

Souad and Rahaf: Syrian Refugees



Help for Those Who Need It



Before Surgery

After Surgery



Souad and Rahaf: Syrian Refugees

Souad Kasem Issa combs the hair of her daughter Rahaf, 9. She is a Syrian refugee in Amman, Jordan. She and her husband and six children fled the city of Homs as fighting there worsened in 2012. Their home in Syria has since been destroyed by bombing, and they are struggling to survive in Jordan's capital city, where they now live.

Our faith calls us to respond to people in crisis. Unfortunately, crisis such as war, disaster, changing climate or a devastated economy have forced millions of people over the years to seek safety as refugees.

Today, our world is facing a refugee crisis beyond anything we have seen in recent generations. At this moment, there are more refugees in the world than at any time since World War II. Millions of people are alive today only because they have escaped perilous situations.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is rooted in responding to Christ's call to welcome the stranger. The offering provides assistance beyond emergency food, water and shelter.

The United Church of Christ has stepped forward to serve as co-sponsors, mentors and friends to newly arrived refugees on behalf of the Church, helping people in need begin a new life free from violence, persecution, or a shifting climate. The offering provides financial support to help refugees, such as the Issa family, who are living in a country that's not their home. We are helping families begin a new life with hope for a better future.

As we respond generously, may we recognize that in giving, we are on a personal journey to live in Christ's image!

Help for Those Who Need It

2 year old Adi went to Christian Hospital Mungeli (CHM), India after suffering seizures and severe spasticity, symptoms of hydrocephalus resulting from tubercular meningitis. Before his parents took him to CHM, they tried to take the small boy for treatment closer to their home, to no avail.

The CHM surgeons placed a shunt in the small boy to drain the excess fluid buildup in his brain. He then began physical therapy and has improved significantly.

3 months after the initial surgery, Adi went back to see the doctors. Today he is bursting with a 2-year-old's energy. The shunt is working, and he is responding well to anti-tuberculosis drugs. With his ongoing work in the physiotherapy department, Adi is expected to have continued improvement.

One Great Hour of Sharing supports three Mission Personal at the Christian Hospital Mungeli, India. Anil and Theresa Henry are long-term physicians who helped turn the hospital around after it had been closed for many years, and Kahala Cannon, a Mission Intern working at the hospital has been there for a short time. They and other hospital staff are providing critical care to their community. People from both near and far utilize Christian Hospital Mungeli whenever they need emergency medical care.

—Kahala Cannon

