



Keeping Our Promise
www.KeepingOurPromise.org

We Have News!

Although resettlement in Rochester was temporarily paused after March 10 due to COVID, arrivals start again this week! We will be welcoming Hanif who made the perilous journey five years ago from Afghanistan to the Island of Lesbos in Greece. He was accepted by Germany while awaiting his Special Immigrant Visa status, which was granted in August.

A Pathway to Safety

Since October 2014, you have helped provide a pathway to safety for Iraqi and Afghan wartime allies whose service as interpreters and support personnel alongside U.S. forces, diplomats, and U.S. AID workers exposed them to threats, harm, and death. More than 360 Afghans, Iraqis and Kurds have been safely resettled in Rochester over the last six years **thanks to you.**

Your work over the last 6 year in helping to save these lives has led to our latest great news! We are excited to announce that **Keeping Our Promise** is now a registered, independent not-for-profit corporation in the State of New York! We are officially **Keeping Our Promise Inc.**

Your work during the COVID Pandemic:

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, you never stopped caring for our wartime allies. We had 27 individuals arrive from January through March, before COVID shutdown life-saving flights to Rochester. Your generosity assisted these families with food, personal hygiene supplies, cleaning supplies and rent assistance. Because of you, we were also able to help those who were employed, but then laid off in March with no immediate unemployment assistance available.

In the meantime, your continued support allowed for our advocacy program to continue working on visa assistance overseas. We have engaged with 371 Afghans who sought visa assistance, and many families are looking forward to Rochester as their new home in the near future.



Right now we are helping a Goldstar Mother get her son's interpreter and his family safely to the U.S. before the family's visas expire on Oct. 11.



Wheels for Work

Our "Wheels For Work" car grant program continued through this pandemic with your help. Your generous giving has provided cars for 15 families in 2020. We now have seven families on a waiting list. While many businesses were closed, our car grant recipients have been our community's Amazon, Grub Hub, Uber Eats, and

Door Dash drivers supporting their families and the community during this time. Your help also assisted four families who could not make car insurance payments when SIVs lost their jobs, or had significant work hour reductions, but they are all back to work!



Volunteer Connection: Nancy Westendorf

The pandemic led to educational challenges for the children and adults in our resettlement program, but volunteer **Nancy**

Westendorf has been there to support the families and communicate with Rochester City School District and the Office of Adult Career Educational Services. She has made sure that: children were properly registered; immunization records were up-to-date; everyone had computers for zoom classes. She also made sure that everyone knew when classes were starting this fall. That is a lot to juggle! Thank-you Nancy!

English 101! Ten Afghan women participated in English Zoom classes this summer through Catholic Family Center. They were given their own computer tablet, and attended classes for six weeks. Seven additional women will participate in English classes in October! English classes are an important educational opportunity, and offer a social connection at a time when many of these wives have children at home and have been very isolated during this pandemic.

Career Training:

Several SIVs worked on their electrician's certification program through OACES and will finish their testing this fall. All have found careers using these skills, and are employed full time with benefits, vacation and paid time off for federal holidays.

Saint's Place gave out tool grants to Zaman, Sadam and Rahmat who completed the OACES program, but needed their own tools for their new careers. **Keeping Our Promise** is collaborating with Rochester Rehabilitation Services for SIVs interested in forklift training and certification. Saint's Place graciously offered two scholarships for our wartime allies to attend the forklift certification program.



Did You Know?

Rochester is one of 25 U.S. cities chosen by the U.S. State Dept. for war-time ally resettlement. This is why we are so fortunate that you are committed to helping these families when they arrive with only a few suitcases.

Help Continue Our Mission! [DONATE NOW](#)

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