



Saanich Peninsula Refugee Initiative Group

UPDATE #18

September 24, 2017

September 29th – The First Anniversary

of the arrival in Canada of Fatma, her parents and her younger brother. It has been a year of challenges and successes for this family: adjusting to a new way of life, trying to communicate in a language with unusual sounds and different script, feeling the separation from extended family and friends, making new friends, being supported by community organizations and the Canadian government, and struggling to become financially self-sufficient.

Congratulations to Fatma for her many achievements in the past year. Today she is moving forward successfully in level 4.4 English at Camosun College. In addition to her studies, she is working as a salesperson, backroom staff and cashier for a major retail store. These accomplishments come from her adaptability, intelligence, common sense, positive approach to life and courageous determination.



SPRIG has successfully fulfilled its legal sponsorship responsibilities for Fatma. However, this wonderful young woman knows that our relationship with her will remain strong for a long time. We have learned so much from her and her family to prepare us for when Safaa arrives.

PROGRESS IN SAFAA'S APPLICATION:

More than a year ago we submitted an application to sponsor Safaa and her four children. The wheels of bureaucracy have been moving, albeit slowly. In October Safaa will have another interview at the Canadian Embassy in Beirut. She and her children along with her brother and his family in Victoria and all of us are hoping for approval and their possible arrival here before the yearend. Speaking to Safaa every week via Skype we assure her that she and her children are remembered in our prayers.

MORE VOLUNTEERS STEPPING UP:



Housing is a challenge. As soon as we know details of Safaa's arrival we will send an email, asking everyone to help search for reasonable rental housing at the lowest cost.

The Steering Committee welcomes Theodora Saddlemeyer as its newest member. Theodora's extensive experience in our public school system will be valuable as Safaa's children adjust to education here.

Volunteers in the English Language Working Group continue to provide conversational English sessions with Fatma's parents.

SHOPPERS Optimum Card: Go to <https://www1.shoppersdrugmart.ca/en/optimum-new> to donate your points to SPRIG to help Safaa purchase supplies for her family.

www.sprig.me

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