



Saanich Peninsula Refugee Initiative Group

UPDATE #8

July 29, 2016

The SPRIG Steering Committee in partnership with St. John's United Church reports progress on both of our applications to sponsor Syrian refugees.

THREE-BEDROOM SIDNEY/PENINSULA RENTAL NEEDED URGENTLY

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) just confirmed that **our application to privately sponsor a 21-year old Syrian woman, Fatma, under the BVOR program, has been approved.** She has her visa to travel and we should receive notice of her exact arrival shortly -10 days in advance.

Since fleeing Syria, Fatma has been living in Turkey with her parents and 8-year old brother. Fatma had to apply for resettlement to Canada as a single person because of her age. Her parents and brother will arrive in Victoria as Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) at the same time as Fatma. The Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria will look after the resettlement of the parents and brother; however they have asked us to help find accommodation for the whole family. The government will provide temporary accommodation for the parents and brother in a hotel. Fatma will stay with a SPRIG member until the family can live together in permanent rental housing. The best way to support Fatma in our community will be to find accommodation for the family of four, ideally in Sidney.

If you know of a three bedroom rental house or apartment for this Syrian family of four, please call Nola Silzer at (250) 896-6806 or email silzernola@icloud.com.

If you can commit your time to support Fatma and her family with daily tasks during their first few months in Canada, please email us at sprig@gmx.com.

Even if you have already indicated how you would like to support, please help us update our records.

SAFAA EXPECTED IN EARLY 2017

On July 20, 2016, IRCC notified us that our application has been approved to privately sponsor Safaa, the 34-year old single mother and four children now living in Lebanon. The case has been sent to the Canadian visa office in Beirut for processing. According to the IRCC website, processing from that location takes approximately eight months. The visa office will contact Safaa for an interview. If it is successful, she will be referred for medical, security and criminal records screening. We have asked that the case be expedited on the grounds that Safaa is "a woman at risk", living with small children, illegally, in Lebanon.

THANK YOU KATHY SCOTT AND FRIENDS!

For making the St. John's Refugee Sponsorship Fund this year's recipient of donations from the 5th Annual Garden Tour on June 12th. \$600.00 gratefully received!

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sprig@gmx.com



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