



# The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener ON EAGLE'S WINGS

June 18, 2023

Available online at [StJohn316.com/OEW](http://StJohn316.com/OEW)

## An Update from the Refugee Committee

The Refugee Committee welcomed Alganesh, Binyam, and their two children to Canada on a snowy morning in late February.



In the weeks leading up to their arrival, committee members had leased an apartment and supplied it with everything a family would need to get started—including all furniture, kitchen utensils, winter clothing, a stocked pantry, and school supplies. Committee members also secured utilities and made a series of appointments to get the family started with their education, medical care, and other needs.

Then, following their arrival, committee members helped the family restart their lives here in Canada. The committee has also helped the family explore their new neighborhood, learn about shopping options, and enroll the children in school. The family has learned our public transit system, completed their English language assessments, and started language classes.

Committee members assisted the family with the necessary tasks of opening bank accounts, transferring the lease and utilities into their own name, and other legal paperwork—all done with the assistance of translators from the Multicultural Centre.

The Deanery created the current Refugee committee in response to the Syrian Crisis of 2015. With your support we have now sponsored and settled four families and have assisted two additional families who were initially sponsored by the federal government. In addition to the hands-on work of welcoming families and helping them learn about their new home, the Refugee Committee (with the federal government) is responsible for rent and other routine expenses for the first year. Our thirteen deanery churches contributed more than \$104,300 to support the full sponsorship of our first four refugee families, or approximately \$25,000 for each family.



We have kept these expenses this low through a combination of careful shopping, many contributions of household items, and funding from grants and similar sources.



Inflation has dramatically increased the costs of rent, utilities, and similar monthly services. We estimate that we will need an additional \$10,400 over the next eight months to support our new family as they transition to their new home.

We humbly request that each parish consider an additional donation to support our new family. Please contact committee treasurer John Ryrie with any budget questions, ([jryrie\\_04@sympatico.ca](mailto:jryrie_04@sympatico.ca))

or (519-576-1456).

To learn more about the work of the Refugee committee please speak with **St John the Evangelist** parishioners Ann Coughlin or David Whitfield.

The next issue of On Eagle's Wings will be available on September 17th, 2023.

# St. John's Seniors Group Survey

The Parish Visitors team together with Preston is trying to discern the needs of our seniors and others who would be interested in fellowship. More than 20 years ago, the ACW had a group called the *Over 39ers* that met once a month for fellowship and activities. Following is an excerpt from their Vestry booklet report for 1998:

*The 39ers had a very good year with good speakers, videos etc. with particular help for seniors. We used talented people from our own congregation, who were very willing to share their experiences and knowledge.*

*We, of course, always enjoy the friendship and fellowship of each other and are always happy to welcome new members to our group. Our refreshments have been great and the company even better...*

That year also included a bus trip to Niagara Falls Butterfly Museum with a tour and lunch at the oldest church in Niagara on the Lake and ended the year with a potluck luncheon.

We would like your feedback to learn if there is interest in a similar group. To help us, please complete the attached survey and place it on the offering plate or mail it to St. John's.

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Would you be interested in a social group meeting once per month?    Yes    No

Would you prefer the group to meet at St. John's    Yes    No

OR a location with parking and is accessible?    Yes    No

Preferable day of the week    M    T    W    Th    F    Sa

Would you prefer morning or afternoon?    AM    PM

What would interest you? Choose as many as you like. Each month a different program.

Games

Speaker

Music

Travel talk

Outing ...

Please list ideas of interest to you \_\_\_\_\_