

N E W S R E L E A S E

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January 2017

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Syrian refugees settle into their new home

A father, mother and three children, ages 18, 8 and 6, are the first Syrian refugees to settle in Morris County under the co-sponsorship of Church World Service and RAMP, Refugee Assistance Morris Partners. The family had an extraordinarily difficult journey from their native Aleppo, Syria, ravaged by war, to their three years as refugees in Turkey, to a true home here.

When the family arrived on Nov. 8 at the airport, no one in the family spoke a word of English. Now, the parents and the older son are enrolled in an ESL class in their town, and the entire family is receiving additional tutoring from RAMP volunteers.

The family is enjoying its lovely apartment furnished by RAMP in a very friendly neighborhood. The family also needed many clothing basics, especially winter clothing, and a sub-committee of RAMP has been responsible for outfitting both parents and children.

In its agreement with Church World Service, RAMP will be supporting the family financially for six months. They are working to find employment for the father, who is very skilled in many aspects of construction, and for the mother, who was a hairdresser in Syria. The 18-year-old, who has computer programming skills, is also eager to find employment.

RAMP volunteers have been busy raising additional funds and hope to welcome a second family soon.

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.

It 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.

Those interested in volunteering for RAMP should contact the organization at info@rampnj.org and visit the website at <http://www.rampnj.org>, where there is also a link to a speakers' bureau.

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