



ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE DIVISION  
TREASURY REPORT 2015/121

**TO:** Mayor Avis & Members of Council  
**FROM:** Laurie Witherspoon, Treasurer  
**DATE:** November 17, 2015  
**SUBJECT:** Families for Families Committee Financial Request

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**BACKGROUND**

At the November 17, 2015 Administration & Finance Executive Committee the request received from the Families for Families Committee was reviewed for recommendation to Council.

The Families for Families Committee was formed as the initial requirement to make application to sponsor an immigrant family displaced from their home due to conflict in the Middle East. In order to support a family of five, the committee must raise \$35,000.00 and hope to accomplish this goal by Christmas to gift a refugee family with a new life and new hope.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration & Finance Executive Committee recommend approval of a \$500.00 donation to the Families for Families Committee for their sponsorship of a refugee family.

Council Approval of This Report Will Agree to the recommendation of the Administration & Finance Executive Committee to approve a donation in the amount of \$500.00 to the Families for Families Committee in support of their efforts to sponsor a refugee family.

ATTENTION KATHY

## Families for Families

Families give us new life, provide for our needs, and care for us. Can our Fort Frances family welcome others in?

We were all devastated by the image of the toddler, Aylan, found on a Turkish beach. The picture represented the tragedies of war; the helplessness of innocent victims, the desperation of those trying to escape violence, persecution and death. Daily, on the news, we see images of crowded boats, people running to freedom with children in their arms; some being welcomed with food and lodging and some being barred from entry, their hopes met by barbed wire and hostility. It is truly heartbreaking.

The challenge for neighbouring countries, trying to accommodate hundreds of thousands of people, is a true test of charity. For host countries, the difficulties of caring for so many immigrants are immense. Because of their proximity to the areas of conflict the countries in Europe and the Middle East bear a great burden. Should they be the only ones to respond to the needs of those displaced from their homes, jobs and countries? Are we not all one family in our shared humanity? How can we help?

There are procedures that must be followed when bringing refugees into Canada. When twenty people gathered at the Fort Frances Library Thursday evening, October 15, they fulfilled the first requirement by forming a committee of "Families for Families". It was decided that in order to expedite the sponsorship process they would operate under the D.O.O.R.s to New Life Refugee Services run by the Catholic Diocese of Thunder Bay. They are ongoing Sponsorship Agreement Holders and will be able to assist the local group in the application and settlement processes. They have a list of families who have already been approved and are waiting for sponsorship to Canada.

The next step requires the sponsoring group to raise enough money to support the refugee family for one year. This amount is \$35000 for a family of five. The group thought it would be wonderful to try to raise that amount by Christmas to gift the refugee family with a new life and new hope.

After the money is in the bank, application is made to the government and a family is matched to the community. The government agencies then assist the family by arranging the necessary background checks, medicals, documents, preparations and travel to the host community. The sponsorship group prepares for them a home and assistance for a new way of life.

Area businesses are very important to the well being of the community and we rely on their generosity and cooperation in many ways. It is the hope of the committee that our community make this sponsorship possible and then help the refugee family in its transition to regain a sense of belonging and safety and give all family members a chance for a brighter future.





# Families for Families

Could you involve your business family in giving this gift of love and hope?

Donations can be dropped off at the CIBC Scott Street Branch or brought to St. Mary's Church, Monday through Friday, 9:00-3:00. Charitable tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more. E-transfers can also be made to [stmarys@jam21.net](mailto:stmarys@jam21.net). Please make cheques payable to St. Mary's Church with "Families for Families" on the memo line.