

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF WILMINGTON
**A Congregational Accompaniment Project for Asylum Seekers (CAPAS) Host
Congregation!**

What is a CAPAS Host Congregation?

First Unitarian is a UUSC CAPAS Host Congregation for a family seeking asylum in the United States. A Host Congregation offers to accompany a family as they navigate through the asylum process and get acclimated to living here. The UUSC CAPAS program supports Host Congregations as we walk in solidarity with an asylum-seeking family. Generally, it takes about a year for a family to navigate the asylum application and become employed here.

Why Has First Unitarian Become a Host Congregation?

At the end of January, a family from Tanzania ended up homeless in Delaware and unable to return to their country. First Unitarian's Human Rights Task Force (HRTF) spent February discerning if we thought First U could help. Ultimately, with guidance from Rev. Larry and UUSC, we felt strongly that helping this family aligns with First U's Mission of a "beloved community that transforms the world through loving action."

How Can I Do to Help?

We want to build a beloved community of volunteers to assist with our CAPAS project. We currently have a Core Volunteer team organized by topic areas. There are many different volunteer opportunities, such as gathering information, making phone calls, organizing legal documents, and fundraising. Some activities involve direct contact with the family such as taking them grocery shopping, driving them to their church on Sundays, and taking them to community events (See pages 2-4). If you want to volunteer directly with the family, you will need to complete the Volunteer Application Form, agree to the CAPAS Volunteer Code of Ethics, and read and acknowledge First U's Background Investigation policy.

What is the ONE THING This Project Needs Most?

Finding a host family would be the best way to keep project costs down and maintain stability for the family as they navigate the asylum process. *A host family* would welcome this mother and her middle school aged son to live with them for at least six months. The Core Volunteer Team understands that becoming *a host family* would be a major commitment. Some of us seriously considered it, but none of us were able at this time. *A host family* would get support from the Core Volunteer Team, First Unitarian, and UUSC. If you want more information about becoming *a host family*, please contact the Project Lead and Housing Team Leads (See p. 2).

How Much Money Is Needed and How Will We Raise It?

Fundraising is an important part of every CAPAS project. UUSC's CAPAS materials estimate that it takes about \$25,000 - \$30,000 to fund a CAPAS project. In early February, we were honored that First U members donated almost \$4000 with one Enews! Our CAPAS project is the Share-the-Plate for UUSC's Justice Sunday this April. UUSC will match the money we raise up to \$5000. We plan to raise more funds through a Faithify campaign (web-based fundraising similar to a Go-Fund-Me page). We are not requesting funds from First Unitarian for this

project, meaning it is not included in First U's budget. Your annual pledge to the church for operating expenses does not cover the expenses for this project. We continue to solicit individual donations from First U members and the wider community.

Here is the link to donate: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YZ9B/campaign/C-13ERT>

CAPAS Volunteer Needs

We are seeking more volunteers to help the Core Team Leads. Each team could use 2 or 3 more volunteers. Some teams could use as many volunteers as are willing!

Core Volunteer Team for First U CAPAS

Admin/Project Lead:	Becky Laster	blaster102@verizon.net
Daily-Living Team Lead:	Renee Anderson	reneejeann@verizon.net
Legal Team Lead:	Pam Finkleman	pamfink30@comcast.net
Housing Team Leads:	Kim Tull & Cynthia de Leon	geisttull@comcast.net cdeleon3@gmail.com
Finance Team Leads:	Doyle Dobbins	d.dobbins@verizon.net

Daily-Living Team Lead By: Renee Anderson reneejeann@verizon.net

Description: This team is focused on the daily living, educational, and social needs of the family. We are coordinating rides for them to a Catholic church, to grocery stores, and to other community events. We also want to bring the family to First U for some events and find other ways for the family to engage in the local community in meaningful ways. If you want to volunteer directly with the family, you will need to complete the Volunteer Application Form, agree to the CAPAS Volunteer Code of Ethics, and read and acknowledge First U's Background Investigation policy.

Daily-Living Team Volunteer Needs:

- Direct contact with family
 - Drive family to a Catholic church in Bear that has Swahili-speaking people
 - Walk with the family to the shopping center close to where they live
 - Take the family grocery to the international grocery store, Target, or other shops
 - Take the bus with the family to shopping centers to help teach the bus system
 - Walk with the family at a park near their house
- Identify First U events for family to attend
 - Plan best way to introduce the family at the event
 - Bring family to First U
- Brainstorm community events and activities for family to participate

Legal Team Lead By: Pam Finkleman pamfink30@comcast.net

Description: This team has found and hired a lawyer and Swahili translators to help the family submit their asylum application. Submitting the application is a big job and we could use more

help with office management tasks. This team will assist with organizing the asylum application and possibly work with some translators to get documents prepared for the application. No legal experience is necessary to volunteer for this team.

Legal Team Volunteer Needs:

- Office support:
 - Copy documents
 - Organize documents for the family and the lawyer
 - Research Tanzanian culture that could supplement the family's application

Housing Team

Lead By: Kim Tull

geisttull@comcast.net

Cynthia de Leon

cdeleon3@gmail.com

Description: The family is currently living in an apartment through the end of the school year and a generous donor has contributed this rent money. However, the rent for the apartment is high and not sustainable long-term. The goal would be to find something more affordable and longer term before the next school year. UUSC's CAPAS program recommends finding two host families who would be willing to bring this family of two into their home for 6-months. The team is also investigating and looking for housing options through other local programs.

Housing Team Volunteer Needs:

- Publicity and outreach:
 - Create interest within our congregation in becoming a host family
 - Outreach to other congregations to find host family
- Brainstorm and pursue more housing options:
 - Make phone calls to programs and other possible housing options

Finance Team

Lead By: Doyle Dobbins

d.dobbins@verizon.net

Description: So far, fundraising has been very successful! However, the expenses for the project are great, so the money raised has already been spent on rent, daily living, and retaining the lawyer to help with the asylum application. This team will focus on fundraising and managing the money for the project.

Finance Team Volunteer Needs:

- Numbers-minded people to help:
 - Develop parameters for spending money
 - Keep the project on budget
 - Organize a Faithify campaign (crowd-source fundraising) with UUSC

Administrative Team

Lead By: Becky Laster

blaster102@verizon.net

Description: This team will help with general organization and communication for the project.

Administrative Team Volunteer Needs:

- Help coordinate various teams and their tasks
- Write E-news to keep the congregation informed
- Write updates for the Executive Team and the Board
- Coordinate and orient new volunteers

Code of Ethics for CAPAS Volunteers

Those who volunteer to work with the family need to understand that families seeking asylum have experienced many difficult circumstances and often traumatic events. As a new arrival to the United States, the family is acclimating to living in a new country, often does not speak English, and must navigate a very complex American legal system. Due to these circumstances, a family seeking asylum is in a vulnerable position at this moment in time. Our role is to support their growth and independence. Our goal is to move from “doing for” to “doing with” to “cheering on” as the family gains independence.

As a volunteer, we want you to be genuine and show you care when you are with the family. We aim for our work with the family to be consistently grounded in our First U values:

- Love and Compassion
- Growth and Discovery
- Freedom and Justice
- Wonder and Joy

All volunteers must agree to this code of ethics and follow these expected guidelines for behavior when volunteering with the family.

Those who volunteer with the family for the First Unitarian CAPAS project will:

- Respect our adult guest as capable, with incredible strengths and skills that have brought her this far. Respect our guest who is a child as eager to learn, play, and adapt.
- Not engage in any behavior with the family that constitutes verbal, emotional, or physical abuse or behavior or language which is personally threatening or demeaning.
- Not engage in any sexually harassing behavior, or any sexual, seductive or erotic behavior with the family.
- Not encourage or condone any sort of illegal or unethical activity on the part of the family.
- Not consume alcohol or use any form of drug, which can affect physical or mental performance before or during the carrying out of his/her responsibilities.
- Not ask the family about personal or traumatic histories because this could be re-traumatizing for them.
- Not share any details of the family’s history (if the family chooses to share with you) with other church members, your family, friends, or over social media. If you feel you need to inform someone, please contact Project Lead, Becky Laster (blaster102@verizon.net).

Volunteers will be informed of the Code of Ethics and agree to it before assuming their role. They must sign the Code of Ethics Agreement in the CAPAS Volunteer Application. If a volunteer violates this code, appropriate action will be taken.