

St. Vincent de Paul Social Concerns Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022 – Sacred Heart Chapel Parish Center Main Room, 6:30pm

Members (place an X if in attendance)				
x	John Shipman	X	Fr Joe Corel	X Sr. Mary Ruth Wand
X	Marge Watson	X	Susan Walker	X Sherry Young
	Rosemary Hopper	X	Bev Wilkerson	
	Ann Dove	X	Cheryl Brown	JoAnn Martin
AGENDA TOPIC		DISCUSSION SUMMARY		ACTION ITEMS
Opening Prayer				Led by Fr. Joe
Minutes from last meeting		Read		Approved
Tithing for November \$2,607.55		Open Door \$1000 Open Door Meat \$100 Mercy Center \$1000 Ronald McDonald \$100 Birthday Blessings \$200 Reserve \$207.55		Approved
Tithing for December \$3,857.21		Open Door \$1000 Open Door Meat \$100 Mercy Center \$1000 Embassy \$400 Catholic Charities \$300 Reserve \$357.21		Approved
Health Ministry Report		1. Blood Pressure Checks in January 2. Natural Disaster Preparedness		1. Not done due to COVID. Will try again in February. 2. Meeting with Catholic Charities Jan. 27 th . Will go over safety measures of Natural Disasters
Pastoral Council		1. No report.		1. Blue house near St. Patrick Chapel has been torn down and space will be used for parking.
Community Needs		1. New areas of need in the community		1. Discussed having people come in and discuss what their organization does for the community.
Presentation from Catholic Charities		Refugee Resettlement Program – Dan Lester		See Attachment* to minutes.
Thanksgiving & Christmas Dinner		1. Thanksgiving Dinner served from SVDP at St. Patrick Chapel		1. 700 Meals were served on Thanksgiving 2. 600 Meals were served on Christmas Eve

	2. Christmas Eve Dinner served from SHS organized by the National Honor Society	
Food Donation	Sacred Heart School held a food drive at Thanksgiving	Donation of 10,828 lbs. of food was made to Open Door.
Mercy Rest Stop	Bill Turner is meeting with various groups in the community to explain what the Mercy Center will be.	Mercy Center will NOT be a homeless shelter. It is a place where people can get help/services here in Pettis County.
Warming Shelter	Open 7pm Wed., Jan. 19 through 7am, Saturday, Jan. 22.	St. Vincent de Paul will oversee this stretch of time. If cold temperatures/inclement weather it will remain open.
Closing Prayer		
Next Meeting Date	March 8, 2022	

ATTACHMENT*

Refugee Resettlement Program – Dan Lester

The Diocese of Jefferson City has been involved in refugee resettlement for 45 years. This program is now under the direction of Catholic Charities of North and Central Missouri. The diocese has supported the resettlement of over 5,000 in the last 45 years. In the last 7 years many of the refugees have been from the Congo. Since the end of August, the diocese has resettled 281 refugees from Afghanistan, with 8 more to fly in next week.

The legal definition of refugee is someone who is forced to flee due to persecution, fear of persecution; either religious, tribal, or political.

The United Nations has boots on the ground to identify people eligible for resettlement. Only 1% of refugees ever see resettlement in another country. There are approximately 6 million refugees worldwide and more in migration.

The National organization involved in resettlement is the Department of Health and wellness. This department contracts with 9 faith-based agencies for resettlement of refugees. One of the faith groups is the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The USCCB turns to agencies like Catholic Charities to resettle refugees.

Until this year the most refugees resettled in the diocese has been 200 in 2016 before the US basically closed the borders to refugees or at least severely decreased the number allowed into the US. This year Catholic Charities of our diocese has resettled over 300 since September. So more than a years' worth in the last few months. In late August the USCCB asked how many refugees could CCCNM take. Settled on 300 and have had 289 already resettled or arriving next week. October/November were the heaviest months. The refugees arrive at the Columbia airport.

Catholic Charities is responsible for providing a roof, clothing, culturally appropriate food, furniture and employment and medical care. ESL classes as well as a wide variety of comprehensive services are provided. Sponsors also help enculturate them to America by helping with shopping and socialization. Some of the Afghanistan refugees speak perfect English as they were the interpreters for our military. The needs will vary as some who come from rural, agricultural areas may not even be able to read their native language. The goal is to have them become independent as soon as possible and not depend on Social Services.

They are basically fleeing violence and war. Looking for peaceful lives. Catholic Charities also works on reunification of extended families. Maybe some family members were sent to a different military base. Looking to provide them with natural ties if possible.

Currently, the bulk of refugees are in Columbia; Sacred Heart in Columbia has 2 families and they already are involved in resettlement of African refugees and have an ESL program. Jefferson City has 26 and the Fulton Rotary club has about 30. Catholic Charities is looking for

community sponsorship by churches, individuals, and civic organizations. Sponsorship has unique challenges such as learning about Afghan culture, getting Alwal (sp) meat (similar to Kosher meat for Jews). The refugees need people to engage with them one on one.

There are fewer agencies resettling refugees as between 2017 and 2020 refugees were not allowed to enter.

NEEDS –

DO NOT NEED CLOTHES.

CRITICAL NEEDS LIST HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AND FOODS TO SUPPORT OUR AFGHAN NEIGHBORS AS THEY REBUILD THEIR LIVES NOV. 18 2021 HOUSEHOLD ITEMS • Table utensils – forks, spoons, knives • Dishes – plates, bowls, cups • Pots & Pans • Mixing/serving bowls • Cooking utensils – spatulas, spoons, knives, can opener, etc. • Towels • Bedding – sheets, blankets, pillows • Toilet paper • Loose leaf paper (wide or college-rule) • Spiral or composition notebooks (wide or college-rule) • Pens • Paper towels • Dish soap • Bathroom/kitchen cleaner • Laundry detergent • Trash bags

BABY ITEMS • Diapers • Pacifiers • Bottles • Baby wipes • Formula

FOOD ITEMS • Canned Tomatoes – diced or crushed • Rice • Unseasoned Beans – canned or dry • Lentils • Flour – 5 or 10 lb. bags • Sugar • Active Yeast (shelf stable packets) • Tea – Black or Green • Spices – Turmeric, Paprika, Curry Powder, Cumin (ground), Cloves (ground), Black pepper, Salt • Honey • Caramel Candies (Werther's Original)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY! Donations on this Critical Needs List can be delivered to Catholic Charities Refugee Services at: 916 Bernadette Dr Columbia, MO 65203 Monday through Friday from 8:00-4:30.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP Use your smartphone to scan this QR Code and shop our Amazon Smile list for refugee families. Items purchased from the list will be shipped directly to our Refugee Services office by entering the shipping date below: Catholic Charities Refugee Services 916 Bernadette Dr Columbia, MO 65203

The code did not copy but the list is under Catholic charities of Central and Northern Missouri – Afghan refugee response at Amazon Smile or one can find the code at cccnmo.diofeffcity.org/community-co-sponsorship. It is a charity listing

KEY CONTACT: MARIAH MILES, HOUSING AND DONATIONS COORDINATOR, MMILES@CCCNMO.ORG
We are grateful for your interest in supporting Catholic Charities Refugee Services! We are here to help you answer the call to serve and are pleased to answer any questions. Interested in joining our team of volunteers? Visit us online

Housing is subsidized for 3-6 months. Hopefully working in that time span, more permanent housing can be found. Refugees want to be independent and work. Then they pay their own rent or buy a home. Not to downplay the affordable housing crisis but CC has not had a hard time finding housing. CC has a great relationship with MU. The most recent refugees were

housed in empty graduate student housing. Of course, this was short term but helped while more permanent housing can be secured.

He ended by accepting refugees it doesn't mean we are not securing our borders and keeping our citizens safe. Refugees are vetted before being resettled. Many have spent years in camps. The Afghan refugees have been expedited as Kabul and the country fell quickly. We have an obligation to help those who kept our soldiers safe.