

Syrian Family Update and Volunteer Opportunity

Thanks to the support of the Temple Israel community and, especially, of our dedicated volunteers, the Syrian refugee families sponsored by Jewish Family Services of MetroWest have embarked upon new and promising lives in our community. They are so appreciative of our help as they acclimate to life here: studying English, starting jobs, and watching their children revel in the joys and, above all, the sense of security that they now experience every day.

These families' continued progress depends on the work of a cadre of Temple Israel volunteers, who have created a support system for each step the family takes. There is so much for our volunteers to do, both as knowledgeable and caring resources and in their helping with concrete needs, such as driving to various appointments in the Metro West area and, sometimes, in Boston or Worcester.

Through this volunteer work we give of ourselves to what were the world's most vulnerable and needy people. But those who have been involved in this work have more than anything experienced the greatest imaginable pleasure and satisfaction from getting to know these families and becoming part of their story. There is much to be done, but the rewards for the volunteers, as for the families, have been immense.

As our families' needs grow, we are looking for additional volunteers who can commit 2-3 hours per week, preferably between 9am and 5pm on Monday through Friday, often fluctuating from week to week. If you are interested in volunteering and can give us this number of hours per week, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Dorene Nemeth, at anemeth@rcn.com. So much depends upon our work with these families that your help will be immensely appreciated!