

*A Message from the ICSJ Parish Refugee Effort Committee*

## The kids come in all sizes and ages, as do the ICSJ Volunteers!!

Lin, the mom from Burma, is happily adjusting to her new home in Rogers Park, with her husband Ak Ka and her almost



two-year-old son, Tristan. He will turn two the end of August and the volunteers are planning for his first American Birthday party. Lin and Ak Ka are expecting their second child in September, so Tristan will have a bit of adjustment in the coming months. He has already made new friends with the children of the RP volunteers

and continues to emphasize to them the virtue of Sharing, according to the parents.

It has been four months since we met the Faizy family from Afghanistan at O'Hare. From the first moment, we all fell head over heels in love with the four children—three boys almost 10, 8 and 4 and Yasra, the adorable little girl who is turning 6 this weekend. The volunteers are planning an old-fashioned birthday party for Yasra, complete with birthday cake and gifts.

Two of the volunteers are shown in the photo at the right, Mary Prendergast and Assistant to the Pastor Angela Gore's ten-year-old daughter, Audrey. Mary has been using her teacher skills with all four kids and Audrey has been helping the older



boys with phonics and vowels!!

**Now that you are caught up with our families a bit, comes the ASK. And this is a big one.** Dildar, the Afghan father who worked as a US military interpreter for 13 years in Kabul, is having difficulty with the job Catholic Charities found for him. He was originally hired as a public area attendant at a City hotel. To get to work, he rides his bicycle for 45 minutes to the Red Line, where he locks up his bike and takes the EL to work the night shift.

But lately his hours have been cut from 40 to 28 and he has been told that when winter arrives and the tourist trade is down, he could be cut to 14 hours a week! He is worried he will not be able to pay his bills and rent.

Dildar has NOT been complaining to the volunteers; it is only when he is asked, does he let them know. Everyone who comes into contact with Dildar is impressed by him—his quickness in learning new skills, his fluency in three languages (including English) and his warmth and consideration. He is also a loving father—he thanked the volunteers for alerting him to the fireworks on the 4th of July, so he could reassure his kids it was not the gunfire that they heard so regularly in Kabul!

We welcome ANY ideas about possible job options for Dildar. You can contact Betty Woodward at [betdmiowa@gmail.com](mailto:betdmiowa@gmail.com) or Louise Nora at [lnora@ameritech.net](mailto:lnora@ameritech.net) with any leads. And we thank you in advance!

**Do you have  
job ideas for Dildar?**  
Contact Betty Woodward at  
[betdmiowa@gmail.com](mailto:betdmiowa@gmail.com)  
or Louise Nora at  
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