

## Sponsorship News

The past year has been a busy and successful sponsorship year for our Sponsorship Team.

**During the year we have:**

- Completed the sponsorship of Eric, Sheila, and family, though we
  - Continued to Support the family, by supporting Sheila during her pregnancy and birth.
  - Supported Eric whilst he learned to drive.
- Started, the sponsorship of Slha and Hamed, who are now eleven months into their first year, of a two year sponsorship.
  - Found permanent housing for the family.
  - Hamed has been working full time for about nine months.
  - Slha has been working part time for two months.
  - Hamed has started the process of learning to drive.
- We had our sponsorship application for Eric's mother and family accepted though the family have still to be interviewed and vetted, before they can come to Canada.
- Submitted an application to sponsor, Slha's brother Salah.
- Successfully applied to sponsor Kampire, her five children and younger brother. The family are currently in a refugee camp in Rwanda.

You might not realise that refugee camps are not places of safety in the way we might understand. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is underfunded by 38% and so many refugees in Rwanda exist without mattresses, soap, and sanitary products. In some camps meals are currently down to just corn and beans and the best available medicine for children is paracetamol. On top of all that, the camps are generally lawless places, with women raped and abused by officials tasked with protecting them.

This is not a short term situation; it is unlikely that any adult refugee will ever have the opportunity to return safely to their country of origin. So, you can perhaps understand the shouts and screams of joy from Kampire's family when they were told they would be coming to Canada.

Sponsorship can be expensive and just prior to Christmas we held an appeal for financial support. We are truly thankful for all the support this family of parishes has always provided and we thank you again for your generosity. Every donation, whatever the size was a gift of love and hope for Kampire and her family, and we now have sufficient funds to successfully complete the sponsorship. We are anticipating the family's arrival in Strathroy in late January or February.