



Saanich Peninsula Refugee Initiative Group

UPDATE#3

January 15, 2016

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

“MUSICIANS FOR REFUGEES” Benefit Concert

Sunday, February 7, at 3 pm - St. John's United Church, 10990 West Saanich Road

Tickets \$25 at Tanners in Sidney

The WestCoast Chamber Players and Sooke Harbour String Quartette are donating their time and talents to support SPRIG. Hear compositions by Bach, Beethoven, Copland, Haydn, Mahler and Mozart.

If you want to donate baking for the intermission please contact Lisa at greenlygrove2@gmail.com or (250) 415-0093. Bring your baking to St. John's United Church between 11:15 and 11:30 a.m. on February 7th, or just before the concert.

Application filed with Inter-Cultural Association

On January 11, 2016, the SPRIG Steering Committee submitted a formal application to the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria (ICA) to become a Constituent Group for refugee sponsorship. A refugee family could be identified for us within the next month. The ICA will then work with us to complete the necessary documents to enter into a sponsorship undertaking with the federal government. We do not know when a refugee family will arrive – maybe very soon, maybe up to a year from now.

The ICA and SPRIG will be jointly responsible for the family's reception, housing and basic necessities, income support for 12 months, settlement assistance, plus emotional and moral support. In order to ensure the security of the newcomers, only people who are identified and cleared by the ICA, with a criminal record check, will have one-on-one contact with the family.

Steering Committee:

Mabel Jean Rawlins, Chair

Nola Silzer, Secretary/ICA Liaison

Arthur Menu, Treasurer

Martha McCracken

Trudie Carrier

Ann Grossnickle

Joyce Vandall

Linda Gray

Martha Pollatsek

Email the Steering Committee at: sprig@gmx.com

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Fundraising exceeds expectations

The open-hearted generosity of our community is amazing! As of January 11, 2016, SPRIG has received more than \$61,000 to support the sponsorship of a refugee family to the Saanich Peninsula. Thank you to every donor.

The ICA tells us that, with \$60,000 to \$70,000, we could support one very large family with six or seven children; or a core family of father, mother and five children plus two adult family members.

All the money has been collected through the St. John's United Church – Refugee Sponsorship Fund. St. John's will mail charitable tax receipts to donors before February 28, 2016.

What happens if SPRIG raises more money than is needed for one family? All monies raised will be used to sponsor and settle refugee families.

Have you a lead on RENTAL HOUSING in Sidney?

SPRIG is looking for a three or four bedroom rental home in Sidney for the refugee family. Although we do not know the size or composition of the family, we need to know our housing options and will follow up all leads.

Please contact Trudie Carrier at sprig@gmx.com if you have any leads or suggestions.

Household effects and clothing

Nothing is needed at this time. When we know the size and make-up of the family that will be settling here, we will start to gather the appropriate household effects and clothing.

What can you do?

- Discuss with your family and friends how newcomers from different cultures can strengthen our community.
- Discuss how your business, neighbourhood, workplace, church, classroom or sports team can welcome a family into our community.
- Contact us through our website to track SPRIG's progress, subscribe to our email updates and get involved.

For more information, visit www.sprig.me