Aid for Afghan Resettlement

- On Monday evening, Angelica and I met with the Department of Homeland Security and other government agencies on a zoom meeting
- The focus of the meeting was to was to work with other agencies in the DMV area in order to aid the resettlement process of the Afghan refugees
- We will be working closely with Mr. Haris Tarin and Ms. Anna Hinken who is the liaison with DHS

- Right now, due to the problems with measles, flights have been postponed and the Visa process which means longer duration of refugees at military bases and safe havens

- During their time on the bases and safe havens they are working on making sure their vaccinations like MMR (measles) vaccines up to date

- Immigration papers and work permits are in process for a smooth transition

Cultural Components

▶ Working on getting competency officers at each base and safe haven

▶ They are in need of translators; females especially

▶ They are working hard to address the mental health needs, physical needs, etc.

▶ In order to help with their mental health and adaptation to their new surroundings, they have organized Afghan singers and entertainers

▶ We are looking for Volunteers in the Afghan community like Doctors, Lawyers, Entertainers, and just people to share their time and talk to the refugees

~ References are handled by Mr. Haris Tarin to screen the volunteers

▶ They are in process of getting an educational video to explain and aid the transition for the refugees and the importance of vaccinations

Goals for the Afghanistan Refugees

Our goal at St. Francis House is to work together with the different agencies to provide a smooth transition, which will include:

- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Food
- ▶ Financial Assistance
- ▶ House and Personal items

St. Francis House is also working with the counselors and social workers at Dumfries, Triangle, and Pattie Elementary Schools to help any new refugee families

Challenges ahead

- Afghan refugees
- New immigrant families coming from the Border
- New clients after COVID
- Old clients (regular clients)
- Funding