

St. Augustine's Refugee Task Force: January 2016 Update

Our sponsored family

The members of the family we are sponsoring have had interviews with Canadian government agents in Lebanon and will soon receive medical examinations. According to Lethbridge Immigration Services, it usually takes about two weeks after these for families to be able to leave for Canada. This means **members of our sponsored family could arrive by the end of January.**

Housing has been found for all of the family members in a suitable home and two nearby apartments. The committee has voted to put a deposit down to secure these. The collaborative effort among the university and several churches has raised approximately \$139,000, enough so far to look after the needs of the sponsored family members.

While no privately sponsored refugees (PSRs) have arrived in Lethbridge, the city has received about 30 government-assisted refugees, mainly children, since the last week of December.

What is still needed . . .

- * a person to represent St. Augustine's on the housing sub-committee
- * storage space for donated goods
- * bedding
- * new, unworn under-garments for men, women, and children

Fundraising

The second in the series of three benefit concerts will be held on **Sunday, February 7 at 3:00 PM at St. Augustine's.** This promises to be an exciting afternoon of opera highlights presented by the University of Lethbridge Opera Workshop, under the Direction of Dr. Blaine Hendsbee. The program is expected to include arias and scenes from well-known works, such as Puccini's *La Boheme*, Verdi's *La Traviata*, Humperdinck's *Hansel und Gretel*, Bizet's *Carmen*, Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, and Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*, among others.

Weekly photo calendars are still available to purchase; it is not too late to take one home for 2016. With 52 beautiful photos contributed by members and friends of the parish, this is something that can be enjoyed for the whole year—a great value for a good cause. There are also **greeting cards** for sale, featuring stunning wildlife photography by John Black.

Copies of a **recording by pianist and START chair person Brian Black** will soon be available for purchase. The CD features works by composers Chopin, Schubert, and Debussy, with all proceeds going to the refugee fund. Please contact Brian for details at brian.black@uleth.ca or 403.327.8520.

On Sunday, January 3, parishioner Andrew Legg held a benefit one-man performance of **Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol.** Co-organized by Judith Robinson attendees enjoyed the performance as well as mulled wine and fellowship at the sold-out show, held in a heritage-designated private home in the downtown.

St. Augustine's contributions have been impressive: over the last few months, **parishioners have donated goods, volunteer time, and money totaling about \$25,000.** The generosity of spirit behind these is inspiring.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our neighbours in need!