

January 27, 2022

Fellow Congregants,

Thanks to the generosity and support of the Agudas Achim community, “our” two Afghan Refugee Ally families have settled into their new homes not far from Agudas. Their apartments are furnished and their most basic needs are taken care of, but there is more to do to support them. They are effectively starting from scratch without jobs; without knowing the area; without knowing the school system, the healthcare system, even the employment system; and they desire personal connections.

It takes a community to rebuild lives. **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED IN TWO WAYS**

ONE: Volunteer to help our two families in any of the following ways. Commit to support by signing up here: <https://tinyurl.com/RefugeeAssist>

- **JOBS:** Provide help with job applications, networking, and maintaining a job once employed. Specifically, assist with the use of job search portals (Indeed, Snag, and Linked In) as well as how and when to follow up with employers and widening horizons when looking for jobs.
- **GENERAL FINANCIAL LIFE SKILLS:** Assistance with setting up a bank account, paying required bills, establishing good credit, and planning for future goals.
- **TRANSPORTATION:** Help the families access and navigate public transportation. Provide behind the wheel experience so they can get their driver’s license. Provide rides to appointments.
- **CLOTHES FOR 3-YEAR OLD BOY AND 5-YEAR OLD GIRL:** Winter and spring clothing—shirts, pants, shoes
- **BOOTS:** Men size 8 and women size 7
- **HEALTHCARE:** Assist them in finding primary health providers, arrange for specialized medical care, follow-up medical and dental appointments.
- **EDUCATION:** Help enroll the children in school. Converse with the adults to give them practice speaking English. Find and help them enlist in job training.
- **PLAY DATES:** For children ages 3 and 5.
- **TRIPS TO PUBLIC LIBRARY:** Teach parents how to use the library, which is walkable from their apartment.

- **FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:** Donate to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund and earmark your contribution for the refugee families. This will help cover expenses such as utility bills, transportation costs, other necessities. Gift cards for Target and Aldi are also needed.

TWO: Become involved in Supporting Afghan Refugees beyond our two families. Contact NoVA RAFT (Resettling Afghan Families Together) through their website, <http://novaraft.org>. Agudas Achim has been working collaboratively with NoVa RAFT on Afghan resettlement efforts. The organization has many opportunities for all interests. Questions about NoVA RAFT? Contact Barbara Elkin at barbaraelkin62@gmail.com