

## GLOBAL REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE

A group of volunteers raise funds to try to resettle refugees in Dublin 8

In Dublin, Ireland, a group of volunteers called **Dublin 8 Refugee Community Sponsorship** (D8RCS) are beginning the process to welcome a refugee family to Ireland through Community Sponsorship Programme Ireland. So far the group has raised just over half their funding target. These funds will go towards paying rent, bills, and other living expenses for the family when they arrive. The group highlighted that fundraising has been relatively easy, but still has a lot of work ahead before welcoming a refugee family to Dublin.

Eman and Zeban, escaped the war in Syria and now make masks for the Children's Hospital of Tandil



Photo Credit: Pablo Domrose

A Syrian family who arrived in Tandil, Argentina in 2018 through **Programa Siria**, sponsored by a local church, has been giving back to their community during the COVID-19 pandemic. The family had a tailor shop before COVID-19 forced the business to close, but, inspired by warmth and welcome they received when they arrived in Tandil, they continued to sew, preparing masks, gowns, and other personal protective equipment for the local hospital.

This Syrian refugee couple is making Canmore home after 8 years in limbo



The Tatari family recently arrived in Canmore, Canada after spending eight years in Malaysia. They were welcomed by their sponsors the **Bow Valley Syrian Refugee Project**. The couple is grateful for the support of the community and their sponsors. Now that the family is finished their fourteen-day quarantine period they are getting to know the community they now call home. They are looking forward to growing roots in their new community.

European Union New Pact on Migration and Asylum

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, the European Union proposed a **new approach on migration**. The key attributes of this Pact are strengthening and modernizing procedures and processes in order to build confidence in the asylum and migration system and to clearly define responsibilities within that system. The Pact makes specific reference to community sponsorship, including a call for Member States to provide additional resettlement spaces. Included in the **package of documents** making up the Pact is a Commission Recommendation on Legal Pathways to Protection in the EU: Promoting Resettlement, Humanitarian Admission, and other Complementary Pathways, which

outlines how the EU will support the creation of these spaces through additional community sponsorship, humanitarian admission, and complementary pathways schemes. The Commission Recommendation makes reference to the ongoing successful sponsorship and other resettlement schemes already in place in EU member states and their benefits for successful integration.

Check out the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative on Twitter!

Follow @theGRSI on Twitter for more updates on #communitysponsorship

### Irish Green Party Deputy urges community to support the “Road to Roundwood” campaign

Irish Green Party Deputy Steven Matthews has urged the local community in County Wicklow to support the “Road to Roundwood” campaign, which is working to welcome a refugee family through the Community Sponsorship Programme Ireland. The group has continued to fundraise throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. “This project is a wonderful example of a community pulling together to help a family at risk,” said Deputy Matthews.

### “In Syria, we were close to death every second – it is nice to finally feel safe”

A Syrian family recently welcomed by their sponsors to Dublin, Ireland are settling in to their new surroundings. “It’s nice to finally feel safe,” they said. The young family were sponsored after a group of mothers met at a playground and decided they wanted to help resettle refugees. The mothers then raised enough money to support a refugee family in Ireland. The family feels they are now a part of their new neighbourhood and are working to improve their English and begin applying for jobs.

### Five years on from Alan Kurdi – an overview of community sponsorship

Since 2015, the UK has welcomed 99 families through community sponsorship. Many of the families have settled in and are thriving, with many refugees mastering English and succeeding in careers and at school. When COVID-19 hit, some of these sponsored refugees were the first to help their communities. Ahmed and Enis, who recently resettled in the UK, cooked hundreds of meals for care workers. Sponsors have highlighted how transformative and experience community sponsorship has been. “It has brought together different elements in our community in extraordinary ways,” said Major Nick Coke who sponsored a family in South West London, “Whatever we have given has been returned tenfold by the most remarkable, inspirational and resilient family I have ever met.”

Check out the GRSI COVID-19 Resource Portal for more information about GRSI activities, tools and resources during this challenging time

<https://covid19.refugeesponsorship.org/>

#### What is GRSI?

The Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative is a partnership of five organizations – the Government of Canada, UNHCR, the Open Society Foundations, the Giustra Foundation and the University of Ottawa. It aims to help other countries set up their own community-based refugee sponsorship programs, strengthening local communities and improving the narrative on refugees in the process.

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