



Keeping Our Promise
www.KeepingOurPromise.org

Saving Lives Today



Thirteen Families

Thirteen families were stuck in limbo in Afghanistan. Parents were given their life-saving visas, but their babies were not. With the Embassy closed in Kabul because of COVID, these families were left in a dangerous limbo without visas for their infants and toddlers.

Thirteen babies born in a war that has stretched four decades.

With no one to turn to for help in Afghanistan, 13 families recently reached out to **Keeping Our**

Promise. Because of your continuing support, visa advocacy coordinator Kim Staffieri immediately went into action contacting Congressman Morelle's office to get through to our State Dept., and seeking help from the International Refugee Assistance Project.

Because of you, we are expecting these 13 families, including baby Mohammad, pictured above, to arrive in the U.S. by the end of the year to start their new lives. Thirteen families, and 13 babies will be free from the Taliban.

This would have never happened without your support of **Keeping Our Promise.**

Thank you.

"This is a Love Ministry for me,

grounded in my faith!"

-Jean Ott

Behind the Scenes – Making it Work!

Thank you Cindy Malone

A volunteer for five years, Cindy Malone has helped with all aspects of this model resettlement program. Cindy spearheaded our first annual dinner and graciously continued on as an integral member of our annual fundraiser dinner committee. Cindy was also involved in organizing our annual SIV and volunteer appreciation picnic. She currently coordinates the monthly food baskets distributed by [Asbury United Methodist Church](#). Cindy was instrumental in working on our



first volunteer guide, and she makes sure that every SIV family has an organizational binder for all of their crucial information. Cindy played a significant role in establishing our first advisory board. Thank you Cindy for all that you have done, and continue to do!

Escaping Herat A family's journey



Trapped in Herat

A year ago, Zakaria Hossiny and his family received their U.S. visas for Zakaria's faithful and honorable service to the U.S. as an electrician on

a military base. He filed the needed paperwork with the International Office of Migration to leave their home in Herat. At the time, the Taliban was actively targeting peace activists and aid workers. By mid-December, there was no word on the family getting their life-saving flight from Herat to Rochester. Then, IOM announced that there was a flight embargo until January 8, 2020. It was impossible for the family to be on U.S. soil before their visas expired. It was a potential death sentence. On Dec. 13, 2019, **Keeping Our Promise** contacted our partners at *Miles4Migrants* asking for help.

Partners Bring This Family Home

[Miles4Migrants](#) could coordinate the flights, but they needed frequent flyer miles. We emailed everyone we knew. **You came through with enough tickets to get this family safely to Boston thanks to Alaska Air!** They arrived Dec. 28, 2019, five days after we knew they needed help, and 10 days before their visas were to expire. They could not have made it without you. KOP friends in Boston secured two hotel rooms. A KOP friend donated her van for the drive to get the family. SIVs drove to Boston to bring them home! You all made it work to bring Zakaria, Mahwash, Mahya and Sa Abdul Mogit to their new home in Rochester! Zakaria now has a job at Savers. Because of you, he just received his "Wheels for Work" so he can get to his new job and support his family.

A Message from Zakaria:

I am writing to thank you for all of your kindness and caringness towards myself as well as my family. I really appreciate all of your support and help since the day that I arrived in the United States. Your generosity and gratitude towards us inspires me to help others, just as you have assisted my family and I whenever we needed the extra help. Once again, thank you for everything that you have done for us, we have been very fortunate to have you on our journey to the United States.

Kind thanks,

Zakaria Hossiny

Update on Herat: The New York Times reports on 10/22/2020 that a radical cleric who studied in Saudi Arabia is now enforcing a harsh Shariah law reminiscent of the Taliban. "Women are alarmed, and the government has been able to do little."

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