
RAMP FAMILY UPDATE S u m m e r 2 0 1 7

Tarakji Family Update

Gerry Gannon,
Coordinator
The Reverend
Janet Broderick,
Clergy Convener
Leo Rogers,
Treasurer
Karen Burns,
Secretary

The Holy month of Ramadan (their first in America) was a busy time for the Tarakji's. They fasted, attended their local Mosque and celebrated the traditional Iftar dinners (breaking the fast dinners) with family and friends. RAMP members were invited to join in several Iftar dinners where we witnessed the prayerfulness of the Muslim community.

Summer is now in full swing and our family from Syria is enjoying the wonderful things that summer brings.

The children, Lona and Maxi, are attending the Boonton Recreation Dept. Summer Camp each day and participating in many new activities. Our RAMP education chair, Noel Robinson, was able to secure campership's for the children.

The family has gone on several weekend outings with RAMP members. They visited Fosterfields Historic Farm in Morristown and have been invited to swim at RAMP member Joe Fenske's home in Boonton.

Khaled Mohamed, one of our interpreters, had the family over to celebrate the birth of his and his wife Matida's new baby girl, Jamilah. Several RAMP members were there as well and we were so happy to see Adnan assisting Khaled by serving as grill master all day. Khalad has helped Adnan and the family so generously over the past eight months and Adnan was now able to assist Khaled. It really was lovely to watch.

Adnan is still without a permanent job, but has received special tutoring in the month of June to work on his English studies. Young Mohamad is employed at the local pizza store from 4 pm to 1 am, five days a week.

Lona and Maxi ended their school year with the reception of awards. Lona receiving three

Page 2: RAMP Update

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academic awards and Maxi receiving a Bravery Award. Duha and Adnan were very pleased and Duha is delighted to share photos of the event from her phone.

So, after eight months in the United States, they are very happy to be here and are very grateful for all RAMP and its members have done to make this possible.

If you would like to contact me, please click on my name or call me. Thank you.

[Mary Gannon](#), *Family Services Coordinator, 973-377-4697*

Update on RAMP's Family from Afghanistan

It is now three plus months since our second RAMP family arrived at Newark airport, and the transition to life in the USA is going well. We have learned that we often seem to take two steps forward, but then we have one step back. Net-net, we are moving forward.

FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER

We have them settled in a 2-bedroom apartment in Morristown. They are accessing food both locally and at an Afghan market in Lake Hiawatha, and our RAMP members have been most generous in supplying clothes. One of our faithful volunteers takes the family shopping each Friday.

ENGLISH and Education in general

The first language for the family is Dari, although the husband arrived with very good English. The wife is now attending English classes four mornings a week. We have yet to arrange for play-school for the two-year-old son, but that is on our agenda. For the husband, driver-ed classes are also on the agenda, as he recently passed the NJ drivers' written test. We now have five people who have volunteered to assist us as Dari translators, so our request for translator assistance was clearly heard.

EMPLOYMENT

Although the husband has applied for a number of positions, he has yet to be offered a full-time job. One of the requirements for most water utility positions is having a valid driver's license, and since he did not drive in Afghanistan, that has been a barrier. Any ideas will certainly be pursued.

Page 3: RAMP Update

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HEALTH CARE

The wife is expecting child number two in the fall, so arranging for a female OB who takes Medicaid has been a key objective, and challenging. Since they live relatively close to Morristown Memorial Hospital, that's where we are focused.

ADMINISTRATION/SOCIAL SERVICES

The transition from Passaic County to Morris County, from the perspective of Social Services, presented several challenges. Fortunately, the Church World Services agency provided guidance, and most of the social service issues are now resolved. They recently opened a checking account, which is ordinary for us, but something new for the family.

We are most grateful to all of the people who have stepped forward to assist RAMP as the co-sponsor of this family.

If you would like to contact me, please click on my name or call me. Thank you.

[Tom Lewis](#), Family Services Coordinator, (973) 822-1989

Please watch for RAMP emails for calls for volunteers to support the needs of our RAMP families. If you would like to receive RAMP emails, please contact us at info@rampnj.org. Thank you.

About Refugee Assistance Morris Partners (RAMP): Refugee Assistance Morris Partners (RAMP) is a coalition of Protestant churches, Catholic churches, a religious order, religious organizations, synagogues, and mosques located in the area. Civic organizations are also welcome to participate as members of RAMP in this humanitarian, people-to-people effort. Currently, there are more than 220 individual members.

RAMP operates as a Special Project Fund of the Community Foundation of New Jersey and accepts donations. Financial donations should be sent to Treasurer, RAMP, P.O. Box 1544, Morristown, NJ 07960. Checks should be made to the Community Foundation of New Jersey with RAMP indicated in the memo line. All donations are tax deductible. RAMP also accepts in-kind donations, especially of house furnishings and clothing.

Refugee Assistance

RAMP
Morris Partners

*A Bridge to Assist People to
Cross From One Life to Another*

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Please make checks payable to *Community Foundation of New Jersey* and designate RAMP in memo line.