

## RAMP general meeting minutes 1/28/2020

**Community Foundation of New Jersey:** Treasurer Leo Rogers introduced guest speaker Hans Dekker, president and CEO of Community Foundation of New Jersey. RAMP is a special project fund of CFNJ. CFNJ manages and administers RAMP funds, and donations made to RAMP through CFNJ qualify for 501(c)3 status.

Dekker spoke of the history of community foundations in general and CFNJ in particular. CFNJ currently holds about \$500 million in The fcharitable assets and it granted more than \$66 million in 2018 to charitable work in New Jersey and beyond.

Dekker said: "Thanks for the work you do in RAMP. It's important work. One-fifth of New Jerseyans are immigrants, and New Jersey was fourth in the country in undocumented juveniles, or DACA kids (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), living in our state. So the work you are doing is incredibly pressing and we are pleased to host what you do."

**Treasurer:** Leo Rogers said we have about \$50,000 in our account, including \$21,000 from recent fundraising. He said it costs about \$30,000-35,000 to host a family.

**Family updates:** First two families (Adnan T. and Akhtar M.) arrived in 2016 and 2017. Both families have "graduated" and are independent and doing well on their own. The Adnans are a family of five from Syria. The Akhtars are a family of three from Afghanistan.

The Fahim M. family arrived from Afghanistan in 2018. They are a family of three. The father, Fahim, has worked a number of part-time jobs such as Lyft and UPS. He has enlisted in the U.S. Army and is in basic training. In Afghanistan he served as a translator and cultural advisor for U.S. Forces.

Ali F. and Fariba M., a married Afghan couple, arrived in 2019. They are expecting a child, their first. He has extensive IT background and is seeking employment in that field.

Hashmatulallah D., a single man from Afghanistan, arrived in 2019. He has worked part-time jobs since then and is seeking employment in a water utility.

RAMP has also agreed to provide some financial support for rent and utilities for up to three months for a family of five. They arrived from Afghanistan in late 2019 and are also being helped by the International Rescue Committee.

**Chair:** Gerry Gannon explained to the crowd of about 25 people that "our goal is to have people not need us anymore." In other words, they are encouraged to become financially independent. In terms of plans for the year, Gannon said, "The IRC told us don't worry. You'll have families. They can't guarantee they'll be from Syria or Afghanistan. They might be Kurds."

Dave Sullivan