

2022 FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER

“Blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence” Jeremiah 17:7 (NLT)



YMCA Event



Job Fair

The first quarter of 2022 has been filled with an abundance of blessings! God has blessed the refugee network at Gateway with several new volunteers who are able to assist me with the ministry. I am now meeting weekly with Nancy, Eva, and Amy to better plan, organize, and cast a vision for ways we can help and support our refugee and asylum seeking neighbors. We have been better able to track and serve the needs of the refugees. We have had a large increase in donations and have distributed clothing, household items, and furniture to more than 60 households. We have had members of the Austin community and other churches partner with us to collect and distribute donations among our refugee friends. Our future plans include matching refugee families with church families to provide a more intimate community for them to feel welcomed and cared for.

Spotlight:



Jawid had been struggling to manage the transportation needs of his family. He would wake very early in the morning to walk his 6 children to school before biking to his job at the Marriott hotel. He then needed to get back home in time to walk his children back home at the end of their school day. A generous family was able to donate a van to him which has greatly helped his entire family. They are so grateful!

Spotlight:

Kendra is a volunteer who teaches English as a Second Language (ESL) at Austin Community College. She has offered to teach English to a group of Afghan women. She has felt God guiding her process as she is teaching these women. She shared “Today as I woke up, I understood that God wants me to teach how to build relationships in English. When a person moves across the world, they lose their place in the community. They have lost their friends and extended family, as well as their status with those around them. They no longer know what to expect from people they interact with. When a person moves into an unfamiliar culture, they’ve even lost the knowledge of how to rebuild community connections.” Kendra is providing such a key ingredient in teaching these women how to build relationships and connect in their new culture.

Other Highlights:

In January, we hosted a Community Event at the YMCA of Cedar Park. The YMCA generously donated their facility for this wonderful event. Over 100 refugee and asylum seeking neighbors attended. It was a joyous day which included games, music, lunch, and shared songs and dances which expressed the culture of the various communities. This was a wonderful opportunity to make our new friends feel welcomed, to make connections, and to network together. We hope to host more of these events.



On March 3rd, we hosted our first Job Fair at Gateway North. Approximately 100 candidates came to seek employment opportunities with SmokeyMo’s BBQ and Borden Dairy. They also were able to receive bags filled with toiletry items, t-shirts, a mug, and a Bible. They were very energized by this event and enjoyed communing with others from the refugee and asylee community. The Austin American Statesman highlighted the event in this article: [Austin American Statesman Article](#). This event was so successful we hope to host similar events with more business partners on a regular basis.



We have much to celebrate and are so grateful to God, our Great Provider, for blessing this community and ministry so abundantly and cannot wait to see His continued work throughout 2022 and beyond.

Prayer Requests:

- STRENGTH TO CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR REFUGEE COMMUNITY SINCE WE CONTINUE TO HAVE A LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES.
- PRAY FOR OUR NEXT PROJECTS FOR MATCHING REFUGEE COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE IN OUR CITY, TO PROVIDE A MORE INTIMATE COMMUNITY FOR REFUGEES TO FEEL WELCOMED AND CARED FOR.
- PRAY FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS AND THAT GOD WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MORE VOLUNTEERS.
- PRAISE THAT THERE ARE 2 REFUGEES FROM IRAN WHO WISH TO BE BAPTIZED! PRAY THAT THEY ARE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THAT HE GUIDES THEM TOWARD GREATER FAITH AND THAT THEIR JOURNEY MAY INSPIRE OTHERS IN THEIR COMMUNITY TO SEEK JESUS.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR
BEING A PART OF THIS
JOURNEY AND THANK YOU FOR
YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT.**

**See more
Refugee
photos here.**

[Google Drive
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