

Afghan Welcome Home Project of Central Illinois (AWHP-CI)

Mission Statement

Our mission is to support and facilitate the settlement of Afghan evacuees in Central Illinois.

AWHP-CI is a nonprofit 501(c)3 service organization and is not part of, or endorsed by, the Department of Defense.

Donations and financial support may be sent to:

Afghan Welcome Home Project of Central Illinois

P.O. Box 144

Mt Zion, IL. 62549

Information/Inquiries: Susan Montgomery (217) 864-4487

Inge Henderson (217) 917-5619

Facebook: Afghan Welcome Home Project of Central Illinois

Email: AfghanWHP@gmail.com

Website: afghanwelcomehomeproject.blogspot.com

IRS Employer Identification Number (EIN): 87-2582614

Donations of funds and resources will be acknowledged by email or letter. Funds will be used for services or items to meet the needs of Afghan evacuees and their families here in Central Illinois. The AWHP-CI has no employees and volunteers do not receive any compensation.

Sponsoring the Afghan Families:

We are seeking organizations, families and individuals who will financially, physically, and emotionally assist Afghan evacuees.

- 1) Sponsors will meet their Afghan family upon arrival.
- 2) Sponsors will assist their family in adjusting to life in the United States.
- 3) Sponsors will mentor their family until they become self-sufficient.

The following are items needed upon the family's arrival:

1. **Housing** - for a family of 4 – 8 people ready for occupancy the day of their arrival
2. **Communication** – SIM card to activate their cell phone here, internet, computer
3. **Transportation** – to stores, medical needs, government offices, etc
4. **Employment** – someone who will guide them to employment opportunities
5. **Emotional comfort** – a smile, a new stuffed animal for a displaced child to hug
6. **Food** – basic groceries ready for use at the time of their arrival
Some staples include: lentils, beans, rice, nuts, raisins, dates, fresh fruits, fresh vegetables (tomatoes, carrots, onions, garlic, eggplant, cucumbers), flat bread, pita bread, plain yogurt, eggs, salt, pepper, spices (cumin, cardamom, cinnamon, turmeric), parsley, sugar, flour, cookies, candy, black tea, green tea
MEAT – All Islamic Afghans do not eat pork. Some Islamic Afghans will only eat halal meat, which is meat that has been slaughtered in accordance with Islamic religious laws

****Check with your Afghan family before purchasing meat products****

Stores in Central Illinois which sell halal meat:

- World Harvest International & Gourmet Foods
306 W. Springfield Ave, Urbana, IL 61801
- Signature India Groceries
115 Krispy Kreme Dr. STE 5, Bloomington, IL 61704

7. **Representative** - each sponsor will need to provide a representative to serve on the Afghan Welcome Home Project committee. Communication will be critical for success.

8. Household Items - To help ease and speed the settlement of the Afghan families into Central Illinois communities, the following list notes some of the basic items that need to be provided for each household.

PERSONAL ITEMS: toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, combs, hairbrushes, hair ties, Chapstick, new socks and underwear, diapers, diaper rash ointment, female products, disposable razors, deodorant, toilet paper

HEALTH CARE: disposable face masks, band-Aids, scissors

CLEANING PRODUCTS: laundry detergent, new brooms and dustpans, mops and buckets, kitchen and bathroom trash cans, vacuums, paper towels, window cleaner, general purpose spray cleaner

FURNITURE: beds, mattresses, kitchen table and chairs, couch, folding chairs, cribs, bassinets, strollers, car seats (clean, unexpired and haven't been in an accident)

LINENS: (must be new) blankets, sheet sets, new pillows with pillow cases, bath towels, wash cloths

GENERAL USE ITEMS: box fans, alarm clocks, clothes hangers, flashlights with batteries, new school supplies, 2022 calendars

KITCHEN ITEMS: (must be clean) silverware, plates, cups, glasses, cereal bowls, pots, pans, skillets, baking pans, teapots, cooking utensils, can openers, measuring spoons/cups, mixing bowls, cutting boards, sharp kitchen knives, dish cloths, dish towels, microwave, toaster oven, rice cooker

The need is immediate and time is of the essence

To donate and drop off any items, or to learn more about immediate needs, please call Susan Montgomery (217) 864-4487 or Inge Henderson (217) 917-5619