

CHRISTMAS EVE AND DAY: no doubt this will be an interesting experience for C.O.R.E. folks to share with the families.

HOUSING: Feb. 2017 will end the sponsorship of the families. I would share that C.O.R.E. and the housing committee of which I am involved with Ken Cox, and Shelley Gracey who is involved in the real estate business met and discussed where to begin finding new accommodation.

Speaking to the Imam Tarek and V.Pres. Naser Hamed and the families have been done. As of this date, the Al Hamwai wish to remain in Paris to see their children complete their school year, likewise Al Odat Omar. I know each person involved on the C.O.R.E. committee has been, and will continue to be, very generous with their outpouring of support in a myriad of ways even after the sponsorship ends.

Lastly I will end with:

FINANCES: Finally, the balance in the account is \$40,000.00 at December 1st. Bills come in and must be paid as we are all aware. Donations continue to come in. The 100 men gave a generous donation to the C.O.R.E. of \$6,800.00 within the past few months. Our church continues to offer financial support C.O.R.E. and appreciates our support. I extend thanks to Al for his support as a volunteer driver to the families and to June and Al for their presence in the early months at meetings. Thank you for the time given to bring an update on the families.

Syrian Families Update To BUC Official Board

December 7th, 2016

Submitted by Lynn Leeson

The AL HAMWAI FAMILY: – Hafez –Father; Raeda – Mother; Nasser – son; Shaza – daughter; Aboudi – son.

Since their arrival, the family has moved forward in a positive mode in most areas – ie – ESL classes attended and becoming more comfortable in speaking English - particularly the young folk

NASSER: He is really proud of how well he is doing in school and focused in obtaining his Gr.12. He is getting better marks than lots of the students who have English as a first language. He wishes to get into chemical engineering. He is quite fluent in English. No part-time job at present.

SHAZA: is attending school and doing well. She wishes to get her Gr. 12 and wants to get into law. She is still very quiet but showing talent for art. She attended a couple of art classes at Glenhyrst during the summer. Persons on the C.O.R.E are offering her encouragement which they hope will help her become more confident in herself. I do not know her level of English. She is not interested in sports at this time. Hope her future turns out well.

ABOUDI: is attending school. He also attended a couple of art classes at Glenhyrst. It helped him to interact with children of his age. He tried soccer this summer. Not sure whether he enjoyed it. He loves to have stories read to him.

RAEDA: enjoys cooking and interested at present to stay at home. She attends the ESL classes in Brantford. Before summer informal ESL was offered in the church by volunteers – retired teachers and retired minister. It was noted she seemed to gain confidence and felt comfortable in that setting. I inquired if she enjoys doing hand work – knitting or craft work but response was no. She has been successful in how to operate appliances in the home.

HAFEZ: has had some issues adjusting and settling. He has butcher background – job just doing Halal food has not come forth as yet. Perhaps, you have noticed the number of items in the store displaying the Halal label on them. He has just recently been taken on for a Christmas Calendar job in Paris through C.O.R.E. employment person. Hope it will be the start of other positions as the family moves forward.

THE AL ODAT FAMILY:

MANWAH: – is doing well. While attending ESL in Brantford, she has taken the city bus to the Mosque. She has conquered the convention oven. She is moving forward in making friends. She is looking to a job cleaning at the Paris Fairgrounds. In the time spent in the informal ESL classes in Paris, she quickly picked up on the topics presented – Canadian money, shopping for groceries. I don't know what level she is at regards in speaking English.

OMAR: – He is doing well in High School and aims to get Gr. 12. He has 2 part-time jobs in Paris. He has been promoted to 2nd hand at the Biyou Restaurant and doing well. He also is cleaning offices.

HEALTH: Medical appointments of all the family members have been completed and deemed to be in good health. Dental care has been completed. The “Healthy Smile” program for the youth has been helpful.

TRANSLATORS: Imam Noman Tarek, and Vice President Naser Hamed, of the Brantford Mosque and local translators in Brantford and Paris have been there at the get go to assist when C.O.R.E and families have need to address issues to bring to the families. It has been a positive relationship between all parties.

TRANSPORTATION: by volunteers drivers has been ongoing with the families. Early days pickups posed problems with families not being ready. The roster of drivers is still strong and the families have recognized the need to be on time for appointments. The donation of alarm clocks helped. I'm sure we can recall the importance of being on time too.

FUN AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES OF THE FAMILIES

SUMMER OUTINGS: Since their arrival they have been taken to see our beautiful 7th wonder of the world – Niagara Falls, and visit to Niagara on the Lake and the Welland Canal. They were impressed. There have been local activities they have enjoyed.

THE PARIS FAIR: here are a couple of photos of Manwah and Shaza. They attended each day and they walked to the event to raise their profile.

THANKSGIVING – The Al Hamwai's and Al Odat's hosted an Open House Pot Luck. It was well attended and there was positive interaction with all who attended.

HALLOWE'EN: – Again both families welcomed folks to their homes. C.O.R.E folks brought pumpkins for carving and offered treats. Here is a photo in costume for outing.

SANTA CLAUS PARADE: It happened Dec. 3rd. The families were out to see the floats and enjoy time amongst folks gathered around them.