

Afghan Refugee Apartment Move-In Day – November 7

Update to Agudas Achim Congregation

November 3, 2021

Agudas Achim – You Rock! You have donated enough goods to fully furnish an apartment. Let's move our family in!

Thanks to your generosity, we are prepared to move in an Afghan refugee family this Sunday, November 7. We have started bringing donated household items and groceries to the apartment, and we have received enough donated furniture to furnish the entire apartment! Thank you to everyone who has donated. By now, donors should have received a message from Gabriela Tannenbaum about how we can use your donation.

If you are interested in volunteering your time--either to collect items or to help with move-in day--please sign up here by the end of day on Thursday, November 4. We especially need a volunteer who is able and available to drive a truck on the highway on Sunday, November 7.

Many of you have generously donated to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund totaling more than \$7,000 which will be used to buy items that were not donated and to pay for other necessary costs, such as groceries for the family or storage for donations. Remaining funds will be used to support this or future families. We also have collected close to \$1,500 in gift cards which were donated already to refugees through NOVA RAFT, the area-wide organization coordinating these efforts on behalf of Lutheran Social Services. Thank you all so much!

If you are interested in donating furniture or household items, but didn't get a chance to sign up yet, stay tuned! We plan to support another family soon, and will be re-posting the signup sheet next week to begin collecting new items. We are also still accepting financial donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund (note that it is for Afghan refugee resettlement) and gift cards.

The first family we are supporting has two children: a 5-year-old girl and a 4-year-old boy. We are furnishing a two-bedroom apartment for them right here in Alexandria just across the street from the Aldi off the 395 Seminary Road exit. Our goal is to provide them with additional assistance as time goes on to make sure they not only have a head start in our community, but also that they are empowered to feel at home as our neighbor.

Thank you all for participating in this community-wide effort of *Hachnasat Orachim* (welcoming the stranger).