A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of Catholic Community Services of Utah,

For nearly fifty years, refugees from various regions of the world have come to Utah and received assistance from Catholic Community Services. All of these refugees are fleeing violence, war, and religious persecution. Through the generosity of supporters like you, Catholic Community Services welcomes these individuals and families with open arms to start new lives in our community.

The last few months have brought a wave of political controversy regarding refugees and their ability to resettle here in the United States. Even in the wake of this uncertainty, Catholic Community Services continues to do what we have always done—provide help and hope to those most in need regardless of race, religion, or personal circumstance.

Our programs at CCS provide invaluable services to refugees, helping them adapt to their new environment and guiding them toward self-sufficiency. Our staff and volunteers help refugees find employment, obtain housing, and enroll children in school.

At this time of uncertainty, we are so grateful for the support of our incredible donors and friends. We have received donations and letters of encouragement from around the country in support of our service for refugees. Many have stood with us at the airport as we welcomed refugees, or at peaceful demonstrations showing solidarity and support for those around the country who are most vulnerable.

With God’s help and friends like you, we will continue serving families and individuals who have been victims of religious persecution and violence, helping them gain self-reliance in a new country and culture. Your continued support provides a profound message of acceptance, a spirit of welcome, and the light of hope.

Sincerely,

Bradford Drake
Executive Director
Gift of the Drummer Brings Joy to Utah Children

By: Jessica Payne

With your help, homeless, low-income, and refugee children experienced the joy of opening a gift this Christmas. Toys, warm hats, mittens, and coats were donated at our Homeless Services and Refugee Resettlement locations to be distributed to more than 1,500 low-income and refugee children and homeless adults through our Gift of the Drummer program.

For many of us, Christmas is a joyous time spent with family and friends. We look forward to seeing the joy on our loved ones’ faces as they open brightly wrapped gifts. But many Utah families struggle to pay for basic necessities and have no money left to purchase presents for their children. The Gift of the Drummer program helps provide these struggling families and individuals with a warm and heartfelt Christmas experience.

Thank you to all who opened their hearts and brought joy, warmth, and Christmas spirit to those in need during the holiday season.

Current Donation Needs and Volunteer Opportunities

Donation Needs

- Hygiene Products: Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, lotion, soap, combs/brushes, small wash cloths, razors, sanitation pads, diapers (all sizes)
- Furniture: beds, desks, tables, chairs, couches
- Food: Non-perishable food items. Bottles of water

Volunteer Opportunities

- Hygiene Products: or 801-977-9119 to donate, or deliver items to 437 W 209 S, SLC or 745 East 300 South
- Food: or SLCC 84102

Volunteer Opportunities

- Refugees Resettlement
- St. Vincent de Paul Dining Hall

Or visit our website at: www.ccsutah.org

Joyce Hansen Hall Food Bank
To volunteer, please email volunteer@ccsutah.org

Dream Builder’s Luncheon

By: Danielle Stamos

Mark your calendars for our Dream Builder’s Luncheon on Wednesday, May 24th! We are excited to hear from our Key Note Speaker, Lieutenant Governor Spencer J. Cox and recognize all the Dream Builder’s making a difference in our community.

We will also have the great pleasure of introducing The Most Reverend Bishop Oscar A. Solis to our Northern Utah community.

Each year, this event gives us pause to thank and celebrate those working tirelessly to provide help and create hope for those most in need. This year, we are honored to recognize Associated Foods, Knights of Columbus, and Marcella Martinez.

CCS Welcomes Refugee Family

By: Jessica Payne

On February 2, 2017, nearly 300 people came to Salt Lake International Airport to welcome Hassan Barat Ali Hassan and his family, refugees who were sponsored by Catholic Community Services. Having escaped from Afghanistan years earlier, this family fled to Pakistan and lived in a refugee camp while waiting for refugee status. It was only through a federal judge’s partial stay of the 120-day temporary ban on refugees that Ali Hassan, his wife, two sons and three daughters were finally able to enter the United States.

As people crowded into the airport to show their support, many brought flowers and balloons to welcome the Ali Hassan family. Some held signs and banners saying, “We love refugees. No Ban, No Wall,” and “No hate, No fear, Welcome refugees.” The family was touched by the show of support as they made their way through the crowd.

“This is the first time in our lives we have been welcomed,” Ali Hassan said. “You are so kind and nice.”

While the family felt fortunate to have successfully made it to the U.S., Ali Hassan’s mother was not so lucky. Unfortunately, she was temporarily prevented from travel to the US. The family feared she would be sent back to Islamabad, but a few days later, she was allowed to enter the country and was reunited with her son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren.

When asked what he wanted Americans to know about his religion, Ali Hassan said, “Islam is the religion of peace. Islam is the religion of love.”

Catholic Community Services is proud to assist families like the Ali Hassans, and to provide help finding housing, employment and other services to make them feel welcome as they start a new life here in Utah.