COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP IN THE NEWS

- SHARE Fostering community sponsorship across Europe
- Learning from experiences of community-based refugee sponsorship in Europe

New refugee resettlement scheme to be rolled out nationwide following successful pilot

Minister of State David Stanton announcing the official launch of Ireland’s Community Sponsorship program. Credit to Nasc for photo.

Irish Minister of State David Stanton TD, responsible for immigration and integration, has announced the (Continued on page 2)
launch of a nationwide community sponsorship program, Community Sponsorship Ireland (CSI), which will allow communities across the country to apply to resettle refugees. “It’s a real success story. We have had a lot of communities here come to us in the department asking what can we do to help,” said the Minister. The pilot program welcomed five refugee families into small communities in Ireland. The early success with these encouraged the Irish to transition into a permanent program. Minister Stanton hopes that the success of this program will help the Irish government to potentially increase the number of refugees it would be able to resettle.

IOM, UNHCR Support Resettlement of Refugees in South America
Government representatives from Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay recently participated in roundtable discussing the Emerging Resettlement Countries Joint Support Mechanism (ERCM), a joint initiative between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). The ERCM has been an important technical and financial tool used in strengthening legal frameworks and selection procedures, capacity building of resettlement institutions and establishing new forms of financing. Countries belonging to the ERCM, are consolidating resettlement processes by improving national and local reception and integration structures, promoting the self-sufficiency of resettled families and contributing host communities. Best practices were shared, and potential paths forward for respective settlement programs were also examined. These included exploring complementary resettlement avenues and a focus on sharing responsibility, one of the main objectives of the Global Refugee Compact signed in 2018. For more information, click here.

NEW! Foundations of Community Sponsorship Available NOW!
The GRSI is pleased to introduce a new resource to the community sponsorship space. Foundations of Community Sponsorship, is a set of training materials created by the GRSI to support organizations in countries developing community-based refugee sponsorship programs. They were developed with the input of sponsorship group members, UNHCR offices, sponsored refugee newcomers, community sponsorship organizations and government experts from around the world.

Foundations of Community Sponsorship can be used to support successful integration outcomes through training sponsorship trainers and preparing sponsorship group members. It is a set of modularized and reflective training resources which includes two important tools: a Training Manual for in-person delivery as well as a complementary Online Learning Resource. These materials are universally applicable, but can also be tailored by local organizations for different community-based refugee sponsorship programs.

Foundations of Community Sponsorship is available in English on the GRSI website refugeesponsorship.org as of November 15, 2019. French, Spanish, German and Portuguese translations will be available in the coming months. (Note: A password will be sent to organizations in order to access the training package and it will be circulated in our next newsletter.)

Syrian refugee family opening restaurant in Sydney
A Syrian refugee family in Sydney, Nova Scotia, sponsored in 2017, are opening Jenan’s Syrian Kitchen, a traditional Syrian food restaurant for takeout and catering. The Alhsso family was the last of eight families that settled on Cape Breton Island in the last three years. The family used food as a way to integrate into the community. Working with members of the community, including Ahmed Barakat, a Cape Breton University business graduate and business partner, the Alhsso family have been able to rent a space for their new restaurant close to their new house. The restaurant will serve Syrian favourites from fatayers, Turkish coffee, and shawarma, food that won’t require customers to be too adventurous. Other items will be added as specials over time. Ahmed Alhsso spoke highly of their sponsorship experience, “[T]he sponsor group was really kind and helped us through everything.” For more information, click here.