

Sponsor Circle Welcome Plan and Undertaking

A. NAME OF SPONSOR CIRCLE:

Peace Church Duluth Welcome

B. SPONSOR CIRCLE CORE MEMBERS

SPONSOR CIRCLE MEMBER 1

Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth (YYYY-MM-DD) ¹	
Boelhower	Gary	1950/06/08	
	City	State	Zip Code
	Duluth	MN	55803
	Cell phone number	Email address	
	218-428-7787	gboelhower@msn.com	

SPONSOR CIRCLE MEMBER 2

Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth (YYYY-MM-DD)	

SPONSOR CIRCLE MEMBER 3

Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth (YYYY-MM-DD)	

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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¹Note: All five Sponsor Circle Members must be at least 18 years of age and residing in the same or nearby community. 1



SPONSOR CIRCLE MEMBER 4

Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth (YYYY-MM-DD)	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

SPONSOR CIRCLE MEMBER 5

Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth (YYYY-MM-DD)	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

C. ACCREDITED UMBRELLA PARTNER (if applicable)

Are you working with a CSH-accredited umbrella organization to support your sponsorship? If so, please provide details below.

Name of organization			
Episcopal Migration Ministries			
Address (number and street)	City	State	Zip Code
Last name (primary contact)	First name (primary contact)		
Telephone number	Email address		

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D. NEWCOMER FAMILY

Please share information about the newcomer family you feel capable of supporting. Note that you must include preferred family size. If there is a particular family at a military base in the United States with whom you wish to be matched, please include any available information about them below.

Please indicate the size of the family you wish to sponsor (if known)



or the size of the family you feel capable of supporting (if unknown):

*Note - you will need to prove sufficient financial capacity to support each individual in the family. See the Financial Assessment in Part G of this Welcome Plan for more details

<p>Family size</p>	<p>4 individuals</p> <p>Although we do not have individual names or contact information for specific people, we are aware of a group of young women who previously attended Asian University for Women who are housed as a group at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. These individuals may be particularly well suited for resettlement in Duluth.</p> <p>Because of the many opportunities for higher education in Duluth, and our relationships with their faculty and administration, we are particularly interested in resettling Afghan newcomers whose higher education was disrupted by the need to leave, or who were contemplating pursuing higher education.</p> <p>Duluth does not currently have an Afghan Diaspora, but has significant support for international students and foreign born residents, particularly in our educational institutions. We are creating partnerships with the higher education institutions to obtain financial support, such as tuition waivers and scholarships, as well as mentorship and cultural connections for our newcomers. (See details in the Education section below.)</p> <p>If newcomers looking for educational opportunities are not available, we will gladly welcome a family of four, or another group of four individuals.</p>
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Information about known family (if applicable):

Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth (YYYY-MM-DD)	
████████████████████ ████████████████████ ████████████████████ ████████████████████	See explanation above.		
Military Base	City	State	Zip Code
Fort McCoy, 1654 S 11th Ave.	Fort McCoy	WI	54656
Cell phone number #1	Cell phone number #2	Email address	

IMPORTANT: The sponsor circles program will endeavour to the best of its ability to confirm a match with any known family indicated in this Welcome Plan an Undertaking in partnership with the US government and relevant processing partners. However, a match is not guaranteed.

In the event that a match with a known family is not possible, would your Sponsor Circle be willing to welcome and support a different family in need of assistance?

YES, we would like to be matched with a different newcomer family that we can assist if the Sponsor Circles program is unable to confirm a match with the newcomer family we know.

NO, we wish not to be considered for a match with a different newcomer family if the Sponsor Circles program is unable to confirm a match with the newcomer family we know.



E. WELCOME PLAN

a. Housing

As a Sponsor Circle, you must secure **safe, sanitary, and affordable** housing for the Afghan newcomers you are welcoming in your community. Please describe your plans for arranging housing, including the anticipated number of rooms and the anticipated number of any other people who will be living there. If temporary housing will be arranged prior to the Afghan

newcomers moving into permanent housing, please provide details including anticipated length of stay. Please provide the address for planned temporary and/or permanent housing, if known at this time. Please detail the estimated rental rate of the permanent housing secured/being sought.

There are rental properties in Duluth with a broad range of rates. An extensive review of online listings (Zillow, Realtors, Apartmentguide, Forrent, etc.) and print listings indicates that a mid-quality 2-bedroom apartment rents for \$1,100-1,400 per month. A mid-quality 2 or 3-bedroom home rents for \$1,300-1,700. Our sponsor circle will have help in identifying quality, affordable housing from several realtors and the president of the Duluth Landlord Association who are part of the Peace Church congregation. If the evacuees are young adults who are studying at one of the local colleges, dormitory and apartment-style living options are available at local colleges. There are several apartment complexes that cater to young adults as well, such as Campus Park Apartments or Summit Ridge Apartments. Most of these apartments are 5-bedroom units where individuals sign a lease for one of the bedrooms, ranging from \$565 to 650 per month. The apartment complex includes /swimming pool, exercise room, game rooms, and other amenities.

As soon as we know the type of housing needed (four adult women, or a family of four with children, or other), we will finalize our temporary housing plans. We will first request housing credits from the AirBnB program. If that is not available, we will provide temporary housing in congregation members' homes as valued houseguests, or rent rooms in apartments or college dormitories, until permanent housing can be obtained and furnished. The newcomers need to be involved in making decisions about desired housing accommodations before permanent housing can be obtained. It is fortunate that the President of the Duluth Landlords Association is a member of our Peace Church congregation. She is very knowledgeable about the rental housing availability throughout the community, and has offered her assistance in locating both temporary and permanent housing.

Our goal is to have permanent housing available two weeks after arrival.

A community resource that may be helpful is One Roof Community Housing, which has a free tenant education program. "Ready to Rent" classes offer resources and information for tenants looking to establish or rebuild a positive rental history. Topics include: understanding your lease and the terms of your rental agreement, learning how to foster a positive landlord and tenant relationship, understanding rights and responsibilities of both tenants and landlords, tips on how to maintain a clean, safe, and healthy home, and what to do when conflict arises with your landlord or neighbors.

b. Basic necessities

As a Sponsor Circle, you must ensure that Afghan newcomers are equipped with their basic start-up needs. Please describe your plans for purchasing or collecting donations of furniture and home furnishings, clothing, and food staples. Please also describe your plans for ensuring access to basic needs in the first 90 days of the Afghan newcomers' stay in your community, including groceries and utilities (telephone, electricity, internet). Reference any corporate and/or charitable resources you will rely on to provide for the newcomers' needs for 90 days.

The Peace Church Duluth Welcome Circle will provide for the basic start-up needs of our Afghan newcomers. The Circle is part of a larger church community, and community members across the City of Duluth and surrounding area, who have expressed enthusiasm for helping settle Afghan individuals or families. Once we have established the best housing option(s) for the group, we have a number of resources to leverage for furnishings, clothing and food staples. We will be making a presentation to the Duluth League of Women Voters International Issues Committee Jan. 24 to request their assistance in locating housing options and in donating furnishings and necessities for our newcomers. There is overwhelmingly positive support throughout Duluth; many people have been asking how they can help. We have been approached by two other church congregations who are considering applying to become Sponsor Circles, and will be happy to assist them.

Our Sponsor Circle will identify a point person for each Afghan newcomer who will ensure these basic needs are addressed and to help each individual find what they need to settle into their new surroundings.

Furnishings, Clothing and Food

For furnishings, we will initially rely on the generous donations from our Peace Church community. In the past, Peace Church members have donated furnishings for our community family shelter and transitional housing units. Members can be solicited for large furniture items and other household necessities. Once these donations are secured, remaining household items can be collected from a number of social service outlets including Goodwill Industries, Salvation Army Family Store and Damiano Center – Free Store. Duluth Circle members can also use Facebook Marketplace and Savers as affordable outlets to complete the furnishings for our newcomers.

Warm clothing will be a necessity for our Afghan newcomers and winter apparel can be collected once we have the sizes and preferences of our newcomers. In addition to the apparel that can be collected from individuals and the social service outlets mentioned above, Duluth has a variety of second-hand stores with very fashionable items for young students and working professionals. Lutheran Social Services sponsors Crisis Nursery (including free clothing for infants and children) and Teen Closet (free new and gently used clothing for youth ages 13 - 21). Donated funds can be used to host shopping trips locally for needed clothing items.

Traditional Afghan clothing including tunbaan (loose-fitting pants) or a chador

(headscarf) may not be available in the local area but we have a number of fabric stores and community members with sewing machines. These garments could be made to order.

Food preferences for the Afghan newcomers can be determined upon their arrival. The circle sponsors will ensure food staples such as rice, barley, flour, milk, yoghurt, fruits, nuts, spices, vegetables and meats are available upon their arrival in their temporary housing. Grocery outlets including Aldi, Whole Foods Coop, Super One and Cub Foods carry ethnic foods and other items could be acquired by shopping online. Super One does have available Halal meats. Duluth does not have an International Food Market but if trips to the Twin Cities are required there are shopping opportunities that can be arranged. The newcomers will also be introduced to Duluth's different food shelves, located throughout the community and supported by our local Northern Lakes Food Bank, to access additional food essentials when resources are limited.

Utilities

Our planning approach was to compile information on relevant utility resources, identify some decision points/critical steps in arranging service, and explore some current programs offering financial assistance. There is a range of Duluth housing alternatives, including for initial temporary (e.g., welcomed houseguest) vs. more permanent solutions, and as a function of the size of group being welcomed; final needs will be dictated by the actual situation once realized.

For electricity, MnPower (800-288-4966) typically requires a record of income and previous heating and electric services. However, in lieu of this requirement, a third party (e.g., Peace Church, where an Afghan Resettlement Budget Account is already established) may be authorized with a Peace Church Financial Agent as the account holder, with housing residents named on the account. **For heating and water**, Duluth Comfort Systems (218-730-4050), may also be needed depending on the housing situation. Without the residents having a utility history, a deposit would be required (Gas only \$185, Gas Water Sewer \$260). As with electricity, Comfort Systems' services also may be established with a third party responsible, or, alternatively, in the name(s) of the housing residents but with Auto-payments set up directly from the third party (Peace-held financial account).

Minnesota has a Federally-funded Energy Assistance Program (EAP) that provides financial assistance for electric, heat and water. The application is at:

[\(https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/\)](https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/).

Grants range from \$300 - \$2,000, are available to renters and are paid directly to the energy provider. The local program in Duluth is the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA, 218-623-3011) and they assist in making applications, payments, and

working with the utility. The AEOA may be able to help with the required deposits as well as monthly payments.

Qualified non-citizens are eligible for EAP, and there are income eligibility requirements, including that non-citizen applicants must have documentation of immigration status. AEOA's policy manual states that a SSN is needed, but it does not need to be in hand, just as long as application has been made. Alternatively, an I-94 document apparently may suffice for alien parolees. From State Department information we understand that Afghan resettlers are likely eligible: at Ft. McCoy they have had help in applying for SSN and also receive a stamped I-94 document. Income eligibility is assessed through application, and some forms of assistance (including donations) may count towards income in addition to wages etc. The income assessment is made at a "household" level for all residents of an individual housing unit. Assistance for rental/utility needs would be applied for as soon as the housing situation is established; help from the Peace Church Sponsor Circle and/or Peace Church Financial Agent will be required for application. The application is available in English and some other languages, but not Dari or Pashto.

Phone and Internet services. We expect that Afghan resettlers may have (or need to purchase) a cellular phone and service, if not also Internet access ...and maybe Wi-Fi for computer access if there is a group in the household. We can anticipate that resettlers may be eligible for Federal and State programs that provide monthly service discounts on one landline or wireless telephone per household. (E.g., <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/tap/>). There is Federal information at the Universal Service Administrative Company (1-888-461-8722) about these programs. As well, telephone, cellular, and cable companies each offer funding that may supplement the Lifeline or Link-up programs for qualified low income customers.

A person must meet qualifying guidelines, which can be based on either income (i.e., below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines) or through participation in one or more qualifying programs, which include Medicaid/Medical Assistance, SNAP Food Stamps Program, SSI, Federal Housing Assistance- programs which the Afghan resettlers qualify for.

The Lifeline Program (Federal) offers discounts on voice-only, internet-only, or a bundle that includes Internet. The state Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) provides a discount on landline voice service. The Lifeline Program may provide financial assistance for purchase of a cell phone. A Link-up Program may pay some telephone installation charges or deposits. A variety of wireless providers are authorized to provide discounts through these Programs in MN.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit program may also be useful. It was set up to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the covid-19 pandemic. www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit

Relevant needs will be assessed with the Afghan resettlers, and best options for low cost services will be provided.

Free/low cost computers and computer access

PCs for People in St. Paul (pcsforpeople.org or minnesotahelp.info) provides refurbished computers for low-income individuals.

The public libraries in Duluth and Superior have computers (and printing options) available for public use.

c. Documentation

Afghan newcomers who have been processed at military bases will have been supported in applying for social security cards, which should arrive at the newcomers' final destination, along with an Employment Authorization Document. To ensure that these cards are received, newcomers should be supported in completing a change of address with the US Department of Homeland Security and with the US Postal Service each time they move. Please include the links of the websites that offer guidance on this, demonstrating that you know where to go to get these forms.

We understand the importance of assisting our newcomers in learning how to change their address with the US Department of Homeland Security and with the US Postal Service, within 10 days, EACH time they move. Here are the websites needed for changing addresses online: <https://moversguide.usps.com> Note, they will need to have a credit or debit card to pay the \$1.10 fee. If they do not yet have a credit or debit card, they can go to the local Post Office to complete a hard copy of PS Form 3575.

To notify the Dept. of Homeland Security of a change of address, they will need to find Form AR11 - Alien's Change of Address Card online at <https://www.uscis.gov/ar-11>

There it states, "Most individuals can change their address in two ways: Through your existing USCIS online account if you filed your form online; or Filing Form AR-11, Alien's Change of Address Card, online."

If they go to the main website, <https://egov.uscis.gov> It notes that a valid email address is required in order to file online for a change of address.

It also states that if you filed your case electronically and have a "myUSCIS" account, you should instead visit the myUSCIS login page to submit an inquiry or address change. The website also states that "If you do not have a receipt number, you cannot update your address online." On a different part of the page, it states that you only need a receipt number if you have a pending case.

Selective Service address changes

We understand that immigrant males are required by law to register with the Selective Service System within 30 days after entry into the U.S., if they are between the ages of 18 and 25. (Note: They will not automatically be inducted into the military.) They must inform the Selective Service System of any changes of address until they turn 26. Men 18-25 can register online with a valid SSN, by using the SSS printable registration form, or by completing SSS Form 1 at the post office. The printable form can be downloaded at

<https://www.sss.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Form-1-Registration-Fillable.pdf>

Changes of address can be made online at: <https://www.sss.gov/verify/update-info/> or they can ask for the Selective Service Change of Information Form (Form 2) at a local Post Office and mail it in.

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d. Services and benefits

Please identify the services and benefits that are available to the Afghan newcomer in your community. At minimum, this is likely to include Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Programs (SNAP), cash assistance, and medical assistance. Please describe the research steps you have taken to identify available benefits and services, including consulting with your umbrella organization and relevant local/state/federal authorities. As a Sponsor Circle, you must guide Afghan newcomers through the process of accessing any available services and benefits for which they might be eligible. ***Note: All Afghan newcomers served through the Sponsor Circle Program for Afghans elect not to access Afghan Parole Assistance Program cash and services from local resettlement agencies. However, local resettlement agencies may offer other services. Local resettlement agencies should not be relied upon to make local referrals.**

The Peace Church Welcome Circle will assist our newcomers in securing all the services and benefits for which they are eligible. We have not personally had experience in seeking these services, so this has been a time-consuming effort by several people. We have learned a lot about local, state and federal resources, and have found some important allies.

A member of Peace Church Duluth is a trainer for St Louis County in Economic Services and Supports. Part of his job is helping with complicated public assistance applications - such as for non-citizens. St Louis county has not had direct refugee resettlements in the past, but MN DHS has begun getting information out to counties on the special rules for Afghan parolees, and has set up a contact at the state to help support counties without refugee resettlement agencies. Our church member was pleased to see them being much more proactive on this issue than is usual for policy changes.

He has asked us to let him know as soon as possible about the arrival of any Afghan applicants to the area; so that he can get up to speed on the appropriate

cash/snap/healthcare programs and policies, as well as make sure that their applications get diverted to him or another specialized worker, to make the process go as smoothly as possible. This will be extremely helpful in facilitating their progress in obtaining needed services.

Our Afghan newcomers will be eligible for services in the areas of food assistance, health services, renter's assistance, cash assistance, and others, such as cash assistance through Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), health insurance through Medicaid, and food assistance through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Perhaps the most important aspect of accessing the programs that provide this assistance is to have a knowledgeable navigator. Community Action Duluth (CAD) (2424 West 5th St in Duluth, phone: 218-726-1665) provides experienced navigators who ensure that the individual is treated with dignity and gets the services they deserve. CAD is connected to the RESOURCEFUL network, a national network of service providers resourceful.auntbertha.com. Anyone can use this site to gather information for a given zip code.

Beyond meeting basic necessities, Community Action Duluth (CAD) also has several programs that may be helpful to our Afghan evacuees, including the DRIVE program which helps people prepare to drive and take the required tests for driving through test preparation and coaching and answering questions about insurance requirements. CAD has several other helpful programs that may be of interest to our Afghan newcomers: the Integrated Coaching Program which helps people explore career paths and job opportunities, the Common Cents program which is a free 12-16 hour interactive class in which participants learn about budgeting, credit reports, debt, and how to get a mortgage; the Certified Nursing Assistant Program, and the FAIM Matched Savings Program for those with minimal resources who are trying to save money for a significant purchase in the future.

The Minnesota Food Helpline is another key resource. With one call, Helpline personnel assess the caller's situation and provide solutions to their food needs, including SNAP, food shelves, free meals, farmer's markets, discount grocery programs, market bucks (market bucks match SNAP-EBT spending dollar-for-dollar up to \$10 dollars at participating farmer's markets across Minnesota), and other resources. Interpreter services are available. The helpline can be accessed Monday through Friday from 10 am to 5 pm at 1-888-711-1151.

Insure Duluth offers Healthcare Enrollment around Duluth. Navigators provide free, in-person enrollment assistance. Navigators will help with every aspect of the application process and stay involved until coverage is active. Navigators are available at 218-727-3352 Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm.

A program entitled Accend offers free information and referral services to anyone who needs help identifying sources for assistance in the areas of healthcare insurance and services, mental health services, affordable housing, information about healthcare rights and other community financial, disability and community services. Navigators are available at 218-724-3122 Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm.

Our goal is to smooth the way for the newcomers to obtain these services initially, and help them become independent and self-sufficient with the various agencies.

e. Health and mental health services

As a Sponsor Circle, you are responsible for connecting the Afghan newcomer family to health and mental health services. This begins with contact made to your local health department and an application for medical assistance through your local department of social services. Please provide the contact information of these two offices here, and note any online research that you have done to find other available support services.

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services makes clear that Afghan evacuees **are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP to the same extent as refugees**, without a five-year waiting period, if they meet other eligibility (e.g., income) for coverage in the state, until March 31, 2023, or the term of parole granted to the evacuee, whichever is later. These Afghan parolees are considered “qualified non-citizens” for purposes of Medicaid and CHIP eligibility, since they are eligible for the same benefits as refugees.

Upon arrival, we will assist the Afghan newcomers in contacting the local health department.

St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services is located at 320 W. 2nd Street, Duluth, MN 55802. At this time, to help limit the face to face interactions necessary to apply for and/or maintain Public Assistance benefits, individuals are encouraged to apply online or to call or email the appropriate office:

- For SNAP/CASH/Emergency Assistance/Childcare/Long Term Care benefits, apply online at applymn.dhs.mn.gov Beginning Feb. 1, 2022, a new website must be used to apply online: mnbenefits.mn.gov

- For Medical Assistance Apply for MN health coverage online: mnsure.org

- For questions, or to have an application mailed to you:

Call: 218-726-2222 or Email: ESS@StLouisCountyMN.gov

- To submit a paper application or verifications you can:

Email: ESS@StLouisCountyMN.gov or Fax: Duluth: 218-726-2583

or Mail to your nearest building location: Public Health & Human Services, 320 W 2nd St., Duluth, MN 55802

As mentioned in the previous section, Community Action Duluth and other local agencies have Navigators available to assist people in applying for the above benefits. A Navigator makes the application process quicker and less stressful.

The Peace Church Welcome Circle will ensure that the newcomers have access to both phone and internet services. Additionally, each newcomer will be provided as much support as is requested by the newcomer as she/he applies for medical assistance either by phone or online.

The following resources are also available in the community:

MEDICAL HEALTH CLINICS, free or low cost

Lake Superior Community Health Clinic | 4325 Grand Ave, Duluth; 3600 Tower Ave, Superior | 218-722-1497; 715-392-1955 | lschc.org

Committed to quality care regardless of ability to pay. We will work with you to find an affordable option for the care you need.

WE Health Clinic | 32 E 1st St #300, Duluth | 218-727-3352 | wehealthclinic.org

Women's health provider.

MENTAL HEALTH, free or low-cost

Birch Tree Center | 218-623-1800

24-hour crisis line for support, information and problem solving, and mobile in-person crisis intervention.

Northland Children's Mental Health Collaborative |

northlandchildrensmentalhealth.org Youth mental health resource for children and families

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) | namiduluth.org

Resources, support groups and advocacy related to mental health

Let's Talk, Region 3 Mental Health Initiative | letstalkmn.com

24-hour mental health resources

North Homes Children and Family Services | 888-430-3055 | 324 W Superior St #150, Duluth | northhomes.org/location/duluth

Safe Harbor. The Life House program provides trauma-informed services for people up to age 24, who have experienced human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Adoption and foster care services, adult rehabilitative mental health, general assessment and counseling services.

Accend Services | 101 W 2nd St, Duluth | 218-724-3122 | accendservices.com

Provides a variety of high quality mental health counseling, intervention, case management advocacy & rehabilitative services to adults.

Human Development Center | 1401 E 1st St, Duluth | 218-728-4491 |

humandevelopmentcenter.org

Community mental health center serving residents in 4 counties in NE Minnesota and 1 county in NW Wisconsin. Helping families find hope!

Nystrom & Associates | 332 W Superior St, # 300, Duluth | 844-697-8766 |

nystromcounseling.com

Provide a variety of mental health services for children and adults throughout MN.

Center for Victims of Torture | ctv.org

CVT provides direct care for those who have been tortured and/or experienced violent conflict. In Minnesota, CVT has centers in St. Paul and St. Cloud. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, CVT is currently providing remote telehealth services. They are accepting new clients and can be contacted at 612-436-4855.

Walk-In Counseling Center | walkin.org

Free remote counseling provided by degreed and experienced mental health counselors, who volunteer their time. No appointment needed.

f. Legal assistance

As a Sponsor Circle, you are responsible for connecting the Afghan newcomer family to legal assistance to file their application for asylum within their first week of arrival in your community. Please provide details regarding the name of the organization or legal professional who you will arrange to assist the family in their asylum claim.

Background: Peace Church voted overwhelmingly in 2017 to become a Sanctuary Congregation. This designates our church building as a place where undocumented immigrants in immediate danger of deportation can take refuge until their immigration status is resolved. Thus, several people in Peace Church already have experience welcoming and providing housing to immigrants, and also with connecting immigrants to the support needed in their legal processes. Several members of Peace Church have also been active in the [Interfaith Committee on Migrant Justice](http://interfaithcommitteeonmigrantjustice.org) (ICMJ) and have worked with The Advocates for Human Rights in Minneapolis (theadvocatesforhumanrights.org) and the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (<http://www.ilcm.org>) in St. Paul.

We will connect our newcomers to an immigration attorney within a week of their arrival for assistance in applying for asylum and other status changes. We understand that there are two types of legitimate immigration attorneys: U.S. DOJ Accredited Immigration Attorneys, and other attorneys who specialize in immigration issues. According to the justice.gov website list of Recognized Organizations and Accredited Representatives, the closest Immigration Review offices are in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Both of the organizations listed above are on this list. We also have made

inquiries with two others on the list, Lutheran Social Services and Minneapolis Council of Churches in Minneapolis, to see if they would be able to assist our newcomers.

<https://www.justice.gov/eoir/page/file/942306/download#MINNESOTA>

A list of lawyers who have specialized in immigration issues can be found at <https://www.aialawyer.com>. According to this website, a search for a lawyer for Afghan assistance yielded no persons within 100 miles (the maximum distance allowed in the search).

Another website listed on USAHELLO, MN immigration law help, lists several other options throughout the state, but none in Duluth or closer than the Twin Cities and its suburbs. <https://www.immigrationlawhelp.org/search?state=MN>

Thus, we will locate an attorney in Minneapolis or St. Paul to work with our newcomers. Some of these organizations are currently closed to the public due to the pandemic, and hold all meetings over Zoom or other similar online meeting sites.

In addition, we have a list of immigration attorneys prepared by [REDACTED], the Director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Minnesota Duluth, which they provide to International Students, as well as a list from the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota. [REDACTED] also recommended working with the Minnesota Human Rights Law Center.

When in-person meetings are needed in the Twin Cities (Minneapolis and St Paul), we can easily arrange transportation by car from Duluth, about a 2.5-3 hour drive, with volunteer church members until our newcomers get settled in. Then we can assist them in finding bus transportation. For example, the Jefferson Line offers 5 trips each day at a cost of \$29 each way. The buses are quite comfortable and include WiFi access. A short taxi or Uber ride might be needed from the bus stop to the attorney's office, which we will fund.

If our newcomers need legal aid related to issues other than immigration, they will be able to use the Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota. The Duluth office is located in downtown Duluth, 424 West Superior St, near the bus line. Their website states that they "have been the civil legal aid provider to the northeastern region of Minnesota since 1952. In that time, it has become an integral part of the justice system and a cornerstone of the community's commitment to the proposition that equal access to justice is a basic human right." Although their physical offices are closed, people who need legal help can call 800-933-1112 or apply online at their website, <http://lasnem.org>

We have been assured by [REDACTED], Chief Public Defender for the City of Duluth, that if any of the newcomers should need a public defender at any point, he would be sure they had an appropriate public defender. [REDACTED]. He has provided training for his entire staff by The Immigrant Law Center of MN. Church

members have previously had positive interactions with [REDACTED] in their work on the Interfaith Committee on Migrant Justice.

In case any newcomers are considering attending Lake Superior College, they will be eligible for a free 15-minute consult with the Borene Law Firm in Minneapolis, which specializes in Immigration Law.

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g. Education

As a Sponsor Circle, you are responsible for supporting the Afghan newcomer family in enrolling any school-aged children in the public education system within the first two weeks of arrival. Please provide details regarding the enrollment process, including needed immunizations, in your community, as well as your district's local point of contact responsible for enrollment.

Enrolling School-Aged Children

If there are children, we will assist the families as they enroll their children in Duluth Public Schools, ISD709, within 2 weeks of arrival. They can either complete the enrollment forms online at <https://www.isd709.org/for-new-families/how-to-enroll> or they can download and complete paper copies of the required forms. Here is a list of the immunizations required, depending on each child's age.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/basics/readykidswhento.pdf> We will help them obtain any needed vaccinations.

The point of contact for enrollment is the specific neighborhood school principal (depending on the attendance area where the student is housed) or the Assistant Superintendent's Office, 4316 Rice Lake Rd, Suite 108. Phone 218-336-8739.

We have good contacts within the school district regarding English Language Learners programs for K-12 students. The ELL Coordinator is [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Lowell Elementary School in Duluth has language immersion programs for Spanish learners and for Ojibwe learners. Of course, none of the schools offer any Afghan languages. English Language Learner services are provided at all schools, and are free because of state and federal funding. [REDACTED] was enthusiastic in her response. She said, "We are happy to welcome new families." Within our congregation, we have many connections to the local schools.

Higher Education Opportunities

Because of the many opportunities for higher education in Duluth, we are particularly interested in resettling Afghan newcomers whose higher education

was disrupted by the need to leave, or who were contemplating higher education and were not able to pursue it.

One of the major benefits for Afghans coming to Duluth is the wealth of higher education opportunities here. Specific examples are provided below. Our sponsor circle members are actively working with contacts at each of these institutions to seek additional services, such as tuition waivers and scholarship funding for the newcomers. Opportunities range from technical schools and community colleges with educational programs leading to 60+ career paths, to three 4-year college and university programs.

At the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD), [REDACTED], Chief International Officer and Director of International Programs and Services explained the benefits they plan to offer to the Afghan newcomers in an email message on January 14, 2022:

“UMD is seeking approval from local and system-wide administration for tuition waiver and/or scholarships to offset the costs of tuition, fees, and room and board for university students. UMD anticipates being able to provide support for the instruction of Afghan refugees in English as a Second Language courses, whether these individuals are university students or community members. UMD staff in the Office of International Program and Services are personally prepared to welcome and provide some level of material support to refugees being resettled to Duluth, and welcome this opportunity to do so.”

The University of Minnesota Duluth is a public university which offers over 150 majors and minors, 30 Master’s level programs, two Ph.D. programs, a Medical School and School of Pharmacy. <https://www.d.umn.edu> The campus includes a large multicultural center and provides active support for newcomers through the International Student Services program. [REDACTED], UMD Director of Diversity & Inclusion, is enthusiastic about the Sponsor Circle program and has offered to work closely with our newcomers.

The College of St. Scholastica (CSS) is a private, Benedictine college, offering over 50 majors and minors, five Master’s degrees and three doctoral programs. According to [REDACTED], Dean of Students and Vice President of Student Affairs, CSS is seeking approval to provide tuition and housing to two Afghan refugees. <http://www.css.edu>

The University of Wisconsin Superior, (UWS) a public 4-year university, located in Superior WI, literally across a bridge from Duluth MN. Our contact at UWS is [REDACTED], a Political Science professor who has worked with refugees for many years, including with the Interfaith Committee for Migrant Justice mentioned earlier. He [REDACTED] speaks Farsi. We will continue working with UWS to discuss further options for Afghan newcomers there. uwsuper.edu

An intercampus agreement already exists among UMD, UWS, and CSS that permits

students to cross-register for courses on the other campuses without paying additional tuition and fees. This increases flexibility in scheduling and allows students to create their programs to include courses from the other campuses if that would enhance their academic goals.

At Northwood Technical College, a highly respected technical school offering 60+ career areas, **Shane Evenson** has offered his work cell phone **715-416-2453**. He is the Registrar at Northwood Technical College, 1900 College Drive, Rice Lake, WI 54868. <https://www.northwoodtech.edu> Their programs are offered in a variety of locations in Wisconsin.

Lake Superior College (LSC) is a public 2-year community college offering pre-baccalaureate majors and liberal education coursework for people planning to transfer to a 4-year program. They also provide educational certificates and career preparation in more than 90 areas. They are known for having effective tutoring and student support services for beginning students. **Sarah Lyons (218-733-5975)** is in the LSC Center for Equity and Inclusion. She will help guide potential students through choosing a course of studies and applying to LSC. LSC has options for financial aid through the LSC Foundation, and through grants from MN CareerForce for specific programs of study. <https://www.lsc.edu>

In summary, there are many opportunities for Afghan newcomers in the Duluth community, and at each institution, we have already located people who are eager to work with them. Since Duluth is the major medical center for all of northern Minnesota, several educational institutions have opportunities in health-related careers, including all levels of nursing, physical therapy, medical school and pharmacy.

All campuses can be reached via public bus transportation.

h. Language

Please describe any affordable language acquisition services or programming available in your community that Afghan adults may be able to access if needed (*e.g.* conversation circles at libraries, locally-funded newcomer/community services, any volunteer opportunities). Please describe any outreach you have done to identify potential service providers, including libraries, local authorities, community centers, *etc.* As a Sponsor Circle, you are responsible for connecting the Afghan newcomer family to any free or subsidized options for language learning in your community. You are also responsible for informal language training support through regular interaction and conversation. Please describe your plans to informally support language acquisition.

We will help our newcomers enroll in free English Language Learner classes sponsored by Duluth Community Education/Adult Education, a part of the Duluth Public Schools, ISD 709. The teacher, [REDACTED] will meet with each person to assess their English language skills and then assign them to the appropriate level of classes. Classes meet M-F at the Arvig Building, 325 W. 1st St, accessible by Duluth Transit buses. Phone: [REDACTED].

<https://www.isd709.org/community/community-education/adult-education>

One of our close advisors, [REDACTED], has 30+ years of experience as the teacher of Adult English Language Learner classes for ISD 709. She taught, befriended and mentored hundreds of Hmong refugees after the VietNam War, as well as immigrants from many other parts of the world. She is eager to help us informally with language learning opportunities, depending on the language skills of our newcomers, now that she is retired. [REDACTED] is very knowledgeable about the cultural barriers faced by newcomers from other countries. She also has successfully enlisted financial support from businesses and community groups to help meet the needs of immigrants.

Many members of our Peace Church community are eager to assist with informal language training support through regular interaction and conversation, on a weekly basis. At least two church members have experience as English Language teachers.

[REDACTED], UMD's Chief International Office and Director of International Programs and Services has assured us that the Afghan newcomers would be welcomed and guaranteed spots in the English as a Second Language opportunities that UMD offers its international students, whether they are UMD students or as community members. The International Student Services staff will also work with the newcomers to prepare for and take the required TOEFL or IELTS or Duolingo test, required for admission from international students who speak a native language other than English.

If there are school-aged children as part of our group of newcomers, they will be welcomed into the English Language Learner services provided at no additional cost through the Duluth Public Schools. The ELL Coordinator, [REDACTED], said these services would be provided at all of the nine elementary schools, as well as at all of the middle schools and high schools. None of the children currently being served in the program speak any Afghan language, but the newcomers would be warmly welcomed here. [REDACTED] can be contacted by email at [REDACTED] or by phone at [REDACTED].

i. Interpretation and translation

Please describe how you will communicate with your newcomer on essential topics, if your newcomer has limited English proficiency. Include the name(s) of local volunteers who will provide support and/or the contact information of the organization that will provide in-person or telephonic interpretation. Note that any

agency that receives federal funds is responsible for ensuring language access.

We have not located anyone yet in the Duluth/Superior area who speaks Dari or Pashto. We did, however, identify one person locally who speaks Farsi, [REDACTED]. He is a professor at the University of Wisconsin and has been working in this area on refugee issues for many years, including his work with the [Interfaith Committee on Migrant Justice](#).

One reason we plan to bring at least four Afghans here is so that they can support each other with any interpretation and translation needs.

This shortage of native speakers of Afghan languages is also why we are requesting people with at least some understanding of the English language. We realize this is a weakness in our community, but we have many other strengths. We may have to rely on electronic translation and interpretation services, including Google Translate, and connecting via Zoom or Facetime with translators and interpreters in the Twin Cities (Minneapolis and St. Paul) where many of the state-wide immigrant services are located. The local services which receive federal funds are required to provide translation services, and they do this telephonically.

We are also eager to try out a phone app called **Tarjimly**. This company provides on demand person-to-person translation services. When you need a translator or interpreter, you select the language, and they connect you with an available volunteer translator. This might take 30 seconds or 5 minutes, depending on the language, according to their website. Then Tarjimly connects the two in a live chat session where they can send text, voice notes, documents, or have a live phone call. According to the Tarjimly Facebook page, 7,970 people like this service, as of Jan. 4, 2022. Their website is <http://tarjimly.org>. They describe themselves as a non-governmental non-profit organization, and they invite people to volunteer their services as a translator if they are bilingual. They include translators for Dari, Farsi, and Pashto languages. Tarjimly was initiated in 2017 as a response to the Syrian refugee crisis. Their mission is “to improve the lives of refugees and the efficiency of humanitarian services by eliminating language barriers.” They also offer a monthly subscription service, which is a reasonable expense if our newcomers need this service on an ongoing basis. There are directions on the Tarjimly website demonstrating how to add a translator to a Zoom meeting or other online event, which might be very helpful in some situations.

j. Cultural Connections

Please describe how you will facilitate cultural connections for your newcomer

including access to culturally appropriate foods, connections to the Afghan diaspora, and places of worship.

The Peace Duluth Welcome Circle has spent considerable time reflecting on how Afghan newcomers could make cultural connections in the local community and across Minnesota and Wisconsin. The traditional resettlement organizations in Minnesota are located in the communities of Minneapolis/St. Paul, St. Cloud and Rochester. These communities are estimated to host about 300 Afghan newcomers. Duluth is a 2 ½-3 hour drive from the Twin Cities. The Welcome Circle expects it will be important for newcomers who settle in Duluth to visit the Twin Cities to connect with other Afghan resettlers and to seek specialized services, including legal aid and immigration assistance. Circle members will support coordination of these trips and provide assistance with transportation.

The Welcome Circle plans to bring a group of Afghan newcomers from the Twin Cities to Duluth for a weekend as Ambassadors to help orient both Duluth newcomers and Circle members. They could share their experiences and address questions about the resettlement process. This event can be repeated, opening channels between the Twin Cities Afghan diaspora and Duluth newcomers to create lines of communication and connections. It would also be our goal to use these orientations to help Peace Church members and other community members to understand the realities for Afghans resettling in Minnesota. A series of Adult Forums at Peace Church are being arranged to foster this education and cross-communication.

If the Afghan newcomers are students pursuing advanced degrees, the Welcome Circle has many connections to the major universities in the area and their international student organizations. The University of Minnesota Duluth, the College of St. Scholastica, and the University of Wisconsin Superior (literally across a bridge from Duluth) each support international students to orient themselves to their academic programs and find social support and mentorship from faculty, staff and students on campus. These institutions require basic English proficiency, and some language support services are available. These academic environments may be a good starting place for Afghan newcomers with some English proficiency who wish to prepare themselves for careers in the United States.

The local mosque, known as the [Islamic Center of Twin Ports](#), is the only Islamic Center north of the Twin Cities. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is on the Board of the Islamic Center. He has indicated his willingness to open doors to help the newcomers feel welcomed and oriented to this faith community. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has also offered to help the newcomers feel welcomed

into the mosque community. Peace Church members also have connections with other mosque leaders and can facilitate these connections. The Islamic Center is currently hosting a monthly series called “Duluth Interfaith Dialogue” to promote connections between Jewish, Muslim and Christian faith leaders in the community. The two panel discussions held on zoom so far have been well attended by community members throughout Duluth. The next event is scheduled for Feb. 12.

As mentioned in the Basic Necessities section of this document, grocery outlets in Duluth carry Halal meats and most essentials. Many of the food staples are readily available in the local area and will be stocked in their temporary housing when they arrive. When newcomers arrive, Circle members will assess their food preferences and arrange shopping trips for specialty foods and cooking utensils.

k. Employment

Please describe any affordable employment counseling or other employment-related programming in your community that Afghan adults may be able to access to support job acquisition. Please describe any outreach you have done to identify potential service providers, including libraries, local authorities, community centers, *etc.* As a Sponsor Circle, you will be responsible for connecting the Afghan newcomer family to any free or subsidized options for employment support in your community. You are also responsible for providing informal support in the job search process, including discussing with the newcomers their aspirations and brainstorming with them about options in the community, the development of resumes, orientation to job boards, and using personal networks where available. Please outline your plans for providing informal employment support, including any networks you plan to leverage.

We will begin the employment search process with deep listening to the experience, skills, and interests of our Afghan newcomers. We may practice words and phrases that relate to their past work, education and the abilities they can bring to an employer. Depending on need, we will access the services of Duluth’s Workforce Development (DWD) Department, which has been serving the Duluth community since 1968 with quality employment and training services. As a partner in CareerForce, this department is a key part of Minnesota’s career development and talent matching resource offering a variety of programs and services to career seekers and employers. According to their website, as part of the CareerForce system of services, Duluth Workforce Development works to:

Help individuals discover their skills and interests and share them with employers.

Match people with jobs based on their skills and experience.

Connect individuals with training based on their interests and abilities.

DWD administers a number of employment, training and career development programs supported by the federal [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#) and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) including [Adult Career Services](#), [Dislocated Worker](#) and [Youth and Young Adult](#) programs. In that role, the City of Duluth is recognized as one of sixteen (16) Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDA) in Minnesota with the [Duluth Workforce Development Board \(DWDB\)](#) providing oversight.

Everyone is welcome at CareerForce Duluth. Their Career Lab offers drop-in assistance with resumes and job search, as well as free job search workshops, computer classes, and on-site hiring events. The Career Lab is open Monday-Friday from 8:00am-4:30pm.

Other programs that we will access in the Duluth area are SOAR Career Solutions and Community Action Duluth. SOAR Career Solutions has Career Specialists who help individuals figure out what they want to do for a living and determine how to get it done. They help with resume creation so that people have better odds of getting an interview. Their career coaching and job search services include assessing the individual's skills and interests, polishing the resume and cover letter, how to stand out in the ocean of job seekers, practice interviews, and career path planning. They offer in-depth "Career Quest" workshops to develop goals and create a plan to target the jobs that meet the individual's needs. They also provide a "Mind Over Matters" workshop that uses cognitive psychology and social learning theory to give the person strengths, smarts and skills to be their best self in the job search process. Community Action Duluth also has an integrated job coaching program which provides many of the same services. We will talk with the directors of Duluth Workforce Development, SOAR Career Solutions and Community Action Duluth to see what services and programs line up best with the individual we are sponsoring.

Beyond these "formal" programs and resources, we have experience accessing online job sites, especially indeed.com, ziprecruiter.com, glassdoor.com, monster.com, jobshq.com and others. We also have a strong network of professionals who can connect us with job opportunities in many diverse institutions, including Duluth Public Schools; area colleges including the College of St.Scholastica, University of Minnesota Duluth, University of Wisconsin Superior, Lake Superior College and Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College; healthcare organizations including Essentia Health and St. Mary's Medical Center, St. Luke's clinics and hospital, Benedictine Living Community, and many others. Most organizations and businesses in the area are reporting job openings right now, so employment opportunities are readily available.

I. Transportation

Please describe available transportation in your community, noting how the

newcomer might travel (e.g., bus, metro, rideshare, walk) to and from possible employment, worship, and the grocery store.

Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) provides bus service to all areas of Duluth, and to nearby communities of Hermantown (including shopping mall), Proctor, and Superior, Wisconsin (including University of Wisconsin Superior campus). Fares are very reasonable with peak fare of \$1.50 and off-peak fare at \$.75. Day passes can be purchased for \$3, weekly passes for \$15 and monthly passes for \$40. Fare cards can be purchased so that exact change isn't needed for each trip. In some cases, if a person is enrolled in certain programs at Community Action Duluth, SOAR or CareerForce, that person may be able to receive a free gas card or a 31-day bus pass from that agency.

The DTA has an easy-to-use Trip Planner tool in which one simply enters their starting location and desired destination. The Trip Planner tool provides real time tracking so one can determine where buses are at any time. Examples of ride-times that may be helpful include University of Minnesota Duluth to Islamic Center of the Twin Ports (ICTP)—19 minutes, East Hillside neighborhood to The College of St. Scholastica—22 minutes.

There are 12 taxi companies in Duluth as well as Uber and Lyft. Taxi rides are available at reasonable prices.

Peace Church also has several volunteers who regularly transport people in need to church, doctor appointments, etc. and would be happy to provide transportation and conversation on the way for our Afghan friends.

There is regular bus service from Duluth to Minneapolis and St. Paul several times a day, in comfortable buses with WiFi access, for as low as \$9 on off-peak hours and at regular times for \$25-40. Jefferson Lines offers 5 roundtrips per day to several locations in Minneapolis and St. Paul. For bus service to the Minneapolis airport, Groome Transportation provides 10 round trips per day and Landlines provides 2 roundtrips per day.



F. ARRIVAL AND WELCOME CHECKLIST

Confirm, by checking the appropriate boxes, which welcome needs your Sponsor Circle will provide to the Afghan newcomers. Beside each welcome need, write the name(s) of the group member(s) responsible for that task.

Welcome Need	Sponsor Circle Lead (s)
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Fundraising		████████████████████
Meeting newcomers on arrival at the airport/station and providing transportation to their temporary or permanent accommodation.		██████████
Providing orientation to local community and laws, personal and home safety, available services, and immigration status		██████████
Arranging for permanent and temporary housing		██████████
Arranging utilities hook-ups, internet, phone		██████████
Arranging furniture and home furnishings		██████████
Arranging food staples and clothing		██████████
Completing change of address forms		██████████
Registering with selective service as appropriate		██████████
Supporting access to public services and benefits (e.g., SNAP, cash assistance, medical assistance)		██████████
Supporting health and mental health access		██████████
Connecting Afghan newcomers to legal assistance in support of their asylum claim		██████████
Enrolling children in school		██████████
Supporting language acquisition		██████████
Supporting language access		██████████
Supporting cultural connections		██████████
Supporting employment acquisition		██████████
Supporting transportation		██████████



G. FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT

This section will allow you to predetermine if you have committed sufficient funds to the Sponsor Circle

a. Minimum Financial Requirement

Afghan Family Size the Sponsor Circle is Prepared to Support	4
Minimum Financial Requirement (\$2,275 per person)	\$9,100

b. Estimated living costs in the welcome community (first 90 days)

Please explain where costs are reduced due to the availability of in-kind donations or discounts

ONE-TIME START-UP COSTS One-time costs are listed per person (Subtotal \$750)	
ITEMS	ESTIMATED COSTS
Furniture	\$100 + donations
Clothing (seasonally appropriate clothing)	\$100 + donations
Household furnishings and supplies	\$75 + donations
Linens	\$75 + donations
School supplies (if applicable)	Donations, if applicable
Food staples	\$200
Hook-up costs (rental and utility deposits, phone and/or internet installation)	\$200 - possible discounts as eligible
ONGOING COSTS Costs are listed as per person for the full 3 month period (Subtotal \$2695)	
Rent, electricity and heat	\$1800 - possible discounts on utilities as eligible
Food	\$600 - possible discounts as eligible
Phone and internet	\$100 - possible discounts as eligible
Pocket money	\$75
Transportation (public transit)	\$120
Other costs	na
TOTAL LIVING COSTS (FIRST 90 DAYS) (includes one-time costs and on-going costs)	\$3445 per person - plus donations/discounts TOTAL for four people \$13,780



H. TOTAL COMMITTED FUNDS (SPONSOR CIRCLE MEMBERS' PERSONAL INCOME CONTRIBUTIONS AND/OR FUNDS HELD IN TRUST)

The Sponsor Circle must fundraise at minimum 60% of the total required funding and show proof of funds raised in a bank account held in trust for the Afghan newcomer family. The remainder may be raised through continued fundraising efforts or provided through direct Sponsor Circle committed contributions.

Funds raised	\$9,940 as of 1/19/22
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Personal income contribution by Sponsor Circle Members

We prefer not to list individual contributions, because not all members are in a position to donate equally right now.

Total contributions from Circle of Support members to date: \$ [REDACTED]

To date contributions from other members and friends of Peace Church: \$ [REDACTED]

The Circle of Support is a leadership group at Peace Church and Afghan Resettlement has been recognized as a ministry project of the congregation. Fund-raising will continue and donations are accepted both from members of Peace Church as well as the wider community.

All donations are received and held by Peace Church in the Afghan Resettlement Fund. Donations can be made online at peaceucc.org/donate The Afghan Resettlement Fund was just added as one of the fund options listed in the drop-down menu in December.

Our first fundraiser was scheduled for January 29, an Artist's Cabaret, organized by our Music Director, [REDACTED]. It has now been postponed, due to Covid risks, and will be rescheduled in February.

<https://www.peaceucc.org/uncategorized/annual-peace-church-cabaret/>

You will note that our estimated budget is larger than the minimum of \$2275/person x 4 people (\$9,100), which we have already surpassed.

Our Sponsor Circle is committed to meeting the estimated total budget of \$13,780.. We have already raised 72% of this higher proposed budget.

Member 1	
Member 2	
Member 3	
Member 4	
Member 5	
TOTAL	\$9,940 raised = 72% of \$13,780

I. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Please use the checklist below to confirm that all necessary supporting documentation has been attached to this Welcome Plan.

Proof of funds raised	x
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J. SPONSOR CIRCLE DECLARATION AND UNDERTAKING

By signing below, we declare that:

- The information provided is to the best of our knowledge true, complete, and accurate; • We have made or will make adequate arrangements in our community for the welcome of the Afghan newcomer family we are matched to, as outlined in this Welcome Plan;
- We have sufficient financial resources and have received training from the Community Sponsorship Hub; • We will provide 30- and 90-day progress reports as required by the Sponsor Circle program; • We will respect the newcomers' religious beliefs and not engage in proselytization; and • To the best of our ability, we will not knowingly or deliberately allow any individual to participate in the Sponsor Circle's welcome activities who may be considered a threat to the safety and security of the Afghan newcomers.

By signing below, we understand that, as signatories to this Welcome Plan and Undertaking, we are jointly and severally or solidarily bound with the other signatories to:

- Perform the obligations of the Welcome Plan and Undertaking; and
- Assume liability with the other signatories to this Welcome Plan and Undertaking for any breach of those obligations, with such obligations commencing upon arrival of the refugee newcomer to our community.