at the ICA 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.

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?

Website: [www.sprig.me](http://www.sprig.me)

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