

Annual Report 2019  
Community Refugee Committee of St Albert  
(Serving Greater Edmonton)

The Community Refugee Committee started in early 2016 as a community partnership project including volunteers from the community, St Albert Host Lions and St Albert United Church. The group successfully sponsored a young Syrian family in 2018-2019. This rewarding sponsorship ended in July 2019 with the newcomers becoming acclimatized to life in Canada and continuing to learn English on their journey to becoming contributing members of Canadian society.

The updated title of the committee includes the words "Serving Greater Edmonton". This will provide clarity on where the family might locate as well as give us a broader scope of volunteers and donors.

A current group of volunteers formed a refreshed committee of 11 members from the community, St Albert Host Lions and St Albert United Church. There are 5 former and 6 new members. The new members come from all walks of life including a social worker, web designer, accountant, business consultant as well as two members of the newcomer family who will give us their valued perspective.

The committee has met twice with the purpose of getting to know each other, deciding on a goal, planning for fundraising, redesigning our brochure and beginning the application process. The goal is to sponsor two refugee families. Each family consists of mom, dad and four children with the children ranging in ages from 5 months to 8 years. The fathers are brothers of the 2018-2019 newcomer family's mom.

Our fundraising goal is \$74,000. The committee currently has \$18,000 left over from the last sponsorship which is being held at the Alberta Treasury Branch in St Albert and approximately \$15,000 already committed from donors. Our first fundraising activity will be to connect with former donors including individuals, businesses and service clubs.

With the advent of Covid-19, the project is on hold. The families in Lebanon are managing much as we are in Canada with physical distancing and the added challenge of limited food supplies. Once Covid-19 is under control and international flights are allowed, the committee will implement their fundraising activities and application for sponsorship.

CRCSA wishes to thank the Council of St Albert United Church, our Sponsorship Agreement Holder, for the support of this important life-saving initiative.

Judy Evans, Chair CRCSA  
(Helen Arnott, Consultant)  
May 26, 2020