

Home Setup 2

Afghani couple; soon to be parents

Hope Floats: A Youth's Volunteer Experience

By: Sasha Ahmad '24

On a sweltering day in May, I set aside the unit circle and Asian literature to help furnish the IM family apartment. The work had started 2 weeks prior when my mother presented a list consisting primarily of items needed for a nursery. The IM family had just acquired their first apartment and were expecting their first baby to arrive in less than a month. They had come to the US a few months ago with nothing except the duffel bags stuffed with the few clothes that they had left Afghanistan with. They needed EVERYTHING. And so, over the course of a few weeks, I learned about baby essentials as we shopped for the nursery.

On a Saturday where the temperature soared to 86F by 10AM, I worked with an amazing group of volunteers to convert the IM apartment to a home. Over the course of the next 7 hours, we assembled furniture, edited the arbitrary collection of donated items, and decorated the rooms in a fashion that would make even Martha Stewart proud! K, my new Afghani friend, joined me as I mastered the skill of building a baby dresser (which I swear had a manual written in hieroglyphics). But probably the most important lesson learned that day was the power of the community. A community that embraces their disenfranchised brothers and sisters. A community that raises their own.



Living/Dining Room Before



Living Room After



Dining Room After



Bedroom/Nursery



Bedroom/Nursery



Bedroom/Nursery



Bedroom Closets



Storage Closets



Kitchen

Before



After



Bathroom

