

Brampton Helping Hands BHH Update September 2016

Hi BHH family,

We hope you enjoyed your summer! We have been in touch with many of you but wanted to send an update to our group and also to Emmanuel United Church on where our Sponsorship case stands at the moment. As you know our family is Anas and Nora and their two little children Katrina (2yrs) and their newest addition Maria (3 months) who was born in June. Over the summer Brandon and I have had some contact with the family and Anas has been working very hard - often 12 hour days to support his family in Jordan. They were advised to wait until after Maria's birth to finalize their application documents and we received word two weeks ago that all of the documentation has been received and it has been sent to the Central Processing Office in Winnipeg. We requested an approximate timeline from the United Church head office for when we might expect our family to arrive. Here is their reply to our question:

The next step is to wait for the government to open the application and assign a tracking number (G#). This may take a month or longer for CPOW (Central Processing Office in Winnipeg) to crack the file open. Once a G # is assigned, the file will be sent overseas to the Visa office in Lebanon. The Visa office will email Anas and Nora for an interview (takes months). If they are initially approved, they will be requested to undergo medicals and security checks (takes months). If all is approved, the IOM (International Organization for Migration) will contact Anas and Nora to make travel arrangements. If Anas and Nora can pay for their air travel, they make those arrangements only after they are contacted by IOM. If Anas and Nora cannot pay for their air travel, they will be invoiced when they arrive in Canada. The sponsoring group can elect to pay for their air travel at that time. However, we suggest that your group gives Anas and Nora the funds so that they can pay the government. This action will allow them to build a credit history in Canada, which is important.

Once a tracking number is assigned, you and Anas can go to <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/times/index.asp> to check the status of the application. The website gets updated only on Tuesdays.

My best estimate for arrival will be later 2017.

So we are probably looking at an arrival approximately a year from now. We know this process has taken longer than any of us anticipated but we are grateful to have contact with our family and to be at least out of the gates now with our application! The benefit of this timeline is that it gives us time to reschedule our major fundraising event and activities in a timely way over the next year.

We would like to organize a social for those who are able to attend and we will send out an email with some dates shortly so we can choose something that works for most people. We were thinking it would be fun to do a potluck.

Let us know if you have any questions and we will be in touch soon with dates.

Enjoy today and thanks so much for being a part of this group!

Steph & Brandon