

# The Lyme/Old Lyme Refugee Resettlement Committee

2 Ferry Rd, Old Lyme, CT 06371

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*Vision: To make Lyme and Old Lyme a welcoming safe haven for displaced people*

*Mission: The Refugee Resettlement Committee will provide shelter and sustenance to families who need support due to a traumatic/catastrophic event that has forced them from their homes*

April 2018

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Lyme and Old Lyme have a long and proud history of welcoming refugees from war-torn regions across the globe over the years resettling families from Laos, Burma and Rwanda. In the spring of 2016, in response to the world-wide refugee crisis, Christ the King Roman Catholic Church, First Congregational Church Old Lyme, and St. Ann's Episcopal Church created a new, ecumenical Refugee Resettlement Committee with the goal of helping newly arrived refugees adapt and thrive in their new home. The Committee works closely with IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services) in New Haven. IRIS is a non-sectarian, independent non-profit refugee resettlement agency that has welcomed more than 5,000 refugees to Connecticut since 1982.

<http://www.irisct.org/>

In the past two years we have welcomed a refugee family from Syria and a Puerto Rican family (whose home was destroyed by Hurricane Maria). Thanks to generous financial and volunteer help, we have been able to provide temporary housing, access to social services and medical care, transportation, educational support and employment opportunities, always working toward each family's self-sufficiency and independence. Over the next few months, the Committee hopes to offer the same warm welcome and assistance to the family of an Iraqi interpreter who served with our Connecticut National Guard troops in Iraq.

How can you help? Donations of time or money can make a huge difference in the lives of refugee and displaced families. Donations in any amount are welcome and greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

## ***The Refugee Resettlement Committee***

The Rev. Joseph Ashe

Nada Awwa

Emily Bjornberg

Mariette Brown

Anthony Cannella

Carol Carlson

Bobbi Doyen

Doina "D." Gonci

The Rev. Scott Harris, Co-chair

Peter Immordino, M. D.

The Rev. Steven Jungkeit

Kathleen Kronholm, Co-Chair

Gregory Kundrat, M. D.

Louise Lynch

Nancy Mol

Susan Mountz

Madeleine Nichols

William O'Shaunessy

Carole Otto

Pamela Potter

Michael Rafferty

The Rev. Mark Robinson

Mary Seidner

Jo Ann "Cookie" Staves

Sharon Tracy



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\_\_\_ I wish to volunteer my time. Please contact me to discuss opportunities to help:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I wish to make a tax deductible monetary donation (\*\*please make your check payable to St. Ann's Episcopal Church with "*Refugee Resettlement Committee*" in the memo line):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_