

## Refugee Resettlement Update 10/2018

We are asking for monetary donations to purchase hygiene supplies for refugees arriving in our area. Here is how we got to this point:

A few years ago, it was decided by district conference to set up a district team to help with refugee resettlement in our area. The Refugee Resettlement Task Team was formed as a result. Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley is the only agency in the Dayton area that works with the State Department to resettle refugees in Montgomery and surrounding counties. At this time, the arrivals in our area are from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

After a number of discussions with the CSSMV and asking how we could help, in summer of 2017 they asked if we could collect fans. The apartments that the arrivals move into do not have air-conditioning and CSSMV likes to give them at least one fan per bedroom. We collected 88 box fans for them in a few weeks. They were most appreciative and we earned their trust.

Last fall we had more meetings with them to see how we could continue to collaborate. They asked us to organize and maintain their warehouse. In doing so I learned a number of things: the shampoo and conditioner I use on my hair would damage very curly, dry hair, most of the combs I use would never work in their hair and that their body lotion needs to be unscented. I have also learned that most of the combs, shampoos, body lotions and conditioners donated are not suitable for people from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. So, it was decided with the permission of the district board, moderator elect and moderator to **ask for monetary donations at district conference to purchase these items**. We can get more bang for our buck purchasing in bulk and be sure that it is usable for the refugees.

CSSMV accepts all legal donations. Example, they can not accept cribs with slats that are less than  $2\frac{3}{8}$  inches or 6 cm apart. Donations that can not be used by the refugees are given to other non-profits like St Vincent's and The House of Bread.

You may mail checks to the district or put them in the offering at conference or put them in your Sunday offering. Please be sure to put "refugees" in the memo line. If you have questions please feel free to email me at: [lbrandon@woh.rr.com](mailto:lbrandon@woh.rr.com)

Thank You,  
Linda Brandon and the Refugee Resettlement Task Team.

### Other ways you and or your church can help:

- Work at the warehouse on a first Saturday or at another time
- be a tutor- if you wish to do this contact Ashley Clark in HR at Catholic Social services at 937-223-7217
- Hold a Goodwill clothing/ household linen drive to benefit the refugees. Contact Michael Murphy at 937-223-7217. CSS gets credit for each bag of donations in the form of vouchers they give to the refugees to buy needed clothing at Goodwill. Please use small bags as all bags count the same, regardless of size.

