

WYCOMBE REFUGEE PARTNERSHIP



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2021

IN THIS ISSUE:

RESPONDING TO THE AFGHAN CRISIS

Welcome to Wycombe

An Afghan lady and her two children were waiting for a place in one of the government's holding hotels, where they could get processed and into the system. They needed somewhere to stay while they waited, so, in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council, we housed them temporarily in Mellor House. We started them off with a supermarket delivery, some cash and two suitcases full of clothes for the children. We hope that the family will be among those who will later be allocated long-term accommodation in High Wycombe.



[Responding to the Afghan crisis](#)

[New website](#)

[Our programmes](#)

[Volunteer story](#)

[Come to our AGM](#)

[The Refugee Bill](#)

[Could you be a WRP Trustee?](#)

“Thank you all from all your kindness and helps, hope will come back to High Wycombe to see you as soon as possible.”

Toy story

In collaboration with our Quaker partners, we collected six car-loads of toys and baby clothes for Afghan children in a holding hotel in London – and drove them up there in the teeth of the petrol crisis!



**NEW
WEBSITE
NOW LIVE**

The new WRP website goes live on 3rd November!
Take a look: www.wycombe-refugees.org

OUR PROGRAMMES

A sporting chance

We are piloting an Activities programme to enable young people to have access to sports and leisure activities – particularly important after the long period of isolation. This involves our paying for fees and kit and supplying transport and is limited to one ongoing activity per child.

Food help

We continue fund-raising to enable us to distribute supermarket vouchers to our neediest families every month and are now joining Buckinghamshire Council's Food Access Group.



VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE



Being part of the welcome

Simple acts of care and support can make a world of difference, finds WRP volunteer Sandy Mitcheson

What is it to be welcome? It is finding that you are wanted and valued in a new place, knowing you aren't alone: that there is someone to turn to who will not judge you if you don't understand or need help. It can help ease the pain of having to leave what is known, and lift the anxiety of starting again in an unfamiliar place with unfamiliar faces. It comprises simple acts of care and support and builds bridges into the community.

I have had the privilege of volunteering with WRP for over four years as part of that welcome in action that WRP gives to refugee families in our community.

My role is quite eclectic and varied! I joined WRP as a befriender to a lovely Syrian lady who came to the UK with very little English. It has been a joy to get to know her and her family and see her now with the confidence to come alongside and encourage other women who are new to the UK. I also help Mike Hill with Mellor House, ensuring beds are made up with fresh bed linen for new arrivals and dealing with laundry between occupants. I might sometimes assist Trina Richards picking up and delivering donations to families, drive someone to a hospital appointment, accompany a child and parent to a new school or even take some young people to a local opera!

Through volunteering with WRP I have met the most wonderful and inspirational people—those who have come to Wycombe as refugees and asylum seekers as well as fellow volunteers, and I have learned so much from them.

“Thank you so much, I honestly can't thank you enough for all the help you have done for my mum and towards helping me progress in my studies.”

