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NEWSLETTER

# ANABAPTIST REFUGEE COMMITTEE



JAN 2025

Equipping Anabaptists to engage with diverse cultures creating enduring relationships to express the love of Jesus.

## MORE UPDATES?

Visit [arcministry.org/updates](https://arcministry.org/updates) for other update methods like email and telegram.



This is the Borysov family with Keith Brubaker's church group.

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This 15 year old Rohingya boy sells dried fish door to door in the Rohingya camp. He says he sells 15-16 packs daily for 150 taka each. (\$1.25) Photo by Hafizu

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they performed a C-section. A charity organization booked an Airbnb for them close to the hospital. Now, over a week later, they were running out of funds for food and transportation to and from the hospital, and so called for some help. Thankfully the baby was discharged after an 11-day stay. He only weighed 4.4 pounds, but they were so grateful to be together again.

This is just one of many migrant families that we meet on a regular basis who have nowhere to go but to a city shelter program. Many of them would be happy for a family or church group to sponsor them for a few months till they can become self-supporting. Join us in prayer that the Lord would raise up laborers, for this harvest field is ripe and we don't know how long this harvest season will last. We may never know what impact a few months of kindness and friendship will have on the lives of these migrants. But we do know that God commanded the children of Israel to "love ye therefore the stranger; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Deut. 10:19).



By Anthony Gingerich

## A GLIMPSE INSIDE THE HOSTING PROCESS

*What is it like to host a family? We asked several host churches to share what it has been like for them. Here is what they said:*

### From a church in Pennsylvania:

"Our church congregation was contacted about hosting a Ukrainian family through ARC. Our congregation expressed interest in it and the family arrived in May 2024. The family had four children under 12, and it took about three months for them to get adjusted. We had some challenges with the language barrier and cultural differences, but there have been many blessings along the way! It is a step of faith and a learning experience! We would encourage others to try it. We enjoyed working together with others from our church family on this endeavor."

### From a church in Ohio:

"From that first memorable meeting at the airport to two and a half months later, God has been faithful as we have navigated culture and language barriers in our relationships with our Ukrainian migrant family. Before they arrived, our church worked together in furnishing the house with anything from spoons to bed frames. In the days following their arrival, we tackled the most urgent things first in helping them settle in—things like setting up phones and finding a job. On the heels of that came procuring a driver's license and vehicle insurance, issuing social security numbers, and signing up for healthcare. We have become fluent in translation app usage as well as the language of signs and wonders. We have tried to learn how to give in a way that retains their dignity. We have grown in compassion as we have heard the war stories and seen the far-away looks in their eyes or the sudden tensing when a simple lunch siren blows. As our

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

- TX:** The new U.S. Admin. Will allow border work to continue.
- MN:** (The students and especially the Muslim young people with whom the teachers have had meaningful conversations about Jesus. Pray that the example of our lives could be a testimony against the false stories they have been told about Isa (Jesus).





## SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Looking to Serve? Email [volunteer@arcministry.org](mailto:volunteer@arcministry.org) or call Peter Wadel at 763-358-3816 to get started!

### CURRENT OPENINGS:

- **MN:** -Single man for Feb & April.  
- Two ladies for April.
- **TX:** -Two ladies immediately (Spanish and/or Haitian Kreyol speaking)  
-Spanish speaking man by end of January 2025.

## FINANCIAL REPORT NOVEMBER '24

### INCOME

Donations	\$66,485.40
Donated Services	\$4,500.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$70,985.40</b>

### EXPENSE

<b>Programs</b>	
- Minneapolis	\$21,502.85
- Mexico Border	\$15,760.78
- Resettlement	\$0
<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$499.07</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$37,792.70</b>

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$98,922.31</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$132,115.01</b>

Donations can be sent to ARC Ministry Arc Ministry at PO BOX 459 Seymour, MO, 65746 or online at [arcministry.org](http://arcministry.org).

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friendship has grown, we have sensed more questions arising, especially concerning our faith. May God give us grace to meet the developing spiritual opportunities.”

### From a church in Indiana:

“Our congregation is currently hosting an immigrant family from Ukraine, and it has been an humbling and eye-opening experience. When we started the process, we had no idea what this would look like, but ARC has been extremely helpful and made the process very smooth. The family we are hosting has been through a lot and still has many burdens to carry, but their hope and resilience has been amazing to watch. Their family has blessed us and challenged us to consider what others are experiencing in other parts of the world. This experience has been a huge blessing to our congregation. It has given us something to work on together and challenged us to use the resources we have at our disposal. We have seen God work out details and supply solutions throughout the whole process, and it has strengthened our faith in Him. After participating in this program, we can confidently say that God's heart is very much aware of these immigrant families and their needs! We are very grateful to have had this opportunity and would encourage others that have not tried this before to consider it.”

### Immigrant families have also expressed deep gratitude for the help they have received. One family expressed it this way:

“We want to express our indescribable gratitude to all of you and to those who have been helping us throughout this time. You responded to God's call and heard His request. This journey has been guided by God's providence for our family, and you have played a part in it, becoming God's hands in our lives.” A mother from another immigrant family said this to their hosts: “You have no idea how grateful we are to God and you for everything. You do so much for us, I can't imagine what we would do if we didn't have you. I believe that God knows to whom, at what time, and what to give, and we believe that God has His plan for us. God bless you and your family! You are an example for us in many ways.”

**In the uncertainty of our times, there are great rewards for reaching out to those who need help. If your church would consider hosting, we will be glad to connect you with a family in need.**



Here is a picture of the Nietikov Family in their new home.



This is the Zaur and Alina family in front of their new home.

## THE ROHINGYA

Originally mentioned in the Oct. Newsletter

The Rohingya are a persecuted and unwelcomed Muslim ethnic group from Myanmar. In 2017, a genocide forced over 750,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh, overwhelming refugee camps and local resources. These people are now trapped and stateless. ARC is looking for ways to assist in this dire situation. **How can we help?**



As it is now the winter season rice harvest, some Rohingya have the opportunity to earn a little income by working in the fields of the local Bangladeshis. They are technically not allowed out of camp to do this, but find ways to get out. A day of field work might equate to about 6-7 USD. Photo by Mohammed Ederis



This Rohingya dada (grandfather) makes baby swings out of bamboo. Parents hang the swings from the ceiling in their shelters, and it makes a safe place for a baby to sleep. Photo by Mohammed Ederis



These Rohingya men were hired for the day to help with a road rebuilding project in camp. Even though the project won't last long, the sun is hot, and the pay is meager, they are still happy for the rare opportunity to earn a little money and do some hard work. Photo by Yassin



The family with their new little one.

++Needs Author Name++

## STEFON & JOANA

Stefon\*, Joana\*, and their three-year-old son lived in a suburb of Port au Prince, Haiti. As their once safe neighborhood got caught in the crossfire of turf wars between enemy gangs, they made the difficult decision to leave all and start the journey to the States. They flew to Nicaragua on October 10, 2023. Five days after their journey began, Joana, who was seven months pregnant and suffering with pre-eclampsia, gave birth to a stillborn daughter in a motel in Guatemala. After a brief hospital stay, they had no choice but to continue their journey North to Mexico where they could apply for a CBP One appointment to enter the States. After waiting twelve long months in Mexico, their appointment day finally arrived. By this time Joanna was seven months pregnant again.

Our southern border team met them on November 22, 2024, as they entered what they hoped would be their new country—a safe home, free of violent gangs and insecurity. Their only contact in the States was a sister in Boston. Their hope was to enter the city “program” that provides shelter till they could get on their feet.

“As they were leaving to head to the local shelter, I realized they had no tickets to their next destination. As Joana's condition could lead to potential problems, I gave them my phone number just in case they would need help,” Joel recalls. Sure enough, ten days later Stefon called. While at the local shelter, Joana's pre-eclampsia became apparent. They took her to the hospital where

\*Names changed

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## REQUEST A PRESENTATION

Interested in a presentation for your church or school? Contact Peter Wadel (763) 358-3816 for additional details.