



## SACC Volunteers

Judi Barkema coordinates St. Andrew's refugee ministry, Hand of Welcome. She works with agencies involved in refugee resettlement in the community and with volunteers who offer their time and money to SACC's refugee-related activities. "I love working with St. Andrew members, they make a difference in the lives of our nation's newest residents—one welcoming smile, one hour, one dollar at a time."

## Get Involved

### Donations and items needed:

- Coats and donations for warm winter clothing are being collected through Dec. 3rd.
- Gently used twin mattress pads, light weight blankets, and small containers are needed for IHN prior to the host week Dec. 10 - 17.
- Sponsors are needed for 20 Washington Elementary families for the holidays.
- The advent collections taken on Dec. 3rd and 17th will be matched by \$2 from the Federal government to help refugees move towards self-sufficiency.

### Volunteers needed:

- On Dec. 17th at 7:45 am we need help to set up the Sunday School classrooms after IHN Host week. Also that day volunteers are needed to help wash the used sheets and towels.
- Long-Term volunteers are needed to support refugees in many areas. Time commitments range from an hour a month to a few hours per week.

**If you are interested in volunteering, donating, or learning more about St. Andrew mission and outreach e-mail us @ [mission@sacchome.org](mailto:mission@sacchome.org)**

# Mission News

## A Monthly Update of Outreach and Mission



## CSA Family Brings Food and Friendship to SACC

Tables spilling over with colorful, delicious homegrown vegetables became a familiar site in the Hearth Room through the summer and fall, as Swa Dit and Mee Nge, along with two of their children set up a mini

farmer's market at SACC.

The resettled family from Burma came to Saint Andrew through the Community Supported Agriculture project. Mee Nge recently graduated from Catholic Charities' New Roots for Refugees program, where she learned about farming techniques for the KC region and the business of selling produce.

The farming effort is a family affair that includes the two youngest children: Habay, a high school senior, and Ramat, a freshman. (An older son is married with children. Another son died in a car accident.) Everyone works in the garden and at the markets.

As Mee Nge began looking for a site for the garden after graduation, Phil and Sandra Askey offered the use of a lot they own in KCK. Money donated by SACC members will help with start up costs for the new land, including fencing and tools. A lawn mower has been donated, SACC members have helped prep the land. Phil Askey got water access. Phil, Gerald Hiller, Matthew Hiller, Ed Kurtz and Alan Barkema spent an afternoon removing trees. Everything is set for a second bountiful season next year, which both the family and Saint Andrew will be eagerly awaiting.



## Travel to El Higueral

Members of SACC are invited to visit our sister community of El Higueral. A group will be going from Jan. 29 to Feb. 6

**Interested? [Mission@Sacchome.org](mailto:Mission@Sacchome.org)**

## Washington School Coat Drive Success

Thank you to everyone who made donations to the Washington Elementary School coat drive. So far we have been able to donate more than 36 coats. We will also purchase hats, socks, and gloves. So far SACC is the only church to do a coat drive for the school, and they are predicting 30" of snow. The teachers send a big "Thank You".



## Many Thanks for Hand of Welcome Giving

Generous contributions and volunteer efforts in September, October, and November allowed Saint Andrew to extend even further its hand of welcome to refugees in the area.

Brandy Seidel led an energetic team who gathered donations of gently used clothing, household items, toys and tools for a "garage sale" that brought in \$1,300. About half that has been used to purchase much-needed items to set up apartments for arriving refugees. Volunteers shopped estate sales and resale shops for gently used items, and we ordered new pans, alarm clocks, and drawer sets.

With Sara Kurtz, Carol Nistler, and Peggy Kelly in the lead and the help of many volunteers, the November Silent Auction, Wine Tasting, and Concert was a full evening of community and music that generated more than \$3,000 to support refugee resettlement efforts.

Commemorative Saint Andrew wine glasses still are available for purchase for \$10 in the Hearth Room.