



✦ ICSJ PARISH REFUGEE EFFORT ✦

Committee Update

(New)Home for the Holidays

First, and most exciting, we met with our third and newest family this past week. A mother and her twin 23-year old daughters who are Rohingya from Burma—or Myanmar.



The ethnic group that is being slaughtered in their own country and trying desperately to escape into Bangladesh or Malaysia.

Our family luckily got to Malaysia a decade ago but have been living there as illegal aliens without protection or status. The twins have a bit of English and are



being enrolled in ESL classes but our volunteers—who include three teenagers from our parish— are going to help that effort as well as introduce them to the neighborhood, the city, our public transportation, grocery stores and so forth. You should have seen their faces light up when three of our volunteers introduced themselves as “immigrants, too” (one from Europe and two from Mexico)!

All three of our refugee families come from a much different climate than what they will be experiencing here in Chicago. The average winter temp in Burma is 72 and 85 in Malaysia while Afghanistan’s dry, arid temperature is in the

upper 50s. So Winter in Chicago will be a surprise. And none of them, the six kids and seven adults, are prepared for what is coming. Especially in the way of clothing.

So the 20-some volunteers who work with them are asking for your help (yes, again). As you start digging into your closets to see if last year’s coats/snowsuits/boots/gloves/hats/scarves/sweaters/turtlenecks/jeans etc. still fit your kids or grand-kids—OR if you feel it is time to update the Winter clothing for the teenagers and adults in the family, we have the perfect place to drop off your gently used items that you no longer need! The kids range in age from a new-born 2 month-old girl, another girl age 6, and then boys ages 2, 4, 8 and 10. There are two adult males (slightly built) and five women of varying sizes.

Beginning Saturday, November 4th, at the 5:00 Mass, and continuing through all the Masses on Sunday, the 5th, volunteers at the church will be more than happy to take those items off your hands. If you are going out of town that weekend, you can drop off your contributions at the church office during the week (November 6-10). In fact, Fr Larry says you can drop them off at either Church!

Refugee Family Winter Clothing Drive

Needs: Coats, Boots, Hats, Scarves, Gloves, Snowsuits, Sweaters, Turtlenecks, Jeans, and more.

Sizes: 2-month and 6-yr-old girls; 2, 4, 8 and 10-yr-old boys; 2 adult males (slightly built); 5 adult women (various sizes)

Drop off at either church through November 10th

November 11th Family “Shopping” Day

Families will choose from donated items. Volunteers needed.

On Saturday, November 11, we’re scheduling a Family Shopping Day and bringing the refugee families here to pick out what they need. We would welcome any help that day (as a Nordstrom personal shopper) or sorting out the donations the previous weekend (the 4th and 5th). Any left overs will be given to Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program Or to Assumption, our sharing parish, who is need of clothing both for their parishioners and the men/teens they work with in their prison ministry. So rest assured, any donation will be put to good use.

**Questions? Email Barbara Leutz (barbara.m.leutz@gmail.com),
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Learn more and see how you can get involved at www.icsjparish.org/refugee-effort