

Refugee Resource Group: 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

The Refugee Resource Group is a diocesan group dedicated to help refugees in our area feel welcomed and supported as our neighbors. This year the committee focused on creating an educational program about how a person becomes a refugee, understanding the challenges a refugee encounters upon arriving here and about how we can help refugees to resettle in the community. The program series will be comprised of three, 45-minute presentations designed to use as a full-day training session or for three consecutive Adult Forums. The program series will be available online for people to view as well.

We began the process of building the educational program by using a decision making model known as the *Six Thinking Hats*. We worked with organizations having had experience working with and resettling refugees. The organizations included Episcopal Migration Ministries, Catholic Charities, Church World Services, All Lancaster Episcopal Response Team and Pa. Immigrant and Refugee Women's Network.

Members of the committee traveled to Bucknell University to meet with a professor involved a food donation and delivery system for one of the main refugee shelters in central Athens. She said, *"No one hears about the refugee crisis in the eastern Mediterranean anymore here in the news in the west, although the problems are continuing. I suppose there is only so much bad news any population can take in on a daily basis."* In May, committee members attended a Penn State Eastgate Lecture Series workshop entitled '*Refugees in the USA and Pennsylvania*'.

In the year ahead, we will build upon the program series by providing current information about refugee issues and by offering program speakers to supplement assembly presentations. Also, the Refugee Resource Group's webpage (a dropdown on '*The Jesus Movement*' menu) will be updated on a frequent basis. Our churches need to be aware of their refugee neighbors and help them to connect with their communities.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry Garber, acting chair