

Donations Requested for Arriving Family

An asylum-seeking family has accepted the ecumenical sponsorship group Chippewa Valley Bridge Builders (CVBB) to sponsor them. As sponsors, CVBB will support the family with basic necessities such as food, housing, clothing, and resources to create a positive situation for the family and provide stability to live the life they are coming to the United States to live. We are partners in accompanying the family on their journey.

The sponsorship will be for the period from now until the family becomes self-sufficient, is granted asylum, or is denied asylum, whichever comes first. In 2019, the average wait time for a case to process through Immigration Court was almost two years. In 2020, due to COVID, the wait time became longer. In planning, CVBB anticipates sponsoring the family for a minimum of two years, knowing it could be longer or possibly shorter. The family may become self-sufficient before their asylum request is decided, but it depends on their skill set, their English language proficiency, and if and when they are granted a work authorization permit.

We are learning about the family. They are a family of four from Central America: a mother, father, and an elementary-age boy and an infant girl. They are currently awaiting an appointment to come into the United States. This could take a few days to a few weeks. Once they cross and are processed by immigration, they will be received by a charitable organization and given a COVID test. If they have been exposed to COVID recently or test positive for COVID, they will be quarantined. The charitable organization will provide housing, food, and their basic needs until arrangements are made for them to fly to Minneapolis. CVBB will meet them in Minneapolis and bring them to Eau Claire.

We have a furnished two-bedroom apartment waiting for them. The apartment is move-in ready thanks to the generosity of many of you in donating furniture and household items.

We are now set up to accept financial donations. Checks can be made out to First Congregational UCC with CVBB in the memo line or at <https://pushpay.com/g/firstucceauclaire?src=hpp> (select the Missions Fund and put CVBB in the memo). CVBB does not have a Go Fund Me account.

We invite you to be part of this amazing work welcoming new residents to our community.