



# Saanich Peninsula Refugee Initiative Group

## UPDATE #14

Nov 25, 2016

*Did you meet Fatma and her family at the Fair at St. John's on November 19? What a happy, busy day.*

### **UPDATING YOUR INFORMATION**

Please help us bring the SPRIG contact list up to date. Thank you for completing the attached form and returning it to us by email to [sprig@gmx.com](mailto:sprig@gmx.com) or by post to 8570 Cathedral Place, North Saanich, V8L 5E1.

### **GETTING INVOLVED with SPRIG**

Do you want to get more involved? Do you plan to continue with or amend the commitments you made earlier this year? If so, thank you for completing page two of the attached Volunteer Form.

Settlement work is very rewarding. The goal is to enable the families to be self-sufficient within one year of their arrival in Canada. You can support this work in a variety of ways occasionally without personally contacting the family or by giving significant time and effort in direct contact with them. Priorities of settlement support are to respect the privacy and independence of the newcomers and to ensure their safety. Therefore, all volunteers who work one-on-one with the people we are sponsoring must have a criminal records check.

Opportunities to help are often unpredictable and time limited. Please understand that it may not be possible for SPRIG to use your offer of help. Of course, it is not about us. It is about them.

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Settlement activities are now in full swing with Fatma, and within a short time we expect to welcome Safaa and her four children. Comparing our original 12 month budgets for Fatma and for Safaa and her family with the expenses that we are realizing, we see that we underestimated by at least \$8000. For example, we did not plan for hotel expenses for Fatma but decided that it was very important for her to stay with her family. Nor did we plan realistically for professional interpreters so necessary when discussing important matters. So we have increased both budgets and are reaching out for help to meet the estimated shortfall.

Donations made before December 31<sup>st</sup> to St. John's United Church Refugee Sponsorship Fund will receive a charitable tax receipt for 2016. Thank you very much for your continuing support.

### **SEASIDE TIMES MAGAZINE**

Read about SPRIG in the "Can We Talk" article in December's issue of our local magazine.

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

The legal spelling of Fatma's name in English is "Fatma". Arabic allows it to be pronounced "Fatma" or "Fatima". Both spellings have been used in SPRIG updates.

[www.sprig.me](http://www.sprig.me)

[sprig@gmx.com](mailto:sprig@gmx.com)



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