



July 2023

Dear Welcoming Neighbor,

We're all faced every day with the impossible question of which causes to support. Helping refugees make a new home in the Upper Valley is a cause with which I'm proud to be involved. **The Upper Valley Neighborhood Support Team is currently supporting one small family and three men who were forced to flee Afghanistan, leaving loved ones behind.**

We see a chance here to provide direct, immediate help to a few individuals to lift them into a position where they can help each other and their families, and become assets in our increasingly diverse community.

These are determined, resilient people – yet they still need our help. One is so set on getting a driver's license (you can't support yourself in the Upper Valley without one) that she didn't miss a single 6:30am class – even though she gave birth to twins partway through the course. The others are all working more than full time, contributing to their own support and their families at home, plus helping in the community.

There's been a huge outpouring of help from individuals, organizations, faith communities, and local businesses – but volunteer hours and in-kind support are not enough. The reality is that it takes



money to give these good people the start they deserve. We estimate that it will take \$75,000 over the next 24 months to meet our commitment to these new neighbors. And we'd like to welcome more.

Please join me in making a gift to the Welcome Fund. Your tax deductible contribution will go 100% to helping our new community members, and will make an immediate difference in their lives. **To learn about the people you'll help and to donate online, go to cclyme.org/welcome-fund; or mail a check to Welcome Fund, PO Box 127 Lyme, NH 03768.**

Warmly,

Martha Tecca

for the Upper Valley Neighborhood Support Team

P.S. I'd love to share more about the life-changing experience of welcoming these new friends and the ongoing opportunities to be a part of it. To join in the effort as a volunteer, to meet a new neighbor and include them in your favorite activities, or to explore how your organization or business can get involved, **call me at 603-443-0283 or email UVNSTWelcome@gmail.com.**

Just a few of over 200 community members involved in welcoming these new neighbors to the Upper Valley:

Jean Brown • KJ Dell'Antonia • Katherine Kimball • Deborah Bacon Nelson • Martha Tecca

Marianne Bocock Doyle • Pam & Bill Miles • Bill & Helene Rassias Miles • Kate Semple Barta • Robin Rice Voigt

David Briggs • Charlene Gates • Nick Krembs • Alice Werbel • Lianne Moccia • Theresa Mundy • Jibran Ahmad

Women of Crossing Paths • Marianne Lillard • Graziella Parati • Paul & Veronica Guyre • Susan Holcombe

Emily Dentzer & Scott Rodi • Loren & Meggan Wehmeyer • Beth Ames • Beatriz Pastor • Bill & Patricia Erwin-Ploog

CommunityCare of Lyme • Hotel Coolidge • CCBA • Home on the Connecticut • Hanover Rotary

Good Beginnings • Neal Wallace Dental • Archer Dental • Alicia Willette, DDS

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