

RECENT QCRR EMAILS

EMAIL #1

Dear Quiet Corner Refugee Resettlement Supporters,

As we draw very close to giving IRIS the "green light" for accepting a family, it's time to gather your volunteer information and preferences.

Please register as a volunteer at the following site by entering your personal information, volunteering preferences, and times of availability. The sooner we gather your info., the sooner we can coordinate schedules and be prepared to help the family. Go to...

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ZPd9u7NKK_b1zzfajT-_linRu96Dj2iMg9pwgvGF0Mk/viewform

Thank you so much!

In other news, the Bach-to-Bach concert at the First Congregational of Woodstock was a great success, raising \$1,750 for the QCRR. Many thanks to Director Ted Bradley and all involved for their giving of time and talents! Through this and other donations from individuals, the QCRR has raised \$8,835.00 to date. Many thanks for the generosity of all contributors.

As a further fundraising effort, on Friday, June 17 at 7pm, First Church of Christ Mansfield, 549 Storrs Road, Mansfield Center, will be hosting a concert of the Wisconsin Children's Choir. This concert is free and open to the public, though a free-will offering will be received to support the work of the Quiet Corner Refugee Resettlement Project. Please attend, and support as you are able!

If you know of any other fundraising efforts you would like advertised to this list serve, please send them to me at jenbeck411@gmail.com.

In hope and peace,
Jen Beck
Communications Coordinator

EMAIL #2

Dear Quiet Corner Refugee Resettlement Supporters,

Steadily, we at the QCRR have progressed toward giving IRIS the green light to welcome a refugee family. We hope to signal our readiness to them by June 1st, with emphasis on "hope," as we have a few goals still to reach. Our main challenges are still housing and funding. **If you know of potential housing** in Willimantic or along the 195 corridor through Mansfield to Storrs that is in a mile's walking distance from the bus route, please contact Steve Lane at jmenard2241@sbcglobal.net as soon as possible. We're looking for safe, affordable housing with 2-3 bedrooms.

Fundraising assistance would also be greatly welcome. WAIM (Windham Area Interfaith Ministry) has collected \$1,575 for the QCRR. IRIS has counseled that if we hope to fund families in succession, our goal should now be to raise \$20,000, hopefully by December 31. This is necessary in part because monies will be held in rental security deposits. We can confidently say that we will need \$4-5,000 or more for the first family. If you have been waiting to donate, now is the time. **Donations go**

to WAIM, PO Box 221, Willimantic, CT 06226. Put QCRR in the memo line, and they will issue statements for your tax-deductible donations.

In another fundraising effort, local artist **Brenda Bergen** will send you a small original painting for **\$10.00** and donate that money to the QCRR. If you are unfamiliar with her art, she shows her work in local galleries and fairs, and both The Hoot and the Willimantic Co-op sell her greeting cards. To order, email bbergenart@gmail.com. These would make wonderful gifts for all occasions. Thank you, Brenda, for sharing your creativity and talent.

Some exciting fundraising news is that the United Church of Christ Windham Association has given \$1,000 to the QCRR. Thank you to Bev Brazeal of the First Congregational Church of Woodstock for writing the application. The Windham Association has also offered a challenge to Windham UCC churches of an additional \$500 matching grant. **If you have a board of outreach, mission board, or any other organization that might issue a similar matching grant challenge,** please make inquiries and spread the word far and wide. We can help you by including information in this listserve.

Also, we are making progress with an online volunteer sign-up sheet--coming soon! Together with our new brochure and our willingness to speak to faith communities and other groups, we're speaking the word and enlisting people with great talent and maybe just a little time to help with this important effort.

To prepare for welcoming the family, QCRR co-leader Pastor Ann Plumley, Dianne Sprague of WAIM, and Jen Beck attended a day-long training at IRIS in New Haven on May 5. IRIS leaders and guest speakers clarified what we need to do just before, and in the first month of, co-sponsoring a family. From housing details and cross-cultural training to info on health appointments and legal services, it was a day of learning and sharing with other groups and congregations nearing the green-light goal.

Finally, to read an inspiring article or watch a video on the hope refugees can give towns like Willimantic, please see "This Rust Belt Town Is Rebounding Thanks to Refugees" at <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/how-refugee-resettlement-became-a-revival-strategy-for-this-struggling-town/>

Thank you again for all your support and work. We look forward to updating you on when the volunteer sign-up process is ready to go, how we're doing on fundraising, and the arrival and progress of a family who is sure to teach us a great deal as well as receive our help.

In hope and peace,

Jen Beck

QCRR Communications Coordinator