

REFUGEE NEWSLETTER

FIRST QUARTER 2023



MOTHERHOOD

We also are welcoming many brand new neighbors into our community. Several refugees have welcomed new babies into their families over the past few months. We celebrate this new life and try to assist with providing needed items and driving the mothers and new babies to many doctor appointments. Several women from Wayside Communities Church hosted a baby shower for one of our expecting mothers and she was overjoyed with the love that was showered upon her.



MOVING

The beginning of 2023 has been busy with many new refugee and asylum-seeking families settling in the Austin area. There have been approximately 15-20 new families who have requested help moving to their new apartments, who need many items for their new empty apartments, and who are looking for general assistance settling into their new community. We are so grateful for our wonderful volunteers who continue to be generous in sharing needed items, who assist with delivery of items, and who have helped several families move around the greater Austin area.



TRANSPORTATION

As our friends settle into their new community, we are also assisting them to take their next steps to independence by helping them to find jobs, and by showing them how to use the bus system to get to their new employment sites. We are so grateful for the response of our volunteer community who step forward to help with these one-time opportunities to assist our friends with appointments and transportation needs.

YOUTH MENTORSHIP

Youth mentorship is another area that continues to be an area of great need, and engagement with the youth refugee and asylum-seeker community is a priority. Alliance has begun to work with a partner who is exploring starting a charter school for refugee teens. Stay tuned for progress on this exciting project.



BLESSING

We continue to be humbled by God's constant blessing of this community and for providing for the needs of refugees, asylum seekers, and volunteers so faithfully.



MORE THAN WELCOME

Speaking of new exciting projects, Alliance and several partners have started a nonprofit organization to further support refugees and asylum seekers in the Austin area. The hope of the organization is that by uniting, educating, and activating the local Church, we will have a greater impact for refugees and asylum seekers across greater Austin. The goal is to share the Gospel and love of Christ with refugees and asylum seekers and either connect them with local churches for ongoing discipleship or set up new church plants in heart languages. To learn more about this new venture, please check out the website at www.morethanwelcome.org. Please also be aware that you will soon be receiving an invitation for the More Than Welcome launch event. We are so excited and hopeful that you can join us! Please watch for an email invitation soon!



AMANI NEIGHBORS

We recently hosted a dinner for volunteers involved with our Amani Neighbors matching program. It was so wonderful to hear of the ways these amazing volunteers have connected with their matched families, to share our struggles together, and to problem-solve ways to improve this important program. We are excited to gather in this way more regularly, as it was such an encouraging gathering.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for strength and endurance as there are many new projects being launched to better support our refugee neighbors.
- Pray for our Amani Neighbors project as we seek to continue to provide a more intimate community for the refugees to feel welcomed and cared for.
- Pray that the Lord will grow the youth mentorship program and provide needed volunteers.
- Pray that God will bless the launch of More Than Welcome and build this community according to His will.

Praise:

Praise to God for providing so many ways to serve the refugee and asylum-seeker community, through the Amani Neighbors Program, mentorship opportunities, and the launch of More Than Welcome.

*Thank
you!*

So much for being a part of this Journey and thank you for your wonderful support.

Bible Verse:

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."
Philippians 1:3-6 (ESV)

