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Contacts: David Sullivan – (908) 441-6170  
Marie Pfeifer – (201) 910-4250  
PO Box 1544, Morristown, NJ 07960  
[info@rampnj.org](mailto:info@rampnj.org)

## **Refugee Assistance Morris Partners Welcomes Third Family**

The approaching Thanksgiving holiday reminds us of what we are thankful for. Refugee Assistance Morris Partners (RAMP), a volunteer organization, is grateful that over the past two years it has had the resources to save the lives of eleven Middle Eastern refugees, and also a new baby, who is expected in November.

“We are inspired by the stories of these brave people escaping from war zones to lives of safety in the United States, and it is heart-warming to see them apply their immigrant energy to build solid, productive lives in their new country,” said Gerry Gannon, RAMP convener.

On September 27, RAMP welcomed a new family from Afghanistan. The fresh arrivals are husband and wife who are expecting a child in late November. Many RAMP volunteers helped spruce up the family’s new apartment with furniture, household items and clothing. The newcomers have already bonded with RAMP’s second family, the Muniris, also from Afghanistan.

When a new family arrives, they meet with Church World Service in Jersey City to learn about their rights, employment opportunities and budgeting. RAMP volunteers are now helping out with health and social services and English language tutoring for the Afghan wife, who is a college graduate. The husband arrived fluent in English.

RAMP’s first family, the Tarakjis, who arrived in 2016, have self-sufficiency in sight. Beginning in November, they will assume responsibility for their rent and most of their utilities.

The Muniris have moved into self-sufficiency. The father has a good job, and has passed a boiler operator-licensing test.

RAMP extends its gratitude to its volunteers and the faith institutions who support its mission: Brookside Community Church/United Church of Christ, Church of Latter Day Saints, Morristown; Church of the Messiah, Chester; Grace Episcopal Church, Madison; Holy Family Church, Florham Park; Islamic Center of Basking Ridge, Islamic Center of Morris County, Islamic Center of Rockway, Interfaith Women of Rockaway, Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, The Presbyterian Church, Madison; The Presbyterian Church, Morristown; St. Matthew the Apostle, Randolph; St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Morris Plains; St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Morristown; St. Vincent Martyr Church, Madison; Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station; Friends Meeting House, Randolph; Sophia Inclusive Catholic Community, and Voice of the Faithful NJ.

Although refugee intake has slowed, RAMP continues to assist vetted Middle Eastern and other refugee families transition to productive lives of dignity, safety and hope in the Morris County area. To learn more about RAMP or to volunteer or donate, please visit RAMP’s website at [www.rampnj.org](http://www.rampnj.org).