

GLOBAL GATHERING PLACE:

The MRMC Missions and Service Committee has been in conversation with the Global Gathering Place over the past several months looking at ways to help them meet difficult situations. Global Gathering Place has roots in Mennonite Central Committee's Refugee Program which began in 1998 to address the needs of newcomers to Canada who did not qualify for many of the existing settlement services. Through the support of many volunteers from our local churches, Global Gathering Place was able to support and assist newcomers to Canada, especially refugees, in their successful resettlement. Volunteers continue to be a significant element in Global Gathering Place's delivery of services. Newcomers who received the support in those early years now also volunteer. The needs at Global Gathering Place are great and varied. Many refugees come with physical and special needs which require equipment, aids, and other essential items that we take for granted, and are not funded adequately or at all through regular streams. GGP is currently assisting 200 Afghan refugees to resettle in Saskatoon, in addition to a flood of other newcomers from many other places.

How can we help?

Local volunteers are used in almost all of GGP's programs, from language instruction, coffee and conversation, transporting newcomers to appointments, filling out forms, help with running programs for children, and administrative work. Because new arrivals do not yet have health cards, they are ineligible to receive vaccinations from pharmacies and clinics, volunteers transport them to pop-up clinics in the city. Some may need to isolate and are unable to access services or food supplies in addition to facing climate changes, and daily challenges in settling into a new community. A small donation can help in a big way.

GGP is in need some very basic supplies:

- Tylenol
- Warm Mitts
- Toques/neck tubes
- Blankets (new or gently used and cleaned)
- Warm socks
- Children's activity books
- Cash donations to purchase grocery gift cards or to cover other immediate needs.

Help us fill the bucket.

Orange buckets will be placed on the table in the foyer of the church by the bulletins each Sunday. Drop off your item or designate your giving to the GPP through MRMC.