

Refugee Sponsorship Program Report

The refugee program of our diocese continues to actively welcome families from across the world. To this point in 2024 we have completed the sponsorship year for 93 individuals (24 families) meaning they have been here 12+ months and the formal part of our sponsorship commitments have been fulfilled. We have also welcomed 85 individuals (23 applications) who are in their 12 months of sponsorship. We are still anticipating 30 families (98 people) to arrive and be welcomed into our communities over the next couple years. So, our program has still been very active doing the work of welcoming the stranger and supporting the transition of their lives in our neighbourhoods.

While we are not submitting any new applications, we have been in active conversation and collaboration with the other dioceses in our ecclesiastical province about a way to live into a shared refugee sponsorship ministry. This work is ongoing, and we are hopeful there will be a sustainable model of shared ministry to continue this work.

Jibril Mohammed has worked diligently over the past 2 years as the provincial refugee coordinator supporting the other two Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAH) in the dioceses of New Westminster and Kootenay in addition to our program. There is a shared Refugee Sunday on October 20th when we will turn our minds and hearts toward this work together across our ecclesiastical province. More information available on the website.

I want to thank Jibril and Tony Davis (North Island Volunteer Coordinator) for their dedicated hard work and support of the many sponsorship groups who are the hands and feet for this vital work. Private sponsorship is challenging and rewarding, and we are grateful to all who participate in any way to make our program such a success over the years.

Respectfully submitted,



Brendon Neilson
Executive Director