

The CARR



Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement

Press Release: October 26, 2015

The CARR is running so hop on board and let's get moving!

There have been so many tragic images emerging from the struggles for survival of the world's 4 million refugees and these pictures have struck a chord with so many of us. For many it is no longer possible to sit and watch: doing nothing is not an option.

The Perth & District Community Foundation got the wheels in motion last month by bringing together representatives of various service clubs, municipal governments and charities, as well as concerned citizens to see what could be done in our community.

In less than one month a committee of community leaders representing residents of Perth, the Townships of Tay Valley, Lanark Highlands & Drummond North Elmsley was formed. Committee roles were defined, leaders were selected, a road map was determined, and the Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement was established ~ The CARR was set in motion.

With Ann Munroe and John Shideler in the driver's seat as co-chairs and Gord Munroe as the vice chair The CARR is revving up to bring several refugees/families to settle in our community.

There appears to be no lack of interest, ability, or enthusiasm on this team and several members have already stepped up to lead subcommittees and move forward with the sponsorship process.

Several nearby communities have also taken on this task, have already had success with the process, and are now welcoming refugee families to their town. Since there is no need to recreate the wheel The CARR can tap into the experience of our neighbors and use the road maps that have already led to success. There are also a number of organizations that offer support to sponsorship groups like The CARR such as RSTP (The Refugee Sponsorship Training Program).

There are several avenues for the private sponsorship of refugees and The CARR has determined that working with an existing Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) is the most expeditious route to follow. Currently a subcommittee is investigating 3 options and will recommend the best fit for our situation at the next meeting. Once this partnership is established The CARR will select a refugee family to sponsor and a settlement plan will be established that will allow refugees to be sponsored and welcomed to our community.

So the wheels are turning and The CARR is gearing up. Treasurer and webmaster Colin Stephenson has partnered with the communications team and has “The CARR” website up and running at www.TheCARR.ca. If you feel called to do something in the face of the current refugee crises you can visit this website to donate and find out how you can volunteer.

The Perth & District Community Foundation has generously set up a fund to support The CARR. They are providing tax receipts for all donations and are professionally managing the funds, which will be dedicated to the sponsorship of refugees as required. It takes around \$30 000 to sponsor a family depending on the number of people. The CARR has set a goal to raise \$100 000 by the end of this year in order to sponsor 3 refugee families. In order to be connected with a refugee family we must show that we have the funds available in our account and we have the people power behind it. This adds some urgency to our fundraising efforts and your donations will be put to use right away.

Some of the teams that will need volunteers as we continue to move forward include Fundraising, Accommodations, Healthcare, Employment, Settlement, and Education. There is a complete list on the “Volunteer” page of the website where you can find more details and The CARR contact information.

Please visit www.TheCARR.ca to find out how you can help to keep the CARR moving forward and make a difference during this world crisis.