

**Syria-Antigonish Families Embrace  
Steering Committee Meeting  
June 22, 2023  
6:30-9:00  
Appleseed Community Room**

Present: Mark Ballard (chair), Jack Beaton, Harry Daemen, Sheila Sears, Mike Nearing, Anuj Jain, Eric Renaud, Karen Fish (minutes), Maria van Vonderan, Bronwen Cooke

**Minutes**

*This was a special meeting to discuss SAFE and SAH's capacity going forward to support new refugee families.*

Mark presented a table he created with application and process information for the 17 family units who are close to arriving in the SAH area, and 25 people in the process; of this number, 5 family units and 13 people will be SAFE-sponsored newcomers.

**SAH Positions**

Number of SAH positions for 2023 is still unclear (Harry is still being told 10 in total); however the submissions that extended into 2023 determine the date of utilization.

**RSTP**

Guides available through RSTP to help sponsors conduct family check-ins.

Anuj reported that the RSTP trainers for his online course suggest that SAHs create an MOA with each CG. As a SAH, we should have some criteria to support decisions around who is accepted on the waiting list: e.g., the family sponsor has to have at least Level 4 English

**ACTIONS:**

- Mark, Bronwen and Jack to meet with Bilal about building funds for family members who are now in the application process
- Anuj will start looking at corporate sources of donations to SAFE. He said he would look at companies that have an interest in rural development. Sheila will work with Anuj to develop a pitch. Sheila noted that in the past, individual donors have been more generous than corporations.
- Anuj suggested we survey CG's to see how many people they would like to sponsor going forward, if numbers were unlimited.
- Maria/Bronwen looked at dental benefits for children under 12; there is a provincial program to assist with transportation for medical appointments.

**DECISIONS:**

- If an experienced CG wants to add another family to sponsor, and has the money, we will put forward the application assuming we have sufficient allocation spaces available

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Next Meeting – July 20, 2023 12:00 pm Appleseed community room