

Faithify Ask

Recognizing a return to Tanzania would likely result in her death, with our congregation's help, this mom and her middle school-aged son are seeking asylum. We have secured legal aid and have successfully submitted the application for asylum. We have secured temporary housing, and the boy is attending school. We are preparing for the long haul - raising funds to cover housing costs and living expenses for the coming year as Mom learns English and waits for her working papers. They are also connecting with a Swahili-speaking population in our area.

This family came to our attention when we learned that, through no fault of their own, they were about to lose their temporary housing arrangement. Our congregation's connection with this family is simultaneously humbling and empowering. It is overwhelming to consider how great the need is of even one family in the context of the vast numbers of refugees and asylum seekers in our country. In an act of faith, we waded into the ocean, creating a small current in our effort to transform the world through loving action. Please, join us in this effort.

[Link to First U CAPAS Faithify Campaign](#)

Host Family Ask

HOST FAMILY INTRODUCTION

First Unitarian Church of Wilmington DE. (FUC), working with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and Nemours Children's Hospital (NCH) is a host congregation for a mother and son from Tanzania. The family has filed for asylum and we will continue supporting them through the asylum process. The child is 11 yrs. old, enrolled in public school in North Wilmington and is fluent in English. The mother is unable to work until she has received working papers. Her command of English is limited but growing.

We are seeking a host family who will "walk in solidarity" with the family as they navigate their immigration journey. We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of each person; justice, equity and compassion in our relationships with each other; and our respect for the intricate and interdependent web of life. The journey of asylum seekers, entirely within the parameters of the law, can be fraught with uncertainty and confusion. The host family supplies a safe, welcoming environment where the family can progress in their journey of learning a new culture and working towards independence.

IDEAL SITUATION

The son is currently enrolled in middle school and has transitioned well. A North Wilmington location will allow him to continue at his current school and keep him close to his medical care. The local support team is also primarily located in North Wilmington. Other children in the home may help the son in continuing to adapt to the US and expand his community.

HOST FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

Housing:

- 6-month commitment (will be seeking 2 host families for a total of 1 year)
- Preferably 2 bedrooms and a private bathroom
- Study space for mom and son
- Access to laundry facilities
- Shared kitchen and communal space
- No cats (son is allergic)
- Mother is fearful of dogs
- Near a bus route
- Non-smoking
- WIFI
- Willingness to learn a new culture and share the American culture
- Love and support
- Patience

LOCAL SUPPORT TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

Financial: We are supporting the family financially through donated funds from our congregation including paying utilities, food, cable, phone, medical expenses, and other personal items. We would continue to provide this kind of financial support to the asylum family as they transition to live with a host family.

Legal: We are working with an immigration attorney and translator. We successfully submitted the family's application for asylum in early May – which is a huge accomplishment! This means the family is legally allowed to stay in America until their application is fully processed and they have been granted an asylum interview.

Education Liaison: We work with the son's school and successfully advocated for the son to have a formal 504 meeting so that he could have special accommodations for his health, including door-to-door transportation to and from school. We are hoping to connect the son to summer camps.

Job interests/Training: We work with the mom to improve her knowledge of English and are have identified an ESL trainer. We will introduce the mom to possible training programs and employment services when she is closer to obtaining her working papers.

Medical Liaison: We keep track of medical appointments and assist with arranging and confirming transportation.

Transportation: We provide transportation to the family to the grocery store, the bank, school events, church, and other social events. We would continue to assist with transportation as the family transitions to live with a host family. We are hoping to teach the family how to navigate public transportation.

Social and church outings: The family is attending a Catholic Church in the city of Wilmington and every other month attending a Swahili service at a Catholic Church in Bear.

To sign up to be a host family [please click here](#).