

MAP Refugee Assist Project / FAQs

“ They shouldn't need to compete for our screens and reach into our lives to convey their devastation. Rather, we should reach deeply into our hearts and into their lives to do all that we can do to protect their dignity. Each and every single one of them ”- Omar Suleiman

We are very pleased to inform you that MAP has been working for the last two years to assist our refugee Muslim brothers and sisters in the Greater Pittsburgh area. To be able to better understand their needs we do an initial walk in. We sit with the family and gather information about their current situation and future needs.

We would like to share with you what we have learned so far.

1. How many Muslim refugee families are here in Pittsburgh?

There are multiple Muslim refugee families currently residing in Pittsburgh.

2. Is MAP working independently?

Yes, MAP is taking some initial information from Ansar refugee assistance agency but directly working with the families. This way we can ensure that duplication of efforts is avoided and assistance reaches the deserving families directly.

3. Are we giving money or items to Ansar?

No, We are accessing the needs of the family on an individual basis so that direct assistance can be provided to them. Each family we have met so far shared their unique needs. We feel that our input would be more meaningful if tailored to their specific needs.

4. How many families MAP is currently assisting?

At present, we are working on an urgent basis to assist a sister with three young children

5. Who are the families that MAP has assisted so far?

There is a family of two new parents. Their home setup involved a nursery design in a small one bedroom apartment. A family with eight young kids in the age range of 1- 10 years housed in two apartments. A family of two brothers and one sister trying to figure out their path in the midst of language barriers. Additionally, a family of 10 kids in the range of 3-21 years of age, housed in two apartments.

6. Why are we not helping all of the refugee families?

Each family's needs are unique. In order to help someone we have to meet them and individualize their needs. We want to ensure that when MAP commits to assist we are truly able to do it in a meaningful way.

7. Are we arranging all new items?

No, we would like to use new as well as gently used items to avoid any waste of resources. We are very careful in selecting the items since they are to be put forth for the sake of Allah.

8. Are we only doing home setups?

Nope! We have started a Little Muslim outreach youth club headed by Tara Haider. Twice a month this club is conducted in which children read a book and do a craft project. We also started a Life Skill seminar led by Dr. Noor Afshan Khan for Refugee women. Once a month a conference is held in Duquesne or Carnegie.

9. What's anticipated next ?

- Establishing Musallah for Friday and Eid prayers
- Youth Picnic in summer 2023

10. How can I help?

We have identified some key areas that the refugees need assistance with and would greatly appreciate our community's support.

- Household items: (List will be provided in detail after the home walk in). The items can be sponsored through Mohid/refugee assistance or if the item is very gently used, it can be donated as such.
- Vocational and educational needs: One of the main objectives is to make our brothers stand on their feet so that they are able to support their families. It means any assistance in them getting a job and helping them maintain their employment. MAP will share a list of their qualifications on request.
- Personal and social: Offer Zoom tuition sessions for the children.

Insha Allah, together we all can make a difference. May Allah put barakah in our efforts. Ameen

Regards,
MAP Refugees Assistance Committee
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