

Update for Afghan Family Sponsored by North Pointe UMC and St. Vincent de Paul April 7, 2023

This report comes mainly from Craig Welch, the coordinator for the Afghan family sponsored by North Pointe (NPUMC) and St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP). The family living here includes a father, 2 grown sons, 2 grown daughters, a son-in-law, and a 2-year-old grandson.

“Greetings Afghan committee members, hope this email finds you all healthy & happy this Holy week, 2023.

I recently attended a SVDP meeting where I was asked the status of the Ghorob family. I realized I had not submitted an update in quite awhile for a number of reasons. Last December I was in contact with Mary Flynn of Lutheran Social Services (*LSS*) re: some concerns I had about their lease and the first time they would carry their entire rent, both of which would be affected December 1st. I was instructed by Mary that continued support should be scaled back as the Ghorob's should live within their means and be given space to grow on their own. There was wisdom in Mary's advice as the Ghorob's not only handled their rent in December (and every month since) but sat down with the LL (*landlord*), Tom Christenberry to work out a new 6 month lease which is in their name and not LSS. The Ghorob's have grown and spread their wings as the original jobs our committee arranged for them have now been replaced by better ones (all on their own) and even took care of their taxes with plenty of time to spare.

As far as employment, (*sons*) Shakeeb, Wasique and (*son-in-law*) Rawoof left Cree Lighting and are now working at BRP U.S. in the industrial park behind the Renaissance theater. Just recently (*daughter*) Razia left O & H Bakery to join them at BRP which is a boat-building company. They work 5pm to 3:30am Monday thru Thursday. (*daughter*) Krishma is working door dash and has been trying Uber however she must wait until 21 yrs of age to drive Uber. The Father, Amir is dogged by back & neck issues, has seen many Doctors with Sue Henderson's help, and is currently unemployable for those physical issues. I set up an SSI phone interview for him in May.

Other news on the medical front, Rawoof has made numerous trips with Sue W. and Mary Connelly to the Eye Institute in Milwaukee. He has gotten special glasses and a device called a portable magnifier which allows him to magnify his laptop and anything that needs to be read. He also will be receiving genetic counseling as this is the core problem. This is a work in progress but Rawoof has a zest for life and a great attitude.

Razia's son Siawash, just turned 3 and is attending a day-care on Douglas Ave. and his English is getting pretty good. Razia takes him for walks and she says he drives her crazy with question after question! I can only laugh as I remember those days and how fast they vanish.

Rawoof and Krishma moved to their own apt. on Douglas Ave. not very far from the Ghorob's. It is a very nice place and they needed their own place as privacy was at a premium on Shoreland Dr. They recently hosted a birthday party there for Siawash.

The Ghorob's all appeared in Chicago in January for their formal Asylum hearings and no word yet on the results. R.I.C. (*Racine Interfaith Coalition*) informed me normal Asylum decisions can take up to a couple years. Lawyers provided by Catholic Charities expect 6 months for all Afghan refugees.

Shakeeb still has his dream of practicing Dentistry but working and saving money is #1 for him as none of those dreams will come cheaply. Razia is the only Adult without a driver's license but She doesn't seem to be in any hurry.

Other Afghan news, Sacred Heart Parish on Northwestern has recently sponsored two Afghan families who both reside in the old rectory South of Sacred Heart. The families consist of 17 members with the two Fathers being Brothers. These families have lived in the Milwaukee area but wished to live together which was not possible until the miracle of Sacred Heart. Sue Henderson is a Parish member at Sacred Heart and as you would expect, has been plenty busy with this new challenge.

I will keep all of you updated if anything newsy happens such as Asylum etc. My goal this Spring is to get shortened update notices and thank you's into all the Catholic Parishes and Northpointe United Methodist Church bulletins.

Take Care everyone and have a very Blessed Easter
He is risen, Hallelujah!

Craig”