



Saanich Peninsula Refugee Initiative Group

UPDATE #21

February 24, 2018

Let us not forget that at this moment war is wreaking pain on children, elders and those in their prime of life.

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM SAFAA:

Millions of Syrians leave their home escaping from the tragedies of war and its hardness. I am one of them.

My name is Safaa. I have four children, three daughters and one son. The sadness of war forced me to escape to Lebanon at the end of 2014 searching for new shelter. There I was living with my parents, my sisters and brothers and their families until they travelled out of Lebanon in 2015. Then I stayed alone with my children struggling with the bitterness of life in Lebanon. The days go and the traces of bitterness in my heart are mixed with pleasure of kindness and love for those days which I lived in Syria before the war. My deep hope to achieve a good life for my children helps me forget my taste of adversity and suffering.

A breath of hope and optimism went in my home when my brother who is settling in Canada told me that a group of sponsors, SPRIG, want to sponsor me and my children to come to Canada. They submitted an application for me in 2016. My pleasure was big when two of the sponsors (Nola and Mabel Jean) began to Skype me every week to help teach me English and support me psychologically. They are very kindly and lovely women. I am grateful to SPRIG very much. Now I am still in Lebanon waiting to travel to Canada as many Syrian families are waiting like me. My application is in process. I thank everyone for helping me complete my application. One day I will arrive to Canada and meet and sit down with them with appreciation and respect for them. One day I will join them. I hope that day will be very close.

We will email another SPRIG UPDATE as soon as we have specific news about Safaa's arrival. Thanks again to the diligent staff in Elizabeth May's office who continue to help track the progress of Safaa's application.

MARKING FATMA'S PROGRESS

Last week the Steering Committee presented Fatma with a unique book of photographs, all taken during her first fifteen months in Canada, plus two classic Canadian books. We are proud of her.

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