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*A Message from the ICSJ Parish Refugee Effort Committee*

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## A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Just take a look at the photos of our refugee families below! The one on the left was taken as a (barely) used bike was delivered to our Afghan family in Skokie. The mother, Binafsha, and her four kids couldn't have been more delighted when the donor's daughter, Lauryn, and son Geoffrey (who is also in our Parish choir) brought the bike to their apartment. Dildar, the father, is



missing from the picture as he now has his certificate from the Hospitality class he was taking and is working at a downtown hotel. The three older children will be starting first, second and fifth grade in the fall. But three-year-old Aoib is not far behind, having just learned to sing the ABC song this past week.

The bike has already been put to good use, with Dildar using it for grocery shopping, errands and even occasionally to work. And recently donated soccer and basketballs enabled the volunteers to get away from the books for a bit and play basketball with the older boys.

The other two photos are of our new refugee family from Burma who have settled in Rogers Park. When we introduced them to you a few weeks ago, Aa Ka, the father, with the help

of Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement, was searching for a job. The good news is that he started work in food service at O'Hare last week! Everyone is breathing a little easier, especially since his wife, Lin, is expecting their second child, a girl, in September. Lin's English is progressing very well, thanks to her previous work in Malaysia and the Volunteers who are helping her with her written English. Getting a handle on that is her big goal for the summer.

Tristan, almost two, can now identify the letters in the alphabet. He loves playing with the kids of two of our volunteer



families and, according to one mother, he is teaching "sharing" skills to his new American friends. We all learn from each other, don't we?

The Parish has, once again, responded generously to our suggestions for possible contributions—another bike and a tricycle will be going to the Skokie family, and floor fans and laptops to both families. We are still "newbies" when it comes to assessing needs, our goal being to make them as independent as possible as soon as possible while retaining and increasing our friendship and guidance in cultural adjustment, English language learning, access to the neighborhood, understanding our public transportation systems, etc. We will continue to keep you updated over the summer.

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Learn more about the effort and how you can get involved at  
[www.icsjparish.org/refugee-effort](http://www.icsjparish.org/refugee-effort)