

## **Louth Churches for Refugees - Future Planning & Opportunities**

1. It is now nearly 18 months since Louth Churches for Refugees welcomed a resettled Syrian family to Louth as part of the UK Government's "Community Sponsorship" programme. We have an on-going responsibility for the family as we undertook to care for them until they are fully settled-in. Some of our agreed "sponsorship" responsibilities (eg financial) will draw to a close over the coming months and this makes it timely to consider our future plans and opportunities as a charity.
2. After a pause during the Covid emergency period, the Home Office Community Sponsorship programme has re-opened for applications. The needs of refugees from the areas ravaged by war in Syria/Iraq are continuing - and have escalated as a result of the pandemic. Jesus' call to us as we seek to follow the path of the Good Samaritan in caring for our neighbours remains insistent: "Go and do likewise".
3. Following a period of prayerful consideration, the Trustees of Louth Churches for Refugees have come to the view that the charity should make a new application to participate in Community Sponsorship and to welcome a second family to the area. Now is the time we need input and assistance from our existing members and supporters, and to extend our network of support. There are various actions ahead:
  - We will need to find another house which will be suitable for the next family.
  - We will need coordinating/administrative help in putting a Community Sponsorship Application together and getting the necessary support from local agencies and authorities.
  - We will need help to deepen our connections with local church communities and to extend support, engagement and participation in our charity's work.
  - We will need more volunteers to provide practical help for another family - for example more people to help with English tuition, education support and help settling into the local community – we need to widen our charity's connections with local communities, to encompass support from more organisations and individuals.
  - We will need help with leading a fundraising and communications campaign, and practical help to secure the necessary funds, and we should aim to raise £10,000 over the coming year.
  - We will need people to pray for us and for God's blessing on our plans and efforts.
4. The trustees of Louth Churches for Refugees are enthusiastic about the opportunities ahead of us to support another family.
5. We invite you to consider how you might be able to help. And we welcome your comments, questions and suggestions as we begin to move forward with our plans and preparations.

May 2021

# Facts & Figures

(Source UNHCR & Refugee Council, 2021).

The crisis in Syria began in March 2011. After 10 years of upheaval, there are more than 13 million displaced Syrians inside Syria & around the world.

As a result of Covid, poverty is on the rise. Food insecurity is a growing threat. Access to education and health care have decreased.

85% of the world's refugees live in countries neighbouring their country of origin.

There are 6.6 million Syrian refugees and asylum seekers worldwide, in over 130 countries.

Over 1/3 of school-aged Syrian refugee children have no access to education.

The UK is home to approx 1% of the 29.6 million refugees displaced across the world.

In 2019, more than 2/3 of refugees came from just 5 countries: Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar, Somalia.

People seeking asylum are fleeing from conflict and abuses, looking for safety.